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## Sky's the limit for Cameron

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for full story



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# Tributes pour in for 'heart of gold' Oban cafe owner

by Kathie Griffiths  
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Devastated family and friends of 'heart of gold' cafe owner Joolz Goodman have paid tribute to a 'beautiful soul' loved for being 'fun, fab and generous'.

The 53-year-old, who ran The Little Potting Shed Cafe in John Street with her husband Russell, died on Monday following a crash on the A816 near the Oude Dam and Kimelford.

Tributes have been pouring in on Facebook where her husband, Russell Goodman, broke the news to friends and customers on her page later on Monday night.

He wrote: 'I'm not quite sure how to say this - my sweet-heart Joolz was involved in a car crash on her way to work this morning, and she was killed as a result.'

Within hours of the news, more than 150 Facebook messages had been posted remembering Ms Goodman, who lived in Lochgilhead, as 'a vibrant, passionate



Joolz Goodman's cafe was one of the first in Oban to go plastic free.

person' with 'a heart of gold'. It is believed there were some off-duty fire officers and a doctor who provided CPR at the scene, but they were unable to revive Ms Goodman.

Mr Goodman posted his own thanks to 'everyone who tried to help her' and called them 'heroes'. He also thanked people for their 'lovely messages'.

Ms Goodman was a huge supporter of Hope Kitchen and friends at the charity were rocked by her death.

Lorraine MacCormick said: 'Joolz was in here almost

every week - she was always bringing or sending us stuff. When she first took over the cafe she gave us all the crockery and cutlery she didn't want and a pile of chairs.

'She was such a caring lady. We are totally devastated and very sad. We just can't believe she's not here. She would ring us up, "Can you use a few loaves?" - just last week we got a big tub of jam from her.

'There was one of our clients who she got to know well. If he wasn't at Hope he would be at The Little Potting Shed - we sort of shared him. She used to make sandwiches specially for him. He passed away last year and she put a little plaque up for him at the cafe. That is the amazing lady she was. We will be doing something to remember her.'

Ms Goodman was also a member of BID4Oban and praised as 'a forward thinking' member of the business community whose cafe was one of the first in the town to go 'plastic-free'.

BID4Oban's Kay McDonald said: 'Joolz was a valued

member of the business community, a lovely person who will be missed by everyone. She was very forward thinking.'

Police are appealing for witnesses to Monday's incident, which happened at around 7.30am when two cars, a north-bound red Citroen C1 driven by Ms Goodman and a VW Tiguan travelling south, collided.

A report is being submitted to the procurator fiscal.

The 26-year-old male driver of the VW Tiguan was taken by ambulance to hospital in Oban. His injuries were not thought by medical staff to be serious.

Police are particularly keen to hear from the driver of a large dark-coloured 4x4 vehicle who, while not involved in any way, was in the area just prior to the crash who may have seen at least one of the cars involved and may have information that could help the investigation.

Any information can be passed to officers at Oban Police Station via 101.

## Piping champ, Gregor



Gregor MacDonald, 15, of North Connel, won the under-19 piobaireachd open competition, taking home the WGG Wilson trophy. Gregor is a member of Oban High School Pipe Band. Photograph: Graham Hood Photography



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OT

# RNLI issue a call-out for fundraising crew

by Kathie Griffiths  
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When seasoned sailors Phil Hamilton and Alison Rennie spotted an urgent mayday appeal in The Oban Times for lifeboat fundraisers, they went to the rescue.

Months later, the retired couple, who dropped anchor in Oban to settle in 2017 after sailing the Mediterranean, are now fundraising chairman and secretary of Oban RNLI and are looking for more crew to come aboard.

'It costs around £215,000 every year to run an all-weather lifeboat station like Oban solely from people's generosity, as there is no public funding,' said Mr Hamilton.

'Oban has a good record for fundraising and benefits from legacies and donations from others, such as a recent triathlon team which raised £52,000, but we need more people to



Alison Rennie and Phil Hamilton are looking for more volunteer fundraisers to join them at Oban RNLI station. 16\_T42\_obannrlifundraisers\_AlisonRennieandPhilHamilton

help us plan and put events together. We want to put the fun into fundraising,' he added.

'The fundraising committee has a number of people serving on it but most of them also

have other duties to the charity. Mike Roberts is also chairman of the Oban RNLI's management group and fundraising stalwart Peggy Robertson has notched up many years

of support. We are lucky to have these people but we need to bolster our fundraising. We are looking for dedicated fundraisers.

'It would be nice to build up

a team of eight to 10 if we can. There are always people who offer to help us run events but we need a committee of people to plan and organise our campaign, especially useful would be those who have links with the water-users community. We've got some big opportunities coming up,' said Mr Hamilton.

Marks and Spencer has chosen the RNLI as its charity of the year from April, and supermarket Aldi will also be running a campaign. There are plans for a pop-up shop in the town in December and other activities during the Oban Winter Festival starting in November.

'The people of Oban are fantastically generous. They always support is financially very well but we can do more with more help,' said Mr Hamilton.

Go to a drop-in event at the lifeboat station on Saturday October 20 from 10am to noon.

## Mystery over future of Oban's WHSmith

The future of Oban's WHSmith store is unknown after company boss Stephen Clarke announced that some shops will shut down.

Most of the affected stores will be part of its Cardmarket budget chain, while the others to go will be those which are not making money.

A WHSmith spokesperson said shops earmarked for closure are not going to be revealed until their leases expire, with the earliest being in three years.

'Over the year, WHSmith will be opening more stores than it is closing. Across the business we will continue to create jobs, employing more people next year than this year.'

'We are not announcing the six stores we have earmarked for closure in yesterday's statement as they will close at different times as and when their leases expire – the earliest of these will be in 2021,' said the spokesperson.

WHSmith would not confirm how many jobs would be affected. The company said staff would probably be redeployed to other stores as the chain continued to open new outlets in hospitals, airports and other travel hubs.

## Salmon production value passes £1bn

Statistics released this week show the value of Atlantic salmon in Scotland in 2017 surpassed the £1 billion mark for the first time – an increase of 37 per cent from the previous year.

The annual Scottish Fish Farm Production Survey also shows a record year of production for Atlantic salmon, with nearly 190,000 tonnes produced. Brown trout production also increased by 49 per cent from 41 tonnes to 61 tonnes.

## Trains will be replaced by buses

Trains from Oban to Crianlarich are scheduled to run as normal during Network Rail's track renewal work on Saturday October 20 and Sunday October 21.

However, there will be replacement buses to run on the Glasgow to Crianlarich stretch of the line on those dates, a ScotRail spokesman said.



## Loch Awe road is one of Britain's spookiest

A route which runs along the side of Loch Awe has made it onto a list of the UK's spookiest roads.

The list has been compiled by Select Car Leasing, whose director Mark Tongue said: 'The vast majority of UK motorists take to the road without incident. Indeed, the scariest thing you're likely to encounter are the gaping potholes hell-bent on scuppering your suspension.'

'But, if these reports are to be believed, there really could be something lurking just around the next bend. And it's not just ghosts that get reported, either. With eyewitness encounters involving UFOs, shape-shifting animals and even the UK's equivalent of Sasquatch, Britain's paranormal experiences are almost as varied as our taste in cars.'

Picturesque Loch Awe is 28 miles in length and a fisherman's dream.

But it is also home to reports of a mysterious ghost car that terrifies motorists on the road which weaves its way around the loch.

Locals Len and Mandy Ross recently reported their encounter on the Ghost and Hauntings UK website.

Mandy said: 'We were on our way to Oban to get some supplies when we saw a car coming towards us. We took our eyes off for five seconds ... but nothing went past.'

It could not have passed us in this space of time. We would have heard it. The window was open. It had nowhere to go!

'There were no turn off from this part of the road and absolutely no way for it to pass us without us seeing it.'

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# Sky's the limit for Cameron

by Kathie Griffiths  
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Just a sneeze or waking up in the morning could cause Cameron Allen to break a bone but it won't stop this life-loving Appin teenager from aiming high.

The Oban High School pupil, who got four As and a B in his Highers, hopes to get his private pilot's licence soon.

The 17-year-old, who raised £1,700 this year for the Brittle Bone Society, had his first flying lesson earlier this year with help from charity Aerobility.

He flew at about 2,000ft from Skye in a loop taking in Loch Sunart, Tobermory and the Sound of Mull.

Cameron said: 'It was an incredible feeling. I've always had an interest in aviation but had thought that flying a plane would maybe be one of those things that would be impossible until I read about Aerobility in the Brittle Bone Society's magazine. The



Cameron Allen has been working at Oban Airport where he is 'one of the team', says crew member Paul MacKay.

flying lesson was a birthday present.'

Since then Cameron has also landed himself work experience with Oban Airport on Mondays, checking the runway, submitting weather reports to the Met Office for pilots and learning how to file any incidents - including a recent dog rescue when it got stuck in a pipe.

Thanks to his new skills, he can even 'guesstimate' how high clouds are by looking at

the shape and colour of them over the nearby hills.

The airport's station manager, Tom Eddleston, says Cameron is 'one of the team'.

Tom added: 'He's keen, got the right approach and applies himself to everything that's thrown at him. It feels as though he's been with us for years. He's one of the team.'

Because of his genetic condition, which was diagnosed when he was just six weeks



old, Cameron has had more than 350 broken bones. In one year, he broke 80.

There is no known cure for his condition but now he is on a new drugs trial which seems to be slowing down the number of fractures. The Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow is a centre of excellence for brittle bone disease.

He once had both his arms and legs in plaster cast at the same time.

'I still went to school like that while someone was off with a broken pinky!' he said.

Cameron, who will be studying for a computing degree at Argyll College next year, hopes to keep up his work experience with plans to get him into the air control tower.

'They are trying to get me up into the control tower. There's no lift but I'm still hoping to spend a day up

there. It would be amazing,' he said.

'It's great here. They include me in everything they do, they really go out of their way to train me,' he added.

To get his private pilot's licence, Cameron needs to notch up 40 flying hours which he hopes to achieve in the next year or so.

Back on ground, Cameron, his mum and dad Helen and Graham, 12-year-old brother Max and dog Angus have been doing 50 fundraising walks and wheels around Scotland and as far south as Bournemouth, one for each of the years the Brittle Bone Society has been offering emotional and practical support to people and their families living with the condition.

To find out more about Cameron's fundraising for the Brittle Bone Society go to [facebook.com/BBS50walks](https://facebook.com/BBS50walks) or straight to [justgiving.com/fundraising/camallen](https://justgiving.com/fundraising/camallen) to make a donation.



The Roses Charitable Trust delivers challenging personal development outdoor activity courses for young people aged seven to 21 who are experiencing deprivation and social exclusion problems. The Rotary Club of Oban recently contributed £250 to the cost of new wetsuits for use by the organisation, and co-ordinator Kirsty Pallas, centre, is seen here receiving the cheque with Rotarians David Finlayson, Ian MacInnes, Etonella Christleib and president Iain MacIntyre. The RCT activities are now more or less all concentrated in the Glencoe area as opposed to Mull, as was the case previously.

## POLICE FILES

■ Between 9pm Saturday October 6 and 5pm on Sunday October 7, in the car park at the former Rockfield School in Oban, a blue Volkswagen Polo car was damaged by being struck by another vehicle. The driver failed to report the collision.

■ Between 6.30pm Sunday October 7 and 8.45am on Monday October 8, at the rear of Strathaven Terrace, Breadalbane Street, Oban, a garden gate and fence were damaged.

■ At about 8pm on Tuesday October 9, outside a flat on Miller Road, Oban, a 32-year-old man behaved

in an abusive manner and damaged a door. Police arrested and charged the man and a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

■ At about 10pm on Friday October 12, in Shore Street, Oban, a man aged 28 behaved in an abusive manner. He was arrested, charged and issued with a recorded police warning.

■ At about 8.45pm on Saturday October 13, in Catalina Avenue, Oban, a man aged 44 behaved in an abusive manner. He was arrested, charged, held for court and a report was

submitted to the procurator fiscal.

■ At about 9.50am on Sunday October 14, on the A85 near Tyndrum, a motorist was stopped for exceeding the speed limit. The driver, a man aged 38, was also found to have no insurance. He was charged and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

■ If anyone has information in relation any incident, they can contact police on telephone number 101, or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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OT

# 'Oban must plan for floods'

by Kathie Griffiths  
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Urgent action is needed to avoid the kind of floods that caused havoc in Oban last week, says Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell.

He has blamed flooding in the town on 'more and more concrete and Tarmac' being laid 'in flood-prone areas' over the years and says as the weather gets worse with climate change, more will need to be done to cope.

'There is no doubt that the weather is getting worse. There are more high intensity events, such as very heavy rain storms and periods of high winds and that means that infrastructure built in another age - even one as recently as 30 years ago - may have difficulty in coping from time to time.

'That was clear in Oban where the flooding last week was not only the result of heavy rain and high tides but also because over the years more and more concrete



Pumps toil to remove the flood water.

and Tarmac has been laid in flood-prone areas, which means that the ability of the ground to absorb water is restricted,' he told The Oban Times.

Mr Russell also warned there needed to be planning for the future as well as coping with the present and that means not building or developing in areas where future flooding may occur.

As a major mopping up exercise got under way, Argyll and Bute Council said lessons had been learned

from the floods that shut roads and swamped vehicles around Lochavullin.

As many small portable pumps as were available for hire in the town were used to pump out the area and the council had to procure larger portable pumps from further afield to provide a higher volume back-up to the permanent pumping system.

A spokesperson for the council said: 'What we have learned over the past few days will help us as we look

at what we can do for future flood alleviation. There is no obvious solution, given the coastal location and low-lying land.'

Trade took a hit when the waters rose as shoppers batted down the hatches and stayed at home.

The new Marks and Spencer Foodhall managed to stay open during the worst of the floods but shut two hours early on the Tuesday night so staff could get home safely. Deliveries managed to still get through, said store manager Stuart Mackinnon.

Tesco stayed open too. Shoppers who did venture in by car on the Wednesday to stock up on groceries headed to Aldi and Lidl, vying for spaces with reports of double parking, parking on pedestrian routes and hovering with engines running to get a slot.

BID4Oban chief executive

Andrew Spence was relieved to see the town getting back to normal and told The Oban Times: 'The main businesses affected have been those on the Oban retail park but it was good to see many stayed open.'

'No problems were reported from the hotels.

'The town was quiet but people just batted down the hatches and stayed at home.'

While no flood-related injuries were reported to The Oban Times, reader Stephen Jones from Mill Park was in touch to say he had seen a young girl being pulled out of the Black Lynn over the chain fence behind the Guides hut at about 4.15pm on Thursday October 11.

'The fence here is low and possibly requires extending further up towards the council yard at Mill Park to prevent entry into what can

be an extremely dangerous higher level and fast-flowing stream at times of flooding with the high tides and is an area to be avoided and not to be played in!'

Dangers brought on by the floods were not limited to the town.

In rural areas, farmers had to move animals to safety on higher ground after flooding made fields 'useless', said Scammadale Glen farmer Angus MacFadyen.

Mr MacFadyen, who is chairman of NFU Scotland's environment and land use committee, said animals 'just don't thrive' in those conditions and the wet can increase the probability of fluke, a parasitic disease.

Despite the Met Office issuing more yellow weather warnings for rain and wind over Friday and Saturday, the weekend passed without any further drama.

A forklift truck had to be deployed to move the ruined cars from the Lochavullin Road car park adjacent to Tesco.



Jamie MacLeod, second from the left, at the wedding party in Majorca.

## Jamie makes it to wedding without his kilt

Despite losing his entire kilt outfit in his flooded car and his passport being water damaged, Jamie MacLeod from Uist still made it to his best friend's wedding in Majorca.

Minus his kilt, Jamie had to buy smart shirt and trousers for the occasion instead. His friend Chris

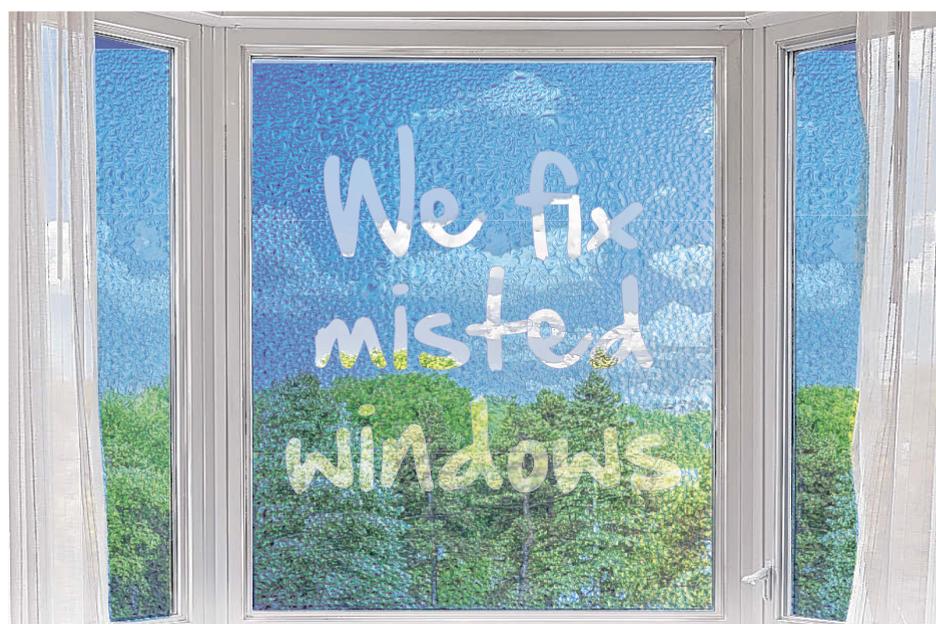
MacIntyre, who sent in photos of Jamie, told The Oban Times: 'Jamie will dine out on this adventure for a long time.'

The 29-year-old had left his Ford Fiesta in Lochavullin car park on the Monday of the floods before heading to Mull for the night and was planning to retrieve his car

before jetting off to Majorca on the Thursday for the wedding.

By the time he got back from Mull, his car was submerged in the floodwater and damage had been done.

Jamie feared border control might not accept his damaged passport but he made it in the end.



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# Mull faces winter of ferry discontent

by Sandy Neil

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Calls are growing for Holyrood to fund extra ferry crossings to Mull in winter to stop major employers leaving the island.

CalMac switches from its summer to winter timetable on Monday October 22, halving the number of return sailings between Oban and Craignure to 35 per week.

'We are the only near island that does not have a 12-month access to the mainland for a whole day,' Mull and Iona Ferry Committee chairperson Elizabeth Ferguson said. 'We cannot get to Oban before 10am. We have to be back in Oban to get the 4pm boat.'

The committee met stakeholders over many months to find a way to run earlier and later winter ferry crossings.

Ms Ferguson explained: 'We understand from Transport

Scotland there is no more money in the pot. We can only have the same amount of sailings. We rejigged the timetable to have 35 sailings, but satisfied the island's needs. We did somebody else's job. It was a very complicated jigsaw, but we cracked it.'

A CalMac spokesperson said one option to move sailings from the middle of the day to earlier and later had been rejected, because it restricted movement for people living on Iona. A second option is to moor the ferry overnight in Oban, which increases the number of return crossings to 39 per week, but incurs more costs for extra crew, fuel and berthing charges, and sometimes it would cross 'empty'.

A third option is to moor overnight at Craignure, which sticks to 35 returns and allows early and late sailings from Mull, but first CalMac needs

Argyll and Bute Council to make Craignure pier safe for this – and the council does not have the £1.5 million required.

'We have got another deadlock,' Ms Ferguson said. 'The pier is at the end of its useful life. They are now looking to build a new pier, but that is eight years away. We cannot wait eight years. We are not going to live a normal life.'

She said Mull has a 'desperate need' for GPs and had two applicants lined up, but when they realised they could not commute in the winter, they pulled out. Healthcare workers living in Ardnamurchan face a 140-mile round trip to get to work in Oban, she added, and islanders with medical appointments in Glasgow have to spend two nights on the mainland.

TSL Contractors, one of Mull's biggest employers with 125 staff, may be forced

to move its head office due to the reduced timetable. Its managing director Andy Knight is quoted saying 'living and working on Mull in this manner is unsustainable'.

Inverlussa Marine Services, which runs a mussel farm in Loch Spelve and employs 25 people from Mull, said the winter reduction puts it 'at a disadvantage'.

Managing director Ben Wilson said: 'We are needing to get product on the mainland as early as we can in the day.'

'We are competing with other companies on the mainland. It is becoming more difficult for us to justify running this business from Mull.'

Mr Wilson said Inverlussa could not continue on Mull another winter after this one. Moving would not lose any jobs, he added, but future jobs would have to be filled from the mainland rather than Mull.

## McCaig's Tower lights up for World Polio Day

The Rotary Club of Oban is joining thousands of other Rotary clubs around the world in supporting World Polio Day 2018.

Rotary members are holding Purple4Polio events to raise awareness and donations for the Rotary campaign to End Polio Now.

If you are out and about in Oban, you may see McCaig's Tower bathed in purple light, with the assistance of Argyll and Bute Council, as part of the club's World Polio Day celebrations on October 24. Purple represents the dye placed on a child's finger to show they have been immunised against the disease.

With millions of children

vaccinated every year, in many instances in the space of just a few days, this makes it easier to see who has been protected and who has not. This was seen at first hand by Liz Crawford and Julie Beamish of Oban Inner Wheel who participated in the immunisation programme in India last year.

Since Rotary and its partners launched the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) more than 30 years ago, the incidence of polio has plummeted by more than 99.99 per cent, from about 350,000 cases a year in 125 countries to just 22 cases in 2017 and with just three remaining polio-endemic countries: Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nigeria.

## Oban electrician picks up national award

Oban electrician Kenneth Ferguson has won a coveted prize at the Scottish electrotechnical industry's most prestigious awards ceremony.

The award for the best medium-sized contractor was

presented at a glitzy ceremony at the Radisson Blue hotel in Glasgow on Friday.

The organisation behind the awards is SELECT, the electrotechnical campaigning trade body and Scotland's largest trade association.

## Next step in rural growth deal for Argyll

A rural growth deal for Argyll and Bute will take another step forward if an outline proposal is agreed at a special meeting of the council today (Thursday October 18).

A report before councillors will set out an 'ambitious', multi-million-pound proposal for UK and Scottish Government investment in growing Argyll and Bute's economy.

Council leader Aileen Morton explained: 'Argyll and Bute brings together much of what is best about Scotland – natural resources that drive forward national and international business markets, expertise that inspires innovation, and people committed to developing the prosperous future the area

needs and deserves. To turn business opportunity into the success our future needs, we must reverse the decline in our population. Forecasts estimate that by 2027 we will need 10,000 more people to continue delivering the services we all rely upon, and more again to grow our economy.'

'We have had positive initial discussions with both the UK and Scottish Governments about the challenges and opportunities Argyll and Bute presents for the Scottish and UK economies, and have been invited to submit a proposal for a rural growth deal this month. Our ambition is to secure transformational investment to develop our economy and so our future.'

The proposal is made up of 16 individual projects which have been developed following consultation with the public, as well as local and national organisations with a role to play in making the deal happen.

Councillor Gary Mulvaney, policy lead for strategic finance and capital regeneration, explained that, if agreed by the council, these projects will serve as a starter for negotiation with the UK and Scottish Governments.

'There are limits to what we can ask for as part of a deal,' he said. 'Growth deals don't provide funding for day-to-day council services, for example, so do not help in bridging budget funding gaps.'

## Oban naturalist shortlisted for national award

Naturalist Hannah Grist has been shortlisted for a top marine and coastal wildlife award.

The 33-year-old, who works across Argyll, including Oban, and in other parts of Scotland, has beaten off national competition to be in the running for the 2018 UK Awards for Biological Recording and Information Sharing.

Ms Grist has been shortlisted

in the David Robertson adult award for recording marine and coastal wildlife category.

Three annual awards started in 2015, and have been developed by the National Biodiversity Network, the National Forum for Biological Recording and the Biological Records Centre to recognise and celebrate the outstanding contributions made to biological recording by adults and

young people, which is helping to improve our understanding of the UK's wildlife.

Ms Grist said: 'Biological recording is fantastic, because it combines a great excuse to get outdoors with providing a meaningful contribution to science.'

The winners will be announced at a special ceremony on Wednesday November 21 in Nottingham.

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OT

# SSEN admits fault after power surges

by Sandy Neil  
sneil@obantimes.co.uk



SSEN has promised to repair expensive electrical goods in homes around Loch Awe after power surges caused many to 'fry' and 'blow up'.

Residents in the south-east Loch Awe area reported sudden power surges on September 12 and 16, blaming the energy distributor Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN).

According to a list collected by a local community councillor, 24 houses plus a water treatment plant claimed damage to electronic equipment. Two houses were hit twice.

The surges 'fried' and 'blew up' people's computers, central heating, boilers, lamps, washing machines, TV boxes, a fridge, microwave, dishwasher, oven and 'sonic cleaner'.

One householder wrote:



**Scottish & Southern  
Electricity Networks**

'Power surges were totally out of the blue – on a rare nice day, so no lightning! No warning, no work in view anywhere. Suddenly on September 13 trucks and diggers appeared and dug holes in ground round poles.

'Most of us have surge protectors on computers but not on heating etc. Very worrying as this can happen again (our heating control panel was black and burnt) with no compensation for lost items.'

One householder said: 'SSE have contacted individuals to blame each house for blowing up goods!'

Another added: 'We generally seem to be getting the same story when we speak to the SSE call centre that, "there

cannot be a surge because we can only pull electricity from the grid to our houses" and ironically that "we should have power (surge) protectors".'

However, a spokesperson for SSEN said: 'We would like to apologise for any inconvenience and distress caused by the recent interruptions to our customers' supplies in the Dalmally area.

'The works in the area on September 13 were completely unrelated to the trips (short interruptions to supplies) on September 12 and 16. These works (September 13) were preparatory works for the replacement of a wooden pole which took place on October 4.

'Our investigations have confirmed the trips were

triggered as a result of our protection equipment (this is when our network automatically trips off to protect the integrity of the wider network and should happen when there is abnormal network activity or damage) – as we have not identified any obvious signs of damage to, or failure of, our equipment; we are still investigating the root cause of this incident to ensure it doesn't happen again.

'We are committed to ensure our customers have not been negatively impacted and are in the process of carrying out repairs to any electrical equipment damaged as a result of the faults.

'The majority of repairs have now been successfully completed and we would encourage anyone who has yet to report damage to their equipment to give our teams a call on 105 and we will carry out a thorough investigation.



The Bowmore rugby pitch.

## Goalposts move as path built on Islay rugby pitch

Alterations will be made to a rugby pitch on Islay due to a footpath being built through a section of it.

The path was created in Bowmore to serve a housing development and to accommodate a future 3G sports pitch.

Concerns were raised by residents as the path affected the rugby field.

MacLeod Construction, who were tasked with carrying out the work, has since volunteered to move the goalposts to accommodate the path.

Councillor Alastair Redman said: 'Over the past few days I have been answering

emails and phone calls from concerned constituents about the recent building work in Bowmore which has seen a footpath being built over one side of Bowmore's rugby pitch.

'The potential new 3G pitch and footpath are much needed and more than welcome. That said, there have clearly been large failings in the consultation process and this must not happen in future.'

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson said: 'The alignment of the footpath has been chosen to ensure sufficient space is reserved to facilitate the development of a 3G pitch.'



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# Oban man is in fear of 'dangerous' trees

by David McPhee  
dmcphree@obantimes.co.uk



An Oban resident who has been highlighting 'dangerous' trees on Glenshellach Road for 12 years says he lives in fear.

Iain Dougall has been campaigning since 2006 for something to be done about the trees after a survey was carried out, which reported that four trees needed to be felled.

Mr Dougall's fear became a reality when one of the highlighted trees came down just before Storm Ali swept through the region last month.

He said: 'I was lying in bed and heard the tree coming down. That's how well I sleep when it's windy. The tree that came down should have triggered a wake-up call to have the 2006 recommendations acted on unless there was another authoritative tree survey to support a different course



The downed tree on Glenshellach Road.

of action. All I am looking for is an up-to-date tree condition report that will keep me and the community safe from falling trees.'

Mr Dougall showed The Oban Times a copy of the tree condition report from 2006. It said: 'There are about four trees that should be felled immediately and a further seven needing surgery or aerial inspections.'

Councillor Elaine Robertson said: 'As far as I know, MacLeod's are the landowners and they are looking at it. Obviously, it's of concern if there are over-mature trees. We have passed it on to the relevant people who have the skills.'

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson said: 'We are responsible for the road and keeping it open. The trees are

on private land and present no imminent danger to the road.'

A spokesperson for MacLeod Construction and Scottish Woodlands said: 'Glenshellach woodland is a significant landscape feature which is covered by a tree preservation order. It is also a very diverse woodland comprised of both veteran mature trees and younger naturally regenerated trees which provide a high conservation value for a variety of flora and fauna.'

'Scottish Woodlands have been reviewing the woodland area, have undertaken initial inspection works and have been in close liaison with the council in relation to producing an appropriate up-to-date Woodland Management Plan (WMP).'

'A more detailed survey involving core sampling of some of the trees is the next stage following on from the visual inspections carried out.'

# Oban Winter Festival is to shimmer and shine

Get ready to shimmer and shine during this year's Oban Winter Festival.

The call has gone out to all the traders in the town from the winter festival committee to start making decorating plans for their shop windows with the theme of 'shimmer and shine'.

'We appreciate all the time and effort the traders put into decorating their windows to make the town look nice over the Christmas period,' said a committee member. 'We know from feedback from local people and visitors alike that this is something they enjoy.'

Shopkeepers are also reminded in the run up the festival to tell the committee what their plans are for late-night shopping on Thursday November 22.

'Last year there was a great buzz about the town during late night shopping,' said a committee member.

'This is Oban's equivalent of Black Friday! Traders have special discounts on the night, samples, or goody bags, free mince pies and the like. We

would like everyone who is planning to open late to get in touch with us so that the details can be included in the programme.'

It is not just traders who should start planning their entries. Do not forget that the festival has food competitions so start perfecting your cloutie dumplings, shortbread and - new for this year - bramble jelly.

And, of course, there is the haggis competition for butchers to enter - the Oban Golden Haggis award has attracted entries from across the nation.

Application forms have to be back with the committee by November 9.

Contact the committee on [info@obanwinterfestival.com](mailto:info@obanwinterfestival.com).

The Oban Winter Festival is run by volunteers, with a volunteer committee and their helpers.

This year the festival runs from Friday to Sunday, November 16 to 25. For further details visit the organisation's website, [www.obaninterfestival.com](http://www.obaninterfestival.com)

# GinFall Festival comes to The Corran Halls

Advertorial

Created by the team behind Social and Cocktail Events, Scotland's most popular drink events company, GinFall Festival will bring a mix of gin, cocktails, food and music to Oban on Saturday October 27 - offering the perfect day out for all gin lovers.

GinFall Festival will bring together a large variety of fantastic gins from Scotland and further afield. All the gin distilleries will be offering samples for attendees to enjoy on the day, plus there will also be Scottish gin masterclasses, fantastic music, boozy chocolates and cake bakes, exclusive gin liqueurs and a premium cocktail bar - mixing up fabulous gin cocktails and perfect serves.

The festival will be in two sessions:

Session#1: 12:00 -16:00

Session#2: 17:00 -21:00

Tickets: general admission £15 (+£1 booking fee)

Buy tickets at:

[www.socialandcocktail.co.uk/ginfall](http://www.socialandcocktail.co.uk/ginfall)

Or find us on Facebook @ [ginfallfestival](https://www.facebook.com/ginfallfestival)

GinFall organiser John McIver comments: 'Having researched the current "gin festival" landscape in Scotland, which has grown significantly



over the past 12 months, we saw an opportunity to create a more boutique-style gin show, with a blend of quality gins, local food and music, gin masterclasses and premium gin cocktails, created by our own social and cocktail mixologists.

'We decided to move away from the typical city centre locations of Glasgow, Edinburgh, as we understand that it is not always ideal for people to have to make their way into the city centre for a

show at the weekend. We feel there is a massive appetite for an event of this nature in Oban, and we believe that the Corran Halls provides an ideal location for a first-class Gin Festival.

'We have a large variety of gins will be exhibiting at the show, including Colonsay, Biggar, BOE, Edinburgh Gin, Makar, Oban Bay, Square Peg Pink Gin, Loch Fyne, Riverside Spirits, to name but a few. It should be a fantastic day.'

Win a pair of tickets to GinFall Festival PLUS a premium bottle of Scottish Gin



## Social and Cocktail present GinFall Festival

Created by the team behind Social and Cocktail Events, Scotland's most popular drink events company, GinFall Festival will bring a mix of gin, cocktails, food and music to the Corran Halls in Oban on Saturday October 27 - offering the perfect day out for all gin lovers.

GinFall Festival will bring together a large variety of fantastic gins from Scotland and further afield. All the gin distilleries will be offering samples for attendees to enjoy on the day and you get a chance to talk to the distillers to find out more about their gins. On the day there will also be Scottish gin master-classes, fantastic live music, boozy cupcakes and chocolates, exclusive gin liqueurs and a premium cocktail bar - mixing up fabulous gin cocktails. For your chance to win a pair of tickets to the GinFall Festival event at the Corran Halls, simply answer this easy question, complete the coupon and post it to The Oban Times, GinFall Competition, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB. Entries to be in by noon on Monday October 22, 2018.

Question: Which country did gin originally come from?

Answer .....  
Name .....  
Address .....  
Telephone.....

Please post your entries to The Oban Times, GinFall Competition, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

Entries to be in by noon on Monday October 22, 2018

T&Cs: Over 18s only. Winners will be selected at random after the closing date and will be notified by phone call. The prize is not transferable or redeemable for cash equivalent. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. Winners may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. The competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees and their families. Digital subscribers can enter by printing this page and submitting their entry accompanied by a letter explaining that you are a digital subscriber. The closing date for entries is noon Monday October 22, 2018. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition. Entry data will be deleted/disposed immediately upon the competition entry deadline and in a manner appropriate to GDPR regulations. Entrants' details will not be used for any other activity.

OT

# Community projects land ownership funds

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Three community ownership projects on Kerrera and Mull are to get a share of £770,255.

The money, which will be split between seven projects countrywide, has come as part of the latest round of grants from the Scottish Land Fund.

Isle of Kerrera Development Trust will receive £119,167 to convert its former school into a community hub for locals and visitors.

Mull and Iona Community Trust (MICT) will use its £257,266 award to buy land adjacent its community-owned pontoon at Ulva Ferry and develop a shore facilities building to provide a social meeting space for the community and facilities for visitors. It will have bunk rooms, office rental space, showers, toilets, laundry, car park and campervan hook-ups.



Kerrera residents with Roseanna Cunningham, right, during her ministerial visit to the old school.

Tobermory Harbour Association has £99,307 to buy the old sawmill, boathouse, pier and slipway at Aros Park on Mull, together with the surrounding land as a springboard towards the regeneration of the area.

Cabinet Secretary for Land Reform Roseanna Cunningham visited Kerrera on Thursday last week to find out more about the community's plans with its award share.

She said all the successful projects were to be congratulated and added: 'The funding award will allow them to act on ambitious plans to give potentially under-utilised buildings and land a better use, to the current and future benefit of their local communities.'

Martin Shields, chairman of the Isle of Kerrera Development Trust, said members cannot wait to get started on the project. 'We are absolutely over the moon,' he said.

John Watt, Scottish Land Fund committee chairman, added: 'Through repurposing vacant buildings, acquiring land in order to build new facilities and enhancing the local environment, groups from the Highlands to the Scottish Borders are using the Scottish Land Fund to realise impressive plans for land and other community assets.'

'Projects like these make a big impact and not just on their local communities, and they also provide inspiration to other

groups who are still in the early stages of drawing up plans.'

Moray Finch, general manager of the Mull and Iona Community Trust, said he was convinced, thanks to the funding, its shore facilities building would contribute further to economic development and regeneration of the area 'and, as such, it is a vital part of our work to help support the local community in Ulva Ferry'.

Steve Littlewood, stakeholder director of Tobermory Harbour Association, said the funding it received would remove 'any threat of inappropriate private development and opens up an exciting future for a beautiful and historically important area of seafront that had fallen into serious decline'.

The Scottish Land Fund wants more applications. To apply, contact the Big Lottery Fund to discuss ideas at advice.scotland@biglotteryfund.org.uk or on 0300 123 7110.

## MSP calls for water main solution

MSP Bruce Crawford has called on Scottish Water to assess what can be done to bring about a permanent solution, following reports of yet another burst water main in Crianlarich.

The latest burst main is the fourth such incident in just four months.

Mr Crawford said: 'I have asked Scottish Water to ensure that everything is being done so the community is not left without water.'

## Isles MP welcomes grant funding

Western Isles MP Angus MacNeil has welcomed a funding boost for charities.

Each year, Corra Foundation distributes just under £1 million through its Henry Duncan Grants programme to charities in communities.

Hebrides Alpha Project has been awarded £4,000 towards the costs of travel and insurance and Volunteering Hebrides has been awarded a grant of £7,000 towards the volunteer expenses of the befriending project.



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# Meeting to discuss beach buy-out

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



The future of a Benderloch beauty spot comes under the spotlight at a public meeting tomorrow (Friday October 19).

Villagers are being invited to have their say about a possible community buy-out of Tralee beach.

A steering group has been set up and Lindsay Chalmers, a development manager for Community Land Scotland, will be a guest speaker.

The meeting at the Victory Hall in Benderloch starts at 7.30pm.

'Community Land Scotland is delighted to be providing support to the community of Benderloch as they look at a potential buy-out of the iconic and ecologically important Tralee beach,' said Ms

Chalmers. 'We have been very impressed by both the drive and skills of the people involved and are looking forward to answering questions from the community about the buy-out process at the meeting.'

A number of meetings have already been held to date to talk around the pros and cons of a public purchase of Tralee but the steering group says it is now ready to have a full public meeting to present the information it has managed to gather.

A public meeting was held in July to get an early indication of how the community felt about a possible buy-out bid.

The Oban Times previously reported the Surrey-based family who have owned the beach since 1945 have contacted the committee and wanted to talk.

One plan was to buy it under a Land Transfer Scotland initiative – as long as the community gives its backing.

If the buy-out goes ahead, it is believed it would be the first community buy-out of a beach involving common grazing.

The beach attracts thousands of visitors every year

and has a colourful past. When Argyll and Bute Council allowed thousands of tons of sand and gravel to be extracted from it in the 1980s as infill for the £1.4 million Oban railway pier, it sparked outrage from campaigning environmentalists who put a stop to it. Trouble erupted again when the then land-

owners dug a trench across the access road to the beach to stop people accessing their land.

The current landowners still have mineral rights for the beach and land owned by crofters.

If a buy-out was successful, the community would have a say on how the beach was

developed and be able to put a block on any sand and gravel removal.

Other ideas if the buy-out goes ahead include putting in roads so people with disabilities are given access, filling in hazardous pits, fitting new gates to stop cattle from wandering and creating a nature reserve.

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## LoveOban vouchers are brilliant presents

Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD  
editor@obantimes.co.uk



### WHERE IS THIS?



I return all refreshed after a much-needed holiday and raring to go for everything that autumn and winter hold.

I'm even thinking ahead to Christmas now with our LoveOban vouchers having 10 per cent off until Saturday.

They are ideal for saving shoe leather and brain power. A quick visit to one of the places selling the vouchers and job done – no buying gifts that will sit in a cupboard for years or straining your brain for weeks to come up with something that will be appreciated and enjoyed.

And 10 per cent off the purchase price also means that, as a reward for not doing very much, I can go and enjoy and cuppa and cake somewhere and congratulate myself on being so organised. I feel positively smug now and I would recommend it to anyone.

In saying that, I do enjoy my wanders round all the great shops we have and every year I do all my Christmas shopping locally. It usually ends up with me having a few wee presents for myself as well as it is very hard to resist lovely things, especially after a few glasses of mulled wine on the late-night openings.

As well as smug, I'm also feeling proud at the moment as we now have two ambassadors in the family. My nephew Blair MacFarlane

has become one of two shinty ambassadors at Oban High School, with the other being Daniel Sloss, who has also made the Scotland under-21 squad at only 16. Well done, boys!

I know I go on about it a bit, but with this being the Year of Young People I feel I can. For a small town we have an incredible amount of talented young people whether in sport, music or anything else they try.

We should be very proud of them and their achievements, and support them in any way we can, even if it is attending a fundraising event such as the family quiz for the Oban High School Pipe Band on November 1 in the Royal Hotel.

Every little thing we do helps them in pursuing their dreams and showing them that as a town we're proud of them.

The last photo was of the plaque on the Municipal Buildings and, to make it a bit easier this week, a clue is that I only walked as far as Argyll Square for this photo.

OT

# Selling rare whisky was 'biggest regret'

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A rare bottle of whisky which sold for a record-breaking £848,000 may once have graced the bar of a Kimelford hotel.

The Macallan Valerio Adami in question was one of just 12 bottles produced by the Macallan distillery in 1926. It is known that one of those bottles was bought by former Cuilfail hotelier David Burrill, who kept it on display for a number of years – first in the bar, then moved to an alarmed cabinet in the whisky lounge on the advice of police.

When The Oban Times spoke to Mr Burrill at the countryside pub he now runs in Ayrshire, he said he sold it 'years ago' and added: 'It's the biggest regret of my life.' But he stayed tight-lipped about any other details.

He was so proud of his purchase at the time that he commissioned a number of commemorative ties to give out to loyal locals.

Ivor Campbell, 72, who still lives in the village and still has one of the ties, was one of them and was working as a barman there at the time.

Mr Campbell said: 'Mr



Ivor Campbell wearing his whisky tie and Cuilfail owner Simon Fletcher.

Burrill announced to his wife he was going Christmas shopping. He set off for the distillery in Speyside but got stuck in snow. It was eight feet deep, so he had to be towed the rest of the way and stayed there the night.

'When he came back the next day with the whisky, he'd spent the summer's profits on it. I think it was about £11,000.'

The whisky's value is not just its vintage but also because of the unique artwork on its label, created by major pop artist Valerio Adami.

It is a simplified version of

the label design that appears in a yellow outline on the blue tie.

Another 12 bottles in the batch had labels designed by another artist, Peter Blake.

The bottle sold at Bonham's whisky sale earlier this month was bought directly from Macallan in 1994.

Only 10 of the Valerio bottles are accounted for. One was believed to have been opened and consumed while another was thought to have been destroyed during an earthquake in Japan in 2011, according to reports.

Cuilfail Hotel's current

owner, Simon Fletcher, said locals had recognised the lavishly expensive tittle by its label when it hit headlines after the auction.

'A bottle was previously on display here. It was in the bar for years. Mr Burrill was remembered going down from here to the distillery to buy it in 1994.

'We're not sure exactly how much he paid and we're not sure if it's the same bottle we had on show here, but there's a good chance it was,' added

Mr Fletcher, has run the Cuilfail Hotel with wife Yvonne for 10 years.

## Argyll MP seeks meeting after chaos on the A83

Following the closure of the Rest and Be Thankful this week, Argyll MP Brendan O'Hara has written to the Scottish Government minister seeking an urgent meeting to discuss the ongoing problems with the A83.

Mr O'Hara also said he would raise the economic effect it is having on Argyll, as well as infrastructure difficulties for the west coast.

Mr O'Hara said: 'I recognise and applaud the hard work done by the A83 Taskforce to find a solution to the historical problems at the Rest and Be Thankful. These efforts have resulted in unprecedented levels of engineering work being done over the past couple of years.

'But what we have witnessed – and with the west of Scotland predicted to become ever wetter due to climate change – shows a long-term permanent solution to the A83 cannot come quickly

enough. The A83 is a vital economic artery for the west of Scotland that deserves the same level of support as the bridge over the Forth or the Aberdeen bypass.

'Closures of the A83 leads to untenable diversions and rerouting of traffic onto other roads which are simply not designed to withstand these volumes of traffic. A solution to infrastructure investment to stem the flow of people and investment from the west coast must be found as a matter of urgency.

'The rural west of Scotland had suffered decades under-investment and depopulation. We need a permanent solution and that means investment.

'The repopulation and with it the economic regeneration of my constituency depends on a permanent solution and that's what I am keen to discuss with the minister as a matter of urgency.'

## Western Isles welcomes tourism funding

Western Isles Council has welcomed the announcement from Scottish Government awarding £243,000 from the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund (RTIF), matching the comhairle's funding of up to £300,000 to develop tourism infrastructure in the Outer Hebrides.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, in collaboration with the local industry and community organisations, submitted the

application to VisitScotland to secure the maximum amount possible from this scheme.

Projects supported were focused on recognised needs where there were particular problems identified.

Projects supported in this first round of RTIF funding include: campervan facilities, car and bus parking, recycling banks and improved signs.

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# Ardchattan's public survey

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



People living in Ardchattan are being invited to have their say about where they live.

This Sunday, October 21, sees the launch of a vital community survey asking residents for their views and suggestions on what are their priorities and what facilities they would like to see provided locally.

Everyone is welcome to join in the engagement day at Ardchattan Primary School from 1pm to 4pm.

Attractions popping up at the event, as well as a chance to fill in the survey, will include a Bookends area with lots of books to browse, a tea room and a guided walk at 2pm for experienced walkers only through the area's ancient oak forest, which was once home to a thriving char-

coal industry. Households can fill in a questionnaire separately – from under-10s to over-65s.

'Your response will decide what happens next,' said Breege Smyth, from the Ardchattan Community Centre Group. Questions include asking what facilities people would like to see, with room to suggest others.

Ideas being sounded out include a community hall, a cafe, business space to rent, local shop, a community bus, evening classes and a bunkhouse.

The question 'Would you like to see Ardchattan School building belong to the community?' is also asked as well as 'a magic wand' opportunity to 'tell us one thing that would make living here perfect'.

Argyll and Bute Council is now in the second phase of

consultation over the future of mothballed Ardchattan School.

A report on findings from recent talks with the community is due soon and a meeting to present the results and what the recommendation is for its future could be held next month, said Ms Smyth.

'This is purely on the educational aspect so at the moment we are treading water as far as the idea of us being able to eventually take it over as a community building.

'The survey we are launching on Sunday hopes to reach about 300 people from Barcaldine to half way down the Bonawe road. The results will be fed back to our working group to help with our thoughts and ambitions for our community and also for the school if it comes up for sale and we are going to acquire it.'

■ Oban Macmillan nurse Sandra Ironside is introduced to the Duchess of Rothesay. Ms Ironside, based at Lorn and Islands Hospital, was invited by cancer charity Walk the Walk to join in the official royal engagement at the Maggie's Centre in Glasgow.



## MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



Continuing from last week's introduction to the wonders of the Glasgow restaurant Ox and Finch, the following is a subjective, 'layman-like' stab as to why this eatery has the desired effect on diners.

I would add, as referenced to last week, that in Oban, wider Argyll and other heartlands of the Oban Times readership there are many fine restaurants that in their own fields would equal or surpass this city contender. I'll maybe touch on a few of these in future columns, but as it would put me at risk of being lynched by any who didn't get a mention, I'll stick to the safe anonymity of Glasgow for the time being!

The fact that you are served tapas-style dishes in Ox and Finch is of great attraction to me. Being able to try three or four dishes each means the taste buds remain alert throughout the meal and at no point does one get bored with

the fayre being consumed. This Spanish-influenced idea of lots of small dishes instead of one big one certainly adds to the variety of the experience.

One of my favourite aspects of the place is the open-plan layout, meaning the chefs and kitchen staff are in full view from the tables. It is excellent to watch the speed, efficiency and skill of the kitchen operation and also how pristine everything and everyone always is. Watching the dishes being constructed and placed on the serving bar ready to be taken to the tables also adds greatly to the anticipation of the food's arrival. When it comes to the table it does not disappoint!

Seared scallops, with piccalilli, black pudding and apple was first to arrive last Monday. The scallops were succulent with the deeply sweet flavour that can only be achieved by the freshest prod-

uct, the black pudding exuded a strong savoury spice and was crumbled to perfection among the clams and the sharp high-frequency sweetness of the apple cut through above the rest, accentuating the richness and perfection of balance in the dish.

A crab and crayfish cocktail with Bloody Mary and pickled celery, and a dish made up of slow-cooked lamb shoulder, bulgar wheat, apricots, almonds and mint yoghurt were close behind the scallops in their pleasing effect on the taste buds.

What marks this restaurant out particularly is that even with their regularly changing menu, I would give them five stars on each and every occasion I have visited.

The magical pleasure of food is conjured and delivered expertly and with impeccable consistency in Ox and Finch and I would recommend to all.

## Fine for debt agency bomb threat

A Benderloch man has been fined £650 for threatening to petrol bomb a debt collection agency.

David Huddart, of Caravan No.43, Tralee Bay Caravan Park, Benderloch, pleaded guilty to making a telephone call that was grossly offensive, or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character, to an official at the collection agent Walker Love Sheriff Officers

on July 25, 2018. The 43-year-old admitted acting in an aggressive or intimidating manner and uttering threats of violence, in intimidating he would petrol bomb the office.

'He was getting passed from pillar to post,' Huddart's defence agent Edward Thornton told Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday October 9.

'It was an empty threat after an afternoon of frustration

which led to the unfortunate comment. He moved to this area to start a new life.'

Sheriff John Herald told Huddart: 'You lost your temper. For somebody with your record, that is the last thing you should do.'

'The only thing saving you is that you have been out of trouble for the past 18 months and have been in full-time employment.'

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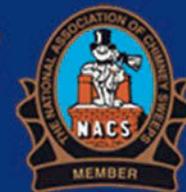
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### CHIMNEY SWEEPING THROUGHOUT ARGYLL, LORN AND THE ISLES



Delegates to the AGM on Tiree visited the community wind turbine.

## Scottish Islands Federation holds AGM on Tiree

The AGM of the Scottish Islands Federation (SIF) gathered 30 delegates from Orkney to Islay on the island of Tiree for two days of successful sharing of experiences and reflecting on policies affecting the Scottish islands.

Delegates concentrated on the streamed keynote address by Michael Russell MSP, who was unable to attend in person.

The debate focused on how Brexit will affect the islands,

how islanders can get involved in the consultation on the National Island Plan and engage with Crown Estate Scotland as well as island housing and strategies to encourage population retention.

The point was made about the fundamental role played by housing in driving island development.

'It is really important that housing is seen as the critical route to sustainability and

population retention,' said SIF chairwoman Camille Dressler. 'This should not be addressed by one-size-fits-all policy, but by a policy that promotes the right type of housing in the right place as an integral component of island sustainability. This was argued very convincingly by Cameron Anson of Our Island Home.'

Thanks to Ann MacDonald, Tiree director on the SIF board, for organising the AGM.

# Mull woman is drink driving a

A Mull woman who admitted a drunken assault has also been convicted of drink driving.

Madeline McCurrach, 27, of 4 The Village, Bunessan, pleaded guilty to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner at a house nearby on November 24 last year, seizing a man by the neck and kicking him, and attempting to bite a police officer.

McCurrach pleaded not guilty to drink driving while almost three times over the legal limit, measuring 140 milligrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood, when the limit is 50 milligrammes.

'About eight o'clock I was watching Coronation Street,' the man told Oban Sheriff Court on Monday October 8. 'I heard a noise outside.

'I turned around and Maddy was in the house. It was her nan's house previously.

'She was well drunk. There was another car, a pick-up, in the turning circle, door open, keys in the ignition. It was not there when I came home.

'It is such a small driveway you cannot miss another car in the driveway. I moved it the next day. I jump started it. It was flat.'

Taking the witness stand, his partner said she had 'no idea' when the pick-up had arrived, but it had not been parked outside their house when she got home from work after 5pm.

'He normally comes in after six,' she said. 'I remember watching Coronation Street between seven and eight. Maddy just came into the house drunk, basically. I think she fell at the door. She had cider and Budweiser.'

The court heard the couple's house was located on the McCurrach family's croft,

next to her mum's home, and a few minutes' walk from her late uncle's caravan.

'I was looking after my mum's croft while she was away,' McCurrach said, 'I was staying at my mum's house. I was feeding the animals, lifting hay bales into the vehicle and dropping them off in the field. It was about four o'clock that it stopped. I parked up at the house. It was about half five.

'I walked out the pick-up and went to my uncle's caravan because I felt emotional and I wanted to sit in my uncle's caravan to drink alcohol. I sat listening to music, his old CDs. I got really drunk. I went out the caravan because I wanted company.

'I was very drunk. I went to [the couple's house]. I know [her] very well. I did not get on well with [him]. I was very unstable.

'I did not drink alcohol



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# guilty of and assault

before driving that vehicle. I walked.'

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty asked: 'You drove that vehicle there, blocking them in, and you walked away. Why did you do that?'

'I do not know,' she replied. 'It is our ground. We park wherever.'

Sheriff John Herald said: 'The question for me is the fact whether she parked the car when she was sober, or she parked the car when she was drunk.'

McCurrach's defence agent Laura McManus argued: 'Neither witness was able to tell the court what time Ms McCurrach drove her vehicle down. There is no evidence when the pick-up arrived. Neither witness said they heard the car drive up immediately prior to Ms McCurrach entering the house.'

Sheriff Herald asked

McCurrach: 'Did you park the vehicle at 5.30, leaving the vehicle in such a way that [the couple's] vehicle was blocked in?'

'Yes,' she replied.

Sheriff Herald continued: 'When [he] arrives, I understand there is dubiety when he arrived, he had no difficulty in parking his car. That is fine until we get to this: when [he] goes out after the incident, the vehicle is there, the door is open, the key is in the ignition. The following morning he has to jump-start it to get out.'

'It shows me you drove the vehicle to the cottage just before the incident. I find you guilty. I am going to defer sentence for a report so I can see the whole picture. You will be disqualified from driving today. You cannot drive as of now.'

Sentencing was deferred until November 6.

## Cash boost for islands' booming tourist trade

Half a million pounds has been awarded to three projects on Mull, Islay and Tiree to improve infrastructure for their booming tourism trade.

A total of £106,005 has been granted to upgrade the Columba Centre car park at Fionnphort to provide space for campervans and disabled parking, and 40 new spaces at Craignure car park.

The Bruichladdich to Port Charlotte Pathway project has been awarded £300,000 to create a safe pathway for walkers and cyclists linking Bruichladdich Distillery with accommodation and tourism businesses in Port Charlotte.

Finally, Tiree Turf and

Surf was awarded £131,366 for an additional 95 car parking spaces, better access links between parking areas and beaches, and signs to protect the machair landscape.

Argyll and Bute Council leader Aileen Morton said: 'We have experienced a growth in tourism that far outstrips the national average. We welcome this growth - it stimulates our economy, creates jobs and attracts new people to the area to live and work as well as visit. But we also welcome assistance to improve infrastructure that will make the large, seasonal increase in population a better experience for visitors.'

## Ferries are priority topic at meeting

Western Isles Council has met Michael Matheson, Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity, to discuss transport issues in the islands, including ferry services.

Also present were representatives of Transport Scotland and HITRANS.

Councillor Uisdean Robertson said: 'Our meeting with Michael Matheson was very useful. We were assured he appears to have a good

handle on his new brief and has clearly spent some time on the issues that are a concern for us all regarding ferry and aviation travel.

'We discussed general issues around capacity, reliability and resilience issues affecting ferry services to and within the Western Isles and challenged him on the levels of investment in vessels and the associated infrastructure and, perhaps more importantly, the robustness of decision-making.'



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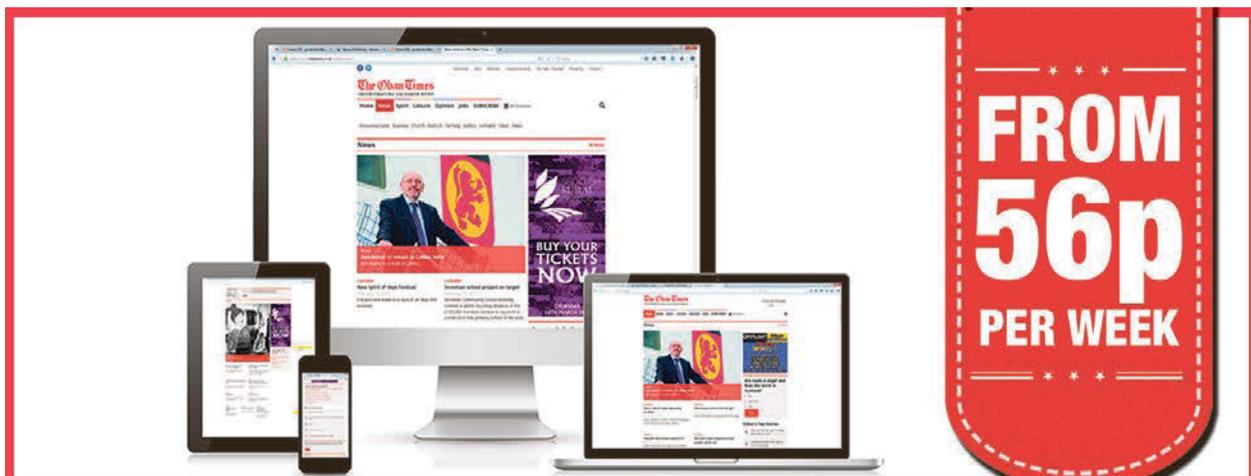
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# Dear Reader

It's the most wonderful time of the year ... especially if you are well planned and have organised a fantastic social life.

Use our Christmas Party Nights feature to help you organise a night out with your work colleagues, your group, your friends or for a pre-Christmas or Christmas Day with loved ones. There is something really special waiting for you with all our advertisers.

And who knows? For all you single guys and girls, it may be the time of the year where you meet a special someone in your life.

Who can resist a slow dance to Wham's Last Christmas or a well-played live band encouraging you onto the dance floor for a Gay Gordon with a potential new love?

A recent survey undertaken by match.com said that people are more likely to meet someone on a night out with other friends.

Whether that is true on the west coast or not (because we seem to know everyone already), Christmas is certainly a great time to get out and about to meet up with old friends. There are so many wonderful places to go on the west coast to celebrate.

For those readers who are already loved up – it is the time of the year to make sure your partner is feeling the Christmas

spirit and maybe even drinking a wee tippie or two in one of our fabulous advertisers' venues.

And if you've decided to make Christmas Day extra special, then you might like to consider making arrangements to take family and friends out for lunch or dinner.

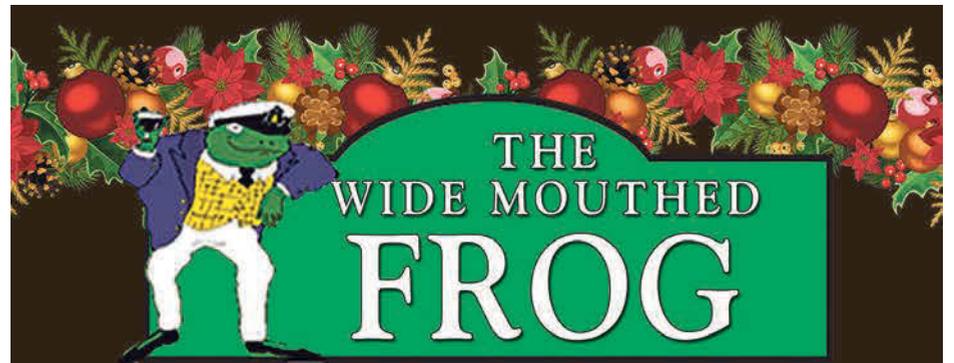
For many, Christmas Day can be the one day when you really can kick back and relax. It does beg the question for those not-so culinary-minded men and women, why on earth they don't give up the ghost of being a domestic god overnight and give into the delights of a meal prepared by an exceptional chef.

That way, you don't even have any dishes to worry about. In some cases, because of all the extra cash we spend at Christmas, it may even be a better economy to take the family out for that really special meal.

Remember, the best Christmases we remember from our lives are not those where we are high as kites trying to prepare a meal for squillions of people but the best times are when we get to spend time loving, or arguing, with our loved ones.

So whatever you do this Christmas, make sure you enjoy yourself and have lots of fun.

**From all the staff at the Oban Times**



## CHRISTMAS PARTY NIGHTS

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*Bucks Fizz Welcome Reception*

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*Melon and Parmesan and Ham served with salad.*

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# Exciting times ahead for the Regent Hotel in Oban



*'The old drawing room, which is nearly completed, will be an executive room, with all the facilities – tea, coffee, a minibar, a 50-inch TV, a Jacuzzi bath, and a walk-in shower.'*

It is an exciting time for the Regent Hotel in Oban.

The updated restaurant is just weeks away from opening, as is the refurbished honeymoon suite.

General manager Darrel Williams, who took over the

role four months ago, is keen to bring a buzz back to the hotel.

He said: 'The new owners have got some great plans for the hotel and I want to be part of it. We have a new restaurant opening in the next couple of weeks called the Marine Restaurant with seafood and local produce.

'The old drawing room, which is nearly completed, will be an executive room, with all the facilities – tea, coffee, a minibar, a 50-inch TV, a Jacuzzi bath, and a walk-in shower. It will be ideal

for honeymoons, special occasions or weekends away, and it can be converted in to a family room.

'We are hoping for all this to be done for November.'

As well as bringing in new features, Darrel is also keen to bring back a bit of the old.

'This year, we are promoting party nights, which used to be a regular thing. [We are] doing some special deals and George Noble will play.

'The Regent Hotel used to be famous for its weddings and we would like to get that back up and going. I just want to

get a buzz back in the hotel. It used to be the main venue for everyone. The new owners and I want to get that buzz back.'

Speaking about what it is like to return to the hotel, Darrell said: 'I love it. There is a lot of history here and the future is exciting. The family has invested in the hotel, so the future is bright. Looking ahead, we want to get the Regent back to where it was, as one of the main attractions in the town for food. We have employed a local chef and the food is excellent. We have had some tasting nights and tweaked the menu here and

there. We feel we have it where we want it now, so watch this space.'

The Regent boasts a view over Oban's new pontoons, which Darrell says will be a benefit to the hotel as well as the town.

As well as all this, there is also a lot going on with the Cellar Bar, which is situated below the hotel.

A new competition standard pool table was delivered last week and the pub will enter Oban's pool league.

'The Cellar Bar is looking good,' Darrell said, 'and we have BT Sports.'



# BUSINESS NEWS

## Tenant for new Moorings at Malin House

New flexible workspace, developed at the European Marine Science Park (EMSP) at Dunstaffnage, has welcomed its first tenant.

Norwegian company PatoGen's focuses on the provision of fish health services to the aquaculture industry.

With so much attention on the health of the oceans and farmed fish as a sustainable source of food, PatoGen has found the Moorings an ideal facility close to many other activities in Scotland's aquaculture sector.

The Moorings has been developed by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) in Malin House to give marine-related businesses the opportunity to locate at the EMSP on a flexible, short-term basis.

PatoGen key account manager Teresa Garzon said: 'This is a great opportunity for PatoGen to get a foothold in this renowned location for marine expertise and to join the thriving cluster of innovative marine-based businesses working in Malin House.'

Morag Goodfellow of HIE added: 'The workplace is changing as technology continues to offer increased mobility and flexibility. The Moorings will offer not only a modern work base, but also the chance to enjoy collaborating with other marine researchers and companies already on the site.'

HIE commissioned Anchorpoint Interiors to fit out the work spaces.

# New drive starts to bring young travellers to Oban

The seafood capital of Scotland is reeling in adventure seekers and music lovers as part of a new campaign supported by the national tourism organisation.

The Oban and Lorn Tourism Alliance has been awarded £12,500 by the VisitScotland Growth Fund to help drive a new digital media movement - #VisitOban - aimed at millennials.

The group wants to show the world that there is more to the Oban and Lorn area than its incredible seafood.

The campaign is celebrating the Year of Young People 2018 and encouraging young travellers to explore the area and discover the diverse activities on offer. It will focus on using social media and working with influencers to reach people aged 18-34.

Dynamic videos will highlight the best outdoor adventure experiences in Oban and Lorn, and a downloadable live music venue trail for Oban will feature places to enjoy live music along with hangouts, places to stay, eat and drink and will also shine a spotlight on Oban Live - the biggest music event in Argyll.

Visitors can take advantage of Oban's natural playground on both land and sea, including coastering, kayaking, paddle boarding and wild swimming. OLTA hopes to reach out to more than 500,000 people with the project's video and other online content and boost the impact of other tourism campaigns in the area, Wild about Argyll and Heart and Soul.

Andrew Spence, chief executive of BID4Oban, said: 'OLTA does a great job bringing visitors to Oban and this award will help them reach out to a new audience via social media and video to en-



OLTA director Calum Ross, VisitScotland director David Adams McGilp, OLTA director Linda Battison, BID4Oban chief executive Andrew Spence and OLTA director Neil Mackay.

sure that we're enthusing the next generation by highlighting our adventure activities, fantastic scenery, food and drink and music.'

Neil Mackay, vice-chairman of OLTA, added: 'I have been involved with the Oban band scene for more years than I care to remember and recently we've witnessed a buzz around trad music with events such as Oban Live raising the town's profile. We're keen to capitalise on this and reach out to the millennials.'

David Adams McGilp, VisitScotland regional director, said: 'Oban and the surrounding area are already shining stars thanks to the incredible dining experiences available but there is so much to see and do so a campaign like this is a brilliant way to build on the offering currently available in Oban and highlight the exciting experiences just waiting to be discovered.'

For more information on #VisitOban visit: [www.oban.co.uk](http://www.oban.co.uk)

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## Islay distillery reveals plans for new visitor centre

Caol Ila Distillery opened its doors to local residents this month to give them the first look at plans to transform the visitor experience.

The Islay distillery is one of the key locations in plans to invest £150 million in single malt and Johnnie Walker Scotch whisky tourist attractions across Scotland, and will see significant upgrading of the distillery's visitor centre.

Residents were welcomed to the distillery on Wednesday October 3 and were the first to see the outline plans, which will allow them to give feedback before plans are submitted for planning approval.

Under the plans, the new state-of-the-art visitor experience will be created inside the Caol Ila warehouse, including a bar with stunning views across the Sound of Islay. The visitor centre will be entered via a footbridge into the roof of the warehouse, linking to new parking facilities on the hill above the distillery, which will be discreetly located and carefully



An artist's impression of the new Caol Ila visitor centre.

landscaped to manage visual impact and traffic movement.

Pierrick Guillaume, Caol Ila Distillery manager, said: 'We are very excited about the ambitious plans to transform the visitor experience at Caol Ila with this investment. A lot of careful

thought has been put into the plans to ensure we minimise any impact on the local community.

'It was great to welcome local residents to the distillery and to share our plans with them first and to get their input. We look forward to working with the

community and stakeholders as we progress the plans.'

The planning application for the distillery is expected to be submitted to Argyll and Bute Council before the end of the year and, subject to planning permission being granted, work should commence in 2019.

Whisky from Diageo's distilleries all over Scotland contribute to Johnnie Walker, but four distilleries – Caol Ila, Glenkinchie, Cardhu and Clynelish – will be linked directly to a new Johnnie Walker global visitor experience in Edinburgh, representing the four corners of Scotland and the regional flavour variations crucial to the art of whisky blending.

Together, these sites will create a unique Johnnie Walker tour of Scotland, encouraging visitors to the capital city to also travel to the country's rural communities. Diageo's other single malt distillery visitor centres across Scotland will also receive investment in their visitor experiences as part of the programme.

## Firm commissions new workboat

The Scottish Salmon Company (SSC) has commissioned a new 30-tonne workboat for its sites at Loch Striven with delivery expected in early 2019.

Built by Ardmaleish Boatbuilding Company on the Isle of Bute, the vessel's commission will see the family-run firm employ four new modern apprentices to assist with the build.

The announcement follows SSC reporting positive results for the first half of the year. Ardmaleish Boatbuilding Company has more than 40 years of experience in the pleasure and commercial craft manufacturing field.

Craig Anderson, chief executive of SSC, said: 'The Scottish Salmon Company is proud that this is the fifth boat built for us by Ardmaleish Boatbuilding Company. The close working relationship allows us to work together to incorporate new technology and to design improvements in the vessels.'

Ewan Ferguson, managing director of Ardmaleish Boatbuilding Company, added: 'As a small business, projects like this are very significant, as they allow us to continue growing.'

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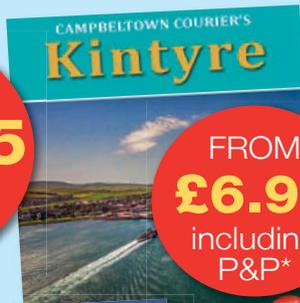
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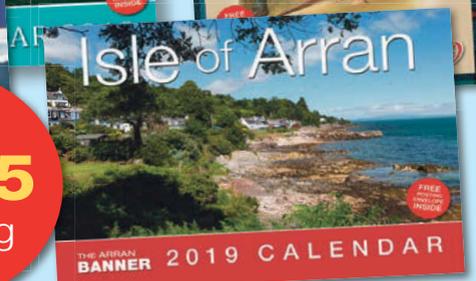
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## Appealing for your stories from First World War

by Sandy Neil  
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

Have you got a good local story from the First World War? If so, The Oban Times would like to hear from you.

Next month, on Sunday November 11, will be exactly 100 years since the end of the First World War, a terrible, gruelling, four-year conflict that saw millions killed or wounded.

To mark this historic centenary, The Oban Times is publishing a commemorative 16-page supplement, giving our readers insight to the 'war to end all wars' and its impact on Argyll and the Islands.

We would like to hear your stories. How was your family, community or business affected by The Great War? Please email your story to editor@obantimes.co.uk by Wednesday October 24, attaching any photographs you wish to illustrate it, in as high a resolution as you can.

The day's events begin at 6am, when pipers are being asked to play a particular tune at locations of their choice. More than 1,000 pipers have registered, but organisers are on a 'final push' for volunteers, before October 24 to include their names in an official guide.

Stuart Letford, editor of the Piping Times at the National Piping Centre, explained: 'We have pipers old and young taking part as well as pipe bands. By doing this at 6am, we kickstart the day's commemorations appropriately. The tune played is a popular retreat march called When the Battle is Over, commonly known to pipers as simply The Battle's O'er.'

At 12.30pm, bells will ring out in unison from churches and cathedrals across the country, including those in Dalavich, Kilchrenan and Taynuilt, where a parade will process from the church service to the village hall for an old-time concert.

Pipers who wish to register for The Battle's O'er are asked to send an email, giving their name, telephone number, address and where they intend to play their tribute, to battlesoer@collegeof-piping.org.

# Some lived and died

## Morvern lines

IAIN THORNER

ian.thorner@btinternet.com



It was good to read in The Oban Times recently that something is to be done to prevent St Columba's Ui Church (Eaglais na h-Aoidhe) on the Aignish peninsula, Isle of Lewis, from slipping into the sea.

I have no doubt many important local families are buried in the foundations of the church on this ancient site, but I would seriously question the assertion that the memorial being referred to as 'the sword stone' marks the exact spot of the clan chiefs of the Macleods of Lewis.

Long ago the heads of important local families and the chief heritors in the parish were, on payment of a fee to the local clergy, permitted at death to be buried inside churches. They did so in the belief that the prayers of those coming to kneel to the saint, or holy man who founded the original cell, would somehow or other be transferred onto them and help fast-track their ascension to Heaven.

Eventually, however, the practice was banned and the decomposing bodies were lifted and reburied outside for obvious health reasons. The movement of corpses and headstones around a graveyard was far more regular than one might imagine today.

A good example is the whereabouts of the body of Simon 11th Lord Lovat of the '45 who was executed in London in 1747 and buried in the city Tower, even though he had requested his body was to be taken north to be placed in the family vault at Wardlaw near Inverness. Until recently, a lead coffin inside the Wardlaw mausoleum was pointed out as his final resting place but, when opened by experts a few months ago, the skeleton inside was that of a young woman.

Where Simon's head and body are is still a mystery.

As late as the 19th century, wonderful carved 500-year-old grave slabs were being broken up and used for making the wall rounding Kiel cemetery in Morvern. At least one other was used as the base for the headstone of a local builder called Samuel Barham who died in 1910.

A further example can be seen in a collection of medieval stones at Kilmartin which were defaced before they were brought from the

surrounding graveyard into a purpose-built shelter beside the church with names and dates of a later period, apparently with the approval of the local laird and the parish minister.

The polite name for this at the time was 'appropriation'; today we might well call it recycling or, dare I say, vandalism.

In his fascinating book, *The Limping Pilgrim* (1883), Edwin Waugh (1817-90), the Lancashire poet who visited Rum in the 1880s as a guest of its owner, John Bullough, provides us with a glimpse of a simple but dignified island burial before the arrival of the black, frock-coated, cane-swinging undertaker brigade: 'There was neither bell, book, nor candle used when the remains of old Malcolm [Maclean] were laid down in the graveyard of Kilmory, where generation after generation of the inhabitants of the Isle of Rum have been buried during the last thousand years.'

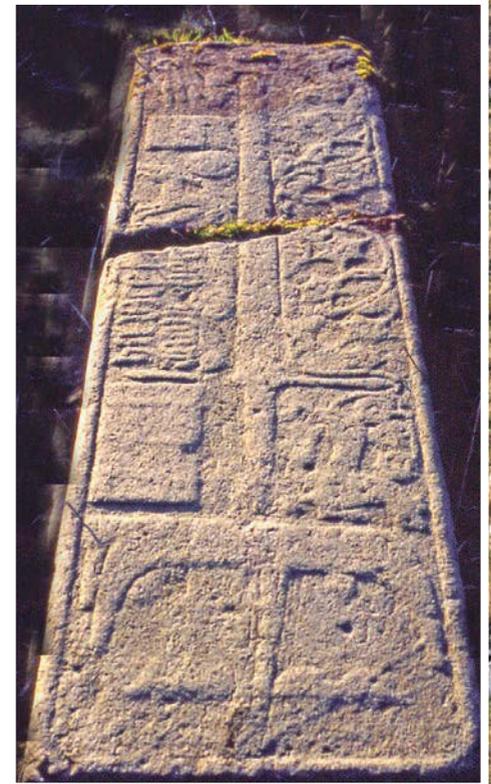
'The soil of that lonely weed-grown "God's Acre" is thick with mouldering relics of the wild forefathers of the island. When the body of the "old Captain" was brought by his neighbours to mingle with the rest in this last gathering ground of mortal decay, no prayers were said, no funeral rites were observed, nor was there a word spoken in sorrow by the simple shepherds and fishers who brought him there.'

'When they got to the Kilmory shore, the coffin was lifted out of the boat and carried by six men, over slippery rocks, to a green place, where they set it down, and rested, and smoked for a while; and then they took it up again, and went on with it about half a mile further, which brought them to the graveyard.'

'They set the coffin down by the side of the readymade grave, and rested, and smoked, and talked about sheep for nearly half an hour. Then, all at once, without a word they got up, and lowered the coffin into the grave; and then, one after another, in turn, slowly dropped a spadeful of earth upon the coffin.'

'Whilst they were doing this, they began to find amongst the earth with which they were filling the grave, rotten bits of old coffins, and fragments of mouldered bones; and they stopped, now and then, to talk about them, and to measure them. When they had filled up the grave, they got green sods from the hill side, and laid them carefully upon the earth; after which they began to look round the burial ground for a stone to lay on the old man's grave.'

'At last they found a gravestone, the quaint lettering upon which was almost worn away by time. It belonged to somebody else; but that



Kilmory graveyard, Rum, where Malcolm Maclean is buried. The wall has been repaired since the photograph was taken. And, above, one of many old gravestones on Mull dominated by a sword.

Photographs: Iain Thorner

didn't matter. "Oh, this will do," said they; and, forthwith, the old stone was laid upon the new grave, and left there.

'After this they went and sat down upon a green spot a short distance from the graveyard, where they smoked, and chatted, and drank three bottles of whisky, and ate some oatcakes to it, and then they came away home again. And there was an end of old Malcolm Maclean.'

It is not surprising that there is a sword on a stone of some age in Ui church but it has nothing to do with the Knights Templar who caught the public imagination from the recent Da Vinci Code pot-boiler and film.

Swords were one of the favourite decorations

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# by the sword



of West Highland masons and appear on crosses, effigies and grave slabs throughout the Highlands and Islands. Some historians maintain those represented exact copies of the deceased's own weapon but this can hardly be true because masons in different areas repeated the same pattern over and over again.

We know, though, from swords which have survived and can be seen on various monuments, including the stone found in Ui church, that they were based on weapons actually carried in the late Middle Ages. In some instances, the detail is so accurate that the mason must have been working from a model which may have been laid on the slab and marked off by chalk.

After 1500, the dominant sword on West Highland carvings is the claymore, the Scottish version of the European double-hander which is thought to have originated in Germany. It appears to have been introduced to the Highlands about 1490.

The earliest illustration of this design, with its distinctive hilt, can be found on a grave slab made by masons on Iona in 1495 and now in a burial ground on Tiree. The stone has a Latin inscription which reads: 'Fingonius, Prior of Iona, gave me to Philippus, son of Iohannes, and to his sons in the year of Our Lord 1495.' Philippus was not an uncommon forename in the West Highlands from which MacKillop and MacGilp, two Argyll surnames, emerged.

## DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



These pupils at Rockfield School were probably about eight years old when this class photo was taken, according to Oban's Jack Forbes, who sent it in. Mr Forbes said a lot of them are still living in the town and 'are in their seventies' now. 'I'd like to see their faces when they spot themselves in The Oban Times. It'll be a trip down memory lane,' he said.



Fort William High Street with no parking problems in the early Playhouse Cinema days. From the Roamer archive.

## Selling your Whisky Cask?

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## LETTERS

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

## Such a tragic loss in devastating accident

There cannot be any disguising the sense of shock that has been felt across the Oban area and further afield in Argyll following the terrible fatal accident that shook our communities this week.

Joolz Goodman died early on Monday morning following a crash on the A816 near Kilmelford as she made her way to work in Oban. Joolz, who was 53, owned The Little Potting Shed in the town centre, a popular and welcoming cafe renowned for its vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free menus. She was also a well-known figure in the Lochgilphead area where she lived.

Such was the high regard in which she was held that there was an immediate and heartfelt outpouring of grief, with fulsome tributes being paid.

The messages were led by her husband, Russell, with whom she ran the cafe in John Street, and who broke the awful news on Monday evening.

The loss of Joolz will be felt by a wide range of people and organisations, but mostly by her family and friends. She will be greatly missed.

## Gearing up for a great winter festival

It is nearing the time once again for the fantastic range of events that comprise the annual Oban Winter Festival.

The small but incredibly enthusiastic group of volunteers who organise the festival have all their plans in place, with many of the old favourites returning but also some new ideas.

Shops and businesses are being urged to get on board with the best dressed window competition but there are a host of activities in the offing.

We will bring you more details about what to expect with each week between now and the start of the festivities on Friday November 16.

## Eminently sensible solution to prevent future flooding

There have been many theories and solutions put forward in the past few days regarding Oban's flooding – drains not cleared, the Black Lynn not deepened and the pumps not working being just three of them.

None of these can have any effect when the sea in Oban Bay is level with the water in the Black Lynn, or above it, making drainage impossible.

Earlier in the year I attended an afternoon event at the Rockfield Centre. The council and its consultants had organised this event to allow concerned members of the public to express their views on the frequent flooding.

In the considerable time I was there, only two other people came in. One of the consultants told me that the answer would be to hold back more of the Black Lynn floodwater in the Lon Mor, translated from the Gaelic as the 'big puddle', opposite the hospital in Glenshellach. This could be achieved by means of a low dam or wall around the lower side of the area. When the time was right – ie, at low tide – water could be gradually released and would flow down the Black Lynn and into the sea without flooding Lochavullin.

To a layman like myself, this appears to be a sensible solution, but unfortunately the Lon Mor is owned by a developer and part of it has already been filled in and built on. We all know about the problems encountered when building on a flood plain and it seems sensible to suggest that any further development on the Lon Mor should be stopped immediately.

Maurice Wilkins,  
Laurel Road, Oban.

## Many people do not know Lochavullin prone to floods

Re the flooding in Oban last week, I know a lot of people will say drivers should have known better than to park at Lochavullin car park in this weather, which is possibly true, but what about tourists and others who do not know the town?

Argyll and Bute Council needs to put up warning signs at both entrances that the car park is prone to flooding in heavy rain, especially at this time of the year. Roads are horrendous out of town but surely in this modern era they could be designed to drain of excess water. Drains also need to be checked regularly to prevent blockage.

Wendy MacGillivray, by email.

## 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,

simply send it to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto: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,

## Road network in Fort William is inadequate

I was interested to hear Nicola Sturgeon offer to take Jeremy Corbyn to visit the 'smelter in Fort William' so that she could show him '... how to deliver an active industrial policy' during her keynote speech to the SNP conference last week.

Might I suggest that should Mr Corbyn take her up on her kind invitation, they should probably plan to arrive by helicopter, since the primary road into Fort William – the A82 – is

barely fit for B-road designation? Having arrived in Fort William, should they manage it, they would be well advised to park at the West End car park and walk to the smelter, since this will be far quicker than trying to drive across town.

As an alternative, could I humbly suggest that a far better plan would be to ask the smelter not to employ another 400 individuals, ask Linnhe Leisure to not upgrade the Nevis Centre to encourage greater use of the facility, to beg NHS Highland to not build a new hospital and Highland Council to not build another 200 homes at Blar Mhor, until she has had time to find the funds required to

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## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk



This was a surprise to me as I had not realised the speed of the technical revolution.

Meeting these fast evolving customer needs is important for CalMac, West Coast Motors and other travel firms. But delivering technology is also important for Oban B&Bs to help tourists stay connected. Hopefully, Holyrood will also begin to roll out ultrafast broadband at affordable prices to help local businesses.

As well as the technology, we need more and better trained IT people. Scotland in general, and Argyll in particular, is short of thousands of highly skilled people. This requires Holyrood to invest what is termed 'patient capital', the long-term money to help business and increase the country and county's wealth. It would also bring millions of pounds extra in taxes and council tax for our public sector.

Mike Foster,

Sannox, Crannaig a Mhinister, Oban.

### New homes in Bowmore are very welcome

I was delighted to attend the new Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) homes opening ceremony on October 4 in Bowmore. It was great to meet the new tenants, the local ACHA team and ACHA's chief executive Alastair MacGregor.

Ileach and Scottish news and current affairs broadcaster Glenn Campbell cut the ribbon and handed out keys to the new tenants.

I would like to thank the front-line builders and tradesmen for working hard to provide these new homes. Another huge thanks to the event organisers and Bowmore Primary School choir for their tremendous performance.

As a social housing tenant, I know all too well the importance and the need for rental properties that are affordable and in the right areas.

I wish the new tenants all the very best for their future in their new homes.

Councillor Alastair Redman, Islay.

### Television coverage of Mòd should have Gaelic subtitles

In this week when the great and good of Gaeldom and their friends in BBC Alba are all in Dunoon for the Mòd, perhaps they could discuss the simple change that would most help learners and folk who grew up with Gaelic but have lost it, namely: put Gaelic subtitles on all programmes.

Mike Johnston,

Windsor Gardens, Largs.

Tha mi a' sgrìobhadh seo is Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail 2018 dìreach air tòiseachadh ann an Dùn Omhain, agus bha fìor dheagh chuirm fosglaidh ann a dh'aindeoin 's ged a b' fheudar a' chaismeachd lòchran a chur dheth aig a' mhionaid mu dheireadh.

Thàinig an stoirm Calum air tìr oidhche Dhiardaoin agus bha i fiadhaich da-riribh tron latha Dihaoine le gaith is uisge.

Aig an fhàilteachas a chùim An Comunn Gàidhealach aig Talla Baile Dhùn Omhain feasgar Dihaoine le aoigheachd bho Chalmac, prìomh bhuidheann goistidheachd na roinne prìobhaidich dhan Mhòd Nàiseanta, bha Ball Pàrlamaid Albannach na Sgìre Michael Ruiseal a' dèanamh beagan spòrs mu na duilgheadasan a bha ma choinneamh luchd-tadhail a' Mhòid.

Eadar maoim-sleibhe air a' phrìomh rathad a' ciallachadh còrr air trì fichead mìle siubhail a bharrachd air an rathad neo mì-chinnt sheirbheis aiseagan, cha robh an turas idir furasta thuirt e, ach cha do chuir dùbhlain den t-seòrsa cus bacaidh riamh air na Gàidheil!

Bha e tàmailteach dhan Chomataidh Eagrachaidh gum b' fheudar a' chaismeachd a chur dheth an dèidh uimhir de shaothair ga deasachadh, ach cò aige tha fios nach gabh a' chaismeachd dèanamh nas fhaide den t-seachdain, chan eil riaghailt sam bith a tha ag ràdh gum feum i bhith ann aig an fhosgladh a-mhàin.

Bha uallach sònraichte aig Micheal Ruiseal a bhith ag ainmeachadh cò bh' air duais Tosgaire Gàidhlig na Bliadhna aig Riaghaltas na h-Alba a bhuannachadh, agus ann am Bliadhna na h-Òigridh chòrd e gu mòr ris na bha an làthair cluinntinn gun robh sin air a dhol gu Eilidh NicCarraig a Port Rìgh.

Thug Eilidh taing dha Comataidh Òigridh agus Bòrd a' Chomuinn Ghàidhealach a bh' air an taghadh a dhèanamh às leth an Riaghaltais agus mar a tha tur iomchaidh dha na h-uile againn a bhuannaich an t-urram seo, gheall i gun cumadh ise cuideachd ag obair gu dìcheallach às leth na Gàidhlig agus a cultar.

Bha a' chiad chothrom aig Eilidh sin a dhèanamh mar bhall den chòmhlain bhan Sian aig cuirm fosglaidh Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail 2018 goirid an dèidh sin, far an cualas cuideachd an còmhlain

ealanta beothail Beinn Lee le sianar òga a Uibhist a' cosnadh moladh dùrachdach bhon luchd-èisteachd. Fìor dheagh thòiseachadh dhan Mhòd ann am Bliadhna na h-Òigridh. Mun àm a bhios sibhse a' leughadh seo bidh cùisean a' teannadh gu crìch seachdaine a tha mi 'n dòchas a bhios soirbheachail, taitneach, misneachail, agus adhartach dhan Ghàidhlig agus dhan na h-uile a dh'obraich cho cruaidh gus an tachartas seo a thoirt gu bith.

Despite Storm Callum, the formal opening of the Royal National Mòd 2018 in Dunoon was hugely successful, dominated by the melodic singing of the female group Sian and the stirring music of the young Uist band Beinn Li.

While a significant and appropriate message in this Year of Young People, it was also good to hear An Comunn Gàidhealach reaffirm its commitment to listen and work with young Gaelic speakers and learners. Cultural succession planning.

Ailean Caimbeul  
(Allan Campbell)

ailean@obantimes.co.uk

Fort William. This week's photograph was sent to us by Mandy Smith from Kilchrenan who said she took this atmospheric photograph of Loch Awe from near her home.

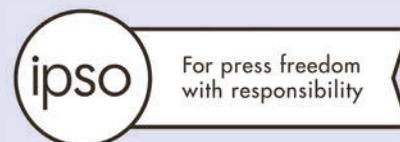
improve the wholly inadequate road network into and around our town.

Joanne Matheson,  
Acharacle.

### We need to embrace the technical revolution

When travelling to England for a holiday recently, we stopped at a service station off the M74.

In the restaurant, the single seats all had not one but two power points so people could re-charge both a phone and laptop at the same time.



The editor welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. However we reserve the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime phone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact phone number will not be printed. Please email: editor@obantimes.co.uk or write to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001.

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# DISTRICT NEWS

## KILNINVER

■ Kilniver Primary School Parent Council is raising £840 to fund music lessons for all pupils for one term.

So far, it has raised £80 through a crowdfunding website.

A parent council spokesperson wrote: 'We have a fantastic teacher – Sileas – who comes in once a week and works individually and on a group basis with all the children.

'But there is no money in the school budget to pay for her. So to continue giving the children this great chance to learn an invaluable life skill, appreciate our cultural heritage and explore their own musical talents, we need to raise £840 each term.

'The parent council is working hard applying for grants, talking to local businesses, organising events and crafting and baking to raise funds.

'Please help us by donating whatever you can. It will be very much appreciated by the recipients of the lessons who are so enthusiastic about their weekly musical endeavours.'

■ A young girl from Kilniver Primary School's pre-fives unit has created a recipe book of smoothies to encourage fellow pupils to eat healthily.

Four-year-old Heidi Martin loves fruit and vegetables at snack time and was keen to make sure her passion was passed on.

With some help from her teachers, Heidi wrote out her favourite recipes and drew colourful illustrations to accompany them to form a book.

Not only were her friends and teachers impressed, but Heidi's actions also caught the attention of the school's catering manager May MacKenzie, who offered to help Heidi bring her recipes to life.

After a lot of hard work, Heidi and May served up a delicious smoothie to everyone in the school – much to the delight of her classmates.

Argyll and Bute Council's policy lead for education councillor Yvonne McNeilly said: 'Well done, Heidi. What a great initiative, especially for such a young child.

'Heidi's book looks fantastic and



Willie Neilson lifts his daughter, Orlaith, into the air after completing his 737 mile journey. 17\_t36Charitycycle02

is a great way of promoting healthy eating that not only tastes delicious, but is also fun to make.

'Heidi is a credit to her school and I believe she has a very bright future ahead of her. Watch out Mary Berry.'

## BENBECULA

■ MacLennans Supermarket in Balivanich, Benbecula, regularly contributes to Macmillan Cancer and its latest collection raised £114.

This shop was shortlisted at the British Food and Farming Awards, but narrowly missed out on a prize.

■ Scottish Slimmers sessions are held every Monday upstairs in Balivanich Hall from 7pm.

■ A kickboxing class is held on Thursdays at Iochdar Hall from 6pm until 7pm. Two free trial classes are available.

## STRATHFILLAN

Numerous police calls were made in Strathfillan last month.

At the Strathfillan Community Council meeting, a police repre-

sentative revealed they were mostly in connection with road traffic accidents.

Others included the theft of a car from Inverarnan, which was recovered a short distance away, and a man was reported for wasting police time.

Another call involved the sudden death of an elderly person at the

## TAYNUILT

### Cycle marathon raises £14,041

Taynuilt man Willie Neilson, who cycled from Land's End to Oban in aid of three charities, has totalled up his sponsorship money.

He is on course to raise £14,041 'providing remaining sponsors pay'.

Willie cycled 737 miles in seven days and the money will be split equally between Alzheimer's Scotland, the Craighalbert Centre and the Beatson Cancer Charity.

Each of the charities has a special connection to the building contractor. The 29-year-old said: 'Big thanks to the team, the sponsors and the supporters. See you next time.'

Muthu Hotel in Tyndrum. A casualty was rescued from Ben More and airlifted to Glasgow.

## ARGYLL AND BUTE

Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara has welcomed a grant of £4,000 to Achievement Bute for their work in counselling and mentoring.



Kilmore SWI ladies, left to right, Jane Darby, Ann Ferguson, Anne Tully and Ann Stewart with their Halloween masks.

Each year, Corra Foundation distributes just under £1 million through its Henry Duncan Grants programme to grassroots charities working in their local communities.

Mr O'Hara said: 'I am delighted this grassroots charity is receiving these funds, enabling them to continue their great work in my constituency.

'Many of these grants go on staff and running costs meaning they are a lifeline for local charities in this tough financial climate.'

## OBAN

The Oban branch of Cancer Research UK will be hosting its annual fashion show in M & Co on Friday October 26.

The event gets under way at 6.30pm with a complimentary drink on arrival.

## BENDERLOCH

A transformational workshop will take place in Benderloch on Friday October 26.

The Introduction into Emotional Freedom Techniques (EFT) for personal use will take place in Inverlochan from 10am until 1pm.

'Come and learn how to use this transformational self-help tool called EFT or tapping,' the description reads.

## Hallowe'en comes early for Kilmore SWI

Hallowe'en came early to Kilmore and District Scottish Women's Institute this year as some members modelled the Hallowe'en masks they had made for one of the evening's competition.

Sixteen ladies took part in a workshop on how to make Dorset buttons, led by Anne Tully.

Competition winners were as follows: Potato scones: 1 Anne Ferguson; 2 Ann Stewart. Halloween masks: 1 Jane Derby, 2 Anne Tully.

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‘It can help with a wide range of issues including stress, negative emotions and pain. It’s easy to learn and easy to use.’

## BENDERLOCH

Sophie Isaacson from Benderloch qualified as Scotland’s first ‘i-act instructor’, helping managers reduce stress in the workplace, on World Mental Health Day last Wednesday.

Meanwhile, community wind farm charity Point and Sandwick Trust gave £5,000 to the Western Isles Association for Mental Health to cover the costs of delivering suicide prevention training.

This year’s World Mental Health Day, created by the World Federation of Mental Health, is themed on ‘young people and mental health in a changing world’, as Prime Minister Theresa May appointed a suicide prevention minister, Jackie Doyle-Price, at the first global mental health summit.

That changing world refers to growing up on the internet, experiencing online bullying, watching violent or upsetting content and being bombarded with an endless stream of bad news and unachievable lifestyles to compare their own to.

The World Federation for Mental Health notes suicide and substance abuse numbers have been steadily rising, LGBTQ+ youth are battling loneliness and isolation and young people still aren’t getting the support and education they need to deal with mental illness. We want to bring attention to the issues our youth and young adults are facing in our world today and begin the conversation around what they need to grow up healthy, happy and resilient,’ writes the World Federation for Mental Health. Let’s all use this year to emphasise the needs of our young people. It’s time to demand more for this vulnerable population – our future depends on it.’

**GET INVOLVED**  
email us at [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

## Victory lap for Kilbride spokesman

A 71-year-old retired seaman from Lerags Glen has raised £1,376 for the Friends of Kilbride charity by cycling 50 miles from Edinburgh to Glasgow.

Liam Griffin took part in last month’s Pedal for Scotland ride to support the Friends’ efforts to preserve its historic Kilbride Kirk. He received donations from as far away as America and from lobster fishermen at Oban Pier.

Liam, who was aiming to finish the challenge in under five hours, said: ‘Approaching the start line at Glasgow Green, the rain was stair-rodging from the black clouds scudding across the sky and it crossed my mind, I hope it’s not been cancelled and I hope I’m not the only one stupid enough to turn out in this.’

‘I need not have worried. For there were 6,999 other charitable folk stupid enough to have turned out.’

‘The young racing snakes, on ultra fast expensive machines, quickly disappeared up the road. Dads, with their children in tow, dropped back and somewhere in the middle, the over-70s, me included, settled down to steadily pace our way to the finish.’

‘Through Drumpellier Park, up over Slamannan, onto the Falkirk Braes and then eventually, a turn due eastward towards Linlithgow Bridge. Mercifully, by now, about two and half hours in, the rain had stopped.’

‘Off I cycled, 10 miles or so to go, and slipped back into the cycling snake that was the Pedal for Scotland bicycle entourage. Finally, I heard the booming jocular tones of the announcer as we swung left onto a track into Ingliston Showground and there was the finish line.’

‘Cycle time: four hours 23 minutes and an average speed of 11 mph.’

‘Myra, Barry, Elaine and the children were at the barrier waiting to cheer me over the line.’



Liam Griffin at the finish line of the Pedal for Scotland charity bike ride, raising £1,376 for the Friends of Kilbride.

But before I went over for my cuddles and handshakes, I posed with two Polish cyclists I’d teamed up with for the last few miles.

‘We shook each others hands, promised we’d meet again on the Borders Poppy Ride at the end of the month. What did you make of it, lads?’ I queried. ‘Oh, it’s been fun,’ they exclaimed.

‘There was no better way to put it.’

‘Thank you to everyone who sponsored me or donated.’

## TYNDRUM

The Real Food Café in Tyndrum is up for a national award but needs votes to reach the final.

Established in 2005, the café has been shortlisted for a Great Outdoors Reader Award in the Walker’s Café or Restaurant of the Year category.

The Great Outdoors Reader Awards, run by the magazine of

the same name, celebrates the people, organisations, retailers and facilities that best support and inspire people to explore outdoor pursuits.

The Real Food Café attracts nearly a quarter of a million customers each year, with many visitors popping in on their way to enjoy Scotland’s outdoor

attractions. Earlier this year The Real Food Café hosted the BBC Radio 1 team for the day, as DJ Greg James stopped in to refuel on the café’s fish and chips en route to Ben Nevis as part of his Sport Relief Three Peaks Challenge.

[gototgomagazine.co.uk/awards/reader-awards/](http://gototgomagazine.co.uk/awards/reader-awards/) by October 31.

## At random

MARTIN LAING  
[mllaing@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:mllaing@obantimes.co.uk)



## In awe of Cameron

I know from speaking to our reporter Kathie Griffiths that she felt humbled after interviewing young Cameron Allen.

Cameron is the thoroughly admirable young man featured on page three of this week’s paper.

The problems Cameron has overcome in life should adjust all our perspectives. Those of us inclined to indulge in the occasional whinge when minor irritants affect us should think again.

Cameron suffers from brittle bone disease – and has had 350 fractures to date – but simply refuses to let the condition limit his ambitions or activities.

Cameron is doing work experience at Oban Airport and hopes to earn his private pilot’s licence. So popular has he become at the airport that the staff there count Cameron as ‘one of the team’.

Cameron has done exceptionally well at school, passing five Highers, four with A grades. Now he is set to continue his education with a degree course in computing at Argyll College UHI.

I am in awe of young Cameron, whose determination and bravery should humble us all.



## Bottles banked

This was the scene at the recycling point in Oban’s Tesco car park on Monday. It must have been some party!

## What do you think?

Write to me at [mllaing@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:mllaing@obantimes.co.uk) or The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB, or call 01631 568021.

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# OUTDOORS

## Campaign aims to boost tourism

The Heart and Soul of Scotland is a new campaign led by Wild About Argyll (Argyll and the Isles Tourism Cooperative) and People Make Glasgow (Glasgow Life).

The initiative has support from VisitScotland Growth Fund, Argyll and Bute Council, ScotRail, CalMac, Loganair, Enterprise rent-a-car, Glasgow Airport, West Coast Motors and Love Loch Lomond.

The campaign is promoting Glasgow and Argyll as a twin destination where visitors seeking a short break can readily combine a city break with a micro adventure on Scotland's Adventure Coast – and vice versa.

The campaign promotes 10 itineraries combining a city and rural stay, food, drink and cultural experiences with optional travel and micro adventures to each corner of both destinations based on transport options – and appealing to those seeking to play hard, experience local food and drink or immerse themselves in culture and heritage.

The campaign will be rolled out using film and five quirky word pairings showcasing contrasting Glasgow and Argyll experiences.

The campaign will be primarily digital using organic and paid advertising on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. The priority audience is geo-targeted towards the east coast of Scotland and north of England and beyond as it will be promoted by each individual travel partner who have domestic and international audiences.

The campaign will be promoted online in two 10-week bursts either side of Christmas. Starting this month, each of the 10 area by area films will be released one at a time each weekend.

After Christmas, the campaign will continue to convert lookers to bookers.

# New dark skies festival launched

The first Hebridean Dark Skies Festival has been announced and will take place in Lewis and Harris from February 8 to 21 next year.

The packed two-week programme features stargazing, talks, family activities, film screenings and workshops, with events at An Lanntair, Gallan Head, and the Calanais standing stones.

The festival is part-financed by Outer Hebrides LEADER funding, in partnership with Stornoway Astronomical Society, Calanais Visitor Centre, Gallan Head Community Trust and Lews Castle College, and with support from Outer Hebrides Tourism and Natural Retreats.

The Hebridean Dark Skies Festival is an ambitious, high quality programme of arts and science events set to draw more visitors to the islands during the winter months.

They have some of the darkest skies in the UK. Many astronomical sights can be seen through the naked eye including the Orion Nebula (more than 1,500 light years away), the Milky Way, and one of the Milky Way's companion galaxies the Great Andromeda Galaxy.

The Northern Lights, Aurora Borealis, can also be seen from the islands, one of the best spots in the UK for watching this phenomenon.

Festival highlights will include speakers such as Chris Lintott from BBC's The Sky at Night, international science presenters Heather Couper and Nigel Henbest, and astronomer royal for Scotland John Brown, who will help launch the festival as well as visiting Gallan Head, where he has been supporting Gallan Head Community Trust's ambitious plans to build a new observatory on the most north-westerly point in Britain.

A programme of quality arts events will also run throughout the festival. These include a special Hebridean version of Whatever Gets You Through The Night, the acclaimed multimedia project by Cora Bissett, Swimmer One and David Greig, featuring songs and stories from the darkest hours by some of Scotland's top musicians, playwrights and poets. This new version, put together for the festival by members of the original creative team, will include live



Musician Emma Pollock will lead an evening of dark skies-themed discussion and song.

performances by Rachel Sermanni and Emma Pollock, and more names to be announced.

Space Ape by Andy Cannon – winner of best production for children and young people at the 2018 CATS awards – will have its Hebridean premiere.

And the festival's opening gala on Friday February 8 will see Herschel 36 revisit and refine their acclaimed live score for groundbreaking silent movie Wunder Der Schöpfung, originally commissioned by the Hippodrome Silent Film Festival. The event will be introduced by John Brown.

Other festival highlights include: a festival screening of Hebridean favourite The Rocket Post introduced by the film's star Shauna Macdonald; an evening of dark skies-themed discussion and song with musician Emma Pollock and PHD researcher Natalie Marr; an 'exploration day' of telescope workshops, science talks, and other family-friendly activities, led

by Stornoway Astronomical Society and An Lanntair's education team.

There will be an inflatable indoor planetarium with events over two days, guaranteeing an astronomical experience whatever the weather.

Stargazing events will be held at Gallan Head and Calanais Visitor Centre, site of the famous Calanais stones, and there will be an exhibition featuring some of the best dark skies photography from the Hebrides.

Three days of events will be targeted for pre-school children in the An Lanntair auditorium, and to mark the 50th anniversary of the moon landings, the festival will close with a screening of First Man, the acclaimed new film starring Ryan Gosling as Neil Armstrong, the first man on the moon.

The Hebridean Dark Skies Festival will run from Friday February 8 to Thursday February 21, 2019. For details, and to book tickets, visit [www.lanntair.com/darkskies](http://www.lanntair.com/darkskies) or call 01851 708480.

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## This week's walks



Volunteers are wanted for research expeditions aboard the HWDT vessel Silurian next year.

# Research atlas reveals west coast as cetacean hotspot

The West Coast is a global hotspot for cetaceans and basking sharks, according to the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust as it released a new marine atlas capturing key discoveries made over the past 15 years.

The first Hebridean Marine Mammal Atlas showcases findings by the charity's scientists and citizen science volunteers during annual research expeditions on its specialised yacht Silurian.

The findings highlight the region's extraordinary biodiversity and shed new light on its whales, dolphins and porpoises – collectively called cetaceans – and basking sharks.

'This pioneering research is transforming our understanding of the Hebrides' remarkable cetaceans,

while offering new insights about trends and changes in the marine environment,' said Dr Lauren Hartny-Mills, science and policy manager at HWDT, which is based on Mull.

The atlas also celebrates the contribution of more than 700 paying volunteers who have joined one of 200 research expeditions on Silurian.

So far, 23 cetacean species – a quarter of all known globally – have been recorded in the Hebrides. Since 2002, Silurian has travelled more than 100,000 kilometres – the equivalent of sailing two and a half times around the world – and 30,000 animals have been recorded.

Discoveries include the Hebrides being a vital feeding ground for minke whales and basking sharks,

and that the region is one of the most important areas for harbour porpoise in Europe. The trust's evidence was used to identify the boundary of Scotland's first protected area for harbour porpoise, approved by the Scottish Government in 2016.

The research has also established that the Hebrides supports the UK's only resident population of killer whales or orca – a group of eight individuals called the West Coast Community, which is likely to go extinct within a generation as no calves have been seen.

The trust is looking for volunteers to join them aboard Silurian for one to two weeks in 2019. Contact volunteer coordinator@hwtd.org, or call 01688 302620.

### 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](http://www.lochaberand-lorn-ramblers.org.uk). Lochaber and Lorn Ramblers Group can be contacted by email on [info@lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk](mailto:info@lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk)

#### Sunday October 21: Am Bathach and Ciste Dhubh, Loch Cluanie

These hills have fine airy ridges that together make an unforgettable expedition in magnificent surroundings. The W face of Ciste Dhubh is remarkably steep.

Start from the A87 1.5km E of the Cluanie Inn at NH087120, where ample roadside parking is available. Head E to a gate just before the bridge over the Allt a' Chaorainn Mhoir. Follow the stalkers path beside the forested area, now clear-felled, up the SE ridge of Am Bathach. The path becomes indistinct, but stay on the ridge to the summit at 798m. Descend the NW ridge to the Bealach a' Choinich. Climb N steeply up the grassy slope to reach a rocky outcrop, and follow the ridge up to An Cnapach, 877m. The narrow ridge continues N for another 800m, rising to the summit of Ciste Dhubh, 979m. Return by the outward route to Bealach a' Choinich. Head ENE and follow the Allt Coire Fhearchair down in to An Caorann Mor to reach the path and a good track S to the A87 just E of the bridge.

Grade: S; distance: 14km; height to climb: 1101m; map(s): LR33, EX414. Meet at For William WM at 8.20am, for start of walk at 9.30am. Leader: Stephen Mardon 07522 956789.

#### Thursday October 25: Meall na Cruaidhe, Kinlochleven

A walk into the wild land on the fringes of the vast Rannoch Moor and a grand view of the century-old hydro scheme still producing green energy.

Start in Kinlochleven at the Grey Mare's Tail car park, NN187622. Follow the path that leads to the waterfall for approximately 200m. At a junction, (NN188623), take a right fork and climb the good path heading northeast across the slopes of Meall an Doire Dharach to reach the track at NN208634 which leads to Loch Eilde Mor. Follow the track east for 0.5km then right fork on to a good path leading to a small dam at the pipeline intake. Over the dam, turn left on to a fair path south of Loch Eilde Mor. The path climbs gradually E, diverging from the

loch and after about 3.5km, arrives on the spur of Meall na Cruaidhe, 1.75km SSW of the lonely Corbett summit of Glas Bheinn, 222m higher up. Unless Corbett-bagging, descend SW on rough undulating ground to reach the pipeline where it crosses the Allt Coire na Duibhe. Follow the pipeline as it contours around the hillside – it's easier to walk on the pipe, rather than the path on its left side. At NN210613, descend W on a path that zig-zags down to join the Ciaran Path leading back to Kinlochleven.

Grade: M; distance: 15km; height to climb: 570m; map(s): LR42, EX384. Meet at: Glencoe village car park at 9.15am, North Ballachuilish PS at 9.10am for start of walk: 9.30am. Leader: Graham Innes 01631 562290 or 07767 714503.

### NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

Full walk details at [www.nevishillwalking.club](http://www.nevishillwalking.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 October 20: Stob Dearg/Taynuilt Peak, Ben Cruachan

Start from the car park in Inverawe Country Park, 800m NE of the moker, at NN028319. Head NE on the track until it emerges from the forest at the shore of Loch Etive. Leave the track, head SE across rough ground, cross a fence and climb a steep, uneven slope to the summit of Meall Copagach, 660m.

Turning S, continue climbing to the summit of Meall nan Each, 906m. Turn SE and descend about 100m to a col with several small lochans. Continue SE and climb the slope to the summit of Stob Dearg, the W Top of Cruachan known as the Taynuilt Peak. Descend SE another 100m to a col and climb the ridge to the summit of Ben Cruachan. Head S down the ridge to the Bealach an Lochain at the head of Coire Dearg. Climb S to the summit of Meall Cuanail, 918m. Leave heading SE, soon curving S following the fence line down to its intersection with a track at NN070260. Head E on the track down to the dam. Descend the staircase to reach the track below the dam and follow it across the bridge over the Allt Cruachan. Locate the start of the path that leads S on the E side of this river and follow it over a stile and down through woodland to the railway. Pass under the railway at Falls of Cruachan Station to reach the A85 main road.

(14km, 1500m ascent) Suggested by Gavin Theobald; coordinated by John Burton.



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# LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

## Arts focus on rural homelessness

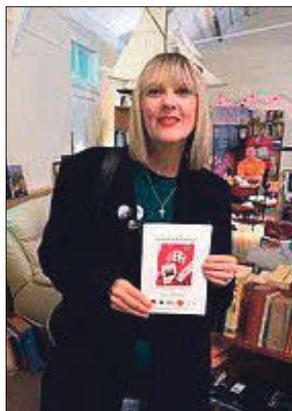
by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A project that started with a creative writing competition hundreds of miles away in Lancashire has found a new home in Oban.

When Sharon Wilkie-Jones, a former head of literacy at Bolton Sixth Form College, moved to Port Appin, she wanted to keep raising awareness of homelessness and bring the SHARE project she started with her.

Now she has found the project a new home and has started a creative arts group at Hope Kitchen that meets every Tuesday from 2pm-4pm to keep spreading the



Sharon Wilkie-Jones with new publication.

word about those without a home of their own.

SHARE stands for Students

Homelessness Awareness Raising Enterprise but has grown to include the much wider community since coming to Argyll.

The first writing project back in Lancashire in 2015 took on a life of its own and resulted in a book, supported by comedian Dave Spikey, raising more than £1,000 for a local charity.

A second book followed all about female homelessness, so more and more interest was gained and the project grew, delving into other areas of homelessness that were sometimes off the radar such as in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community.

'When I moved up here, I wanted to bring the project with me but I wasn't sure if it would work. I went to visit Hope for a chat because I knew of the good work they do. We had a serious conversation.

'Homelessness here is very different to back in Rossendale but it is happening. Argyll is a big landscape with some serious pockets of poverty and rural homelessness.

'There are people who are rough sleeping around Oban. You don't tend to see them a lot but they are here, just hidden away. The number of 16- to 24-year-olds homeless in Argyll and Bute is quite high.

It's kids who are sofa-surfing. At least they are not out on the streets but they are still homeless. These people are entitled to support, they need access to resources that will help them. That's something else we want to do.'

SHARE Argyll is the latest book published by the initiative in October and launched at Hope. The book includes contributions from a whole host of people and their own experiences or perspectives on homelessness.

It follows other recent publications, including Homeless Jesus and Football tackling homelessness, the SHARE Argyll movement is already the proud sponsor of

Lochgilphead Red Star AFC. 'I didn't want to replicate work we've already done in the south. I was looking for something new and found it in SHARE Hope,' she said.

'You don't have to be a great writer to come along, or a great photographer. It's far away from that. It's just people interested in raising awareness about rural homelessness getting together in a friendly, inclusive grassroots community group,' said Ms Wilkie-Jones who took the project to this year's Bookends Festival in Benderloch.

To find out more visit [argyllshare.co.uk](http://argyllshare.co.uk) or email [sharon@argyllshare.co.uk](mailto:sharon@argyllshare.co.uk)

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## Guitarist wows in fringe finale

The final night at the Bookends festival is always a bittersweet occasion as the festival is over but we remember what a time we have had, writes *Campbell Cameron*.

This year the week-long fringe finale on Friday was opened by Chris Bennett on the 12-string guitar.

We were treated to a session of ballads from his own pen and delivered in a splendidly mellifluous fashion that brought the tradition to life.

From Appleby Fair, we had a terrific story of horses and travelling folk mixing it on the roads around the northern town – evocative in extremus.

All subjects covered in one way or another in such a short time complements the talent of the man.



## Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk

### New development officer is Kyle

An Lòchran have a new development officer and I am delighted that it is a very good friend of mine, Kyle Orr, from South Shian, Argyll.

Kyle and I played together in Skipinnish for a number of years and, although he did not have Gaelic back then, his keen interest in the language and culture was evident, particularly in his approach to the West Highland bagpipe tradition.

He has since learned the language to a high degree at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig in Skye and is now living in Partick – just a stone's throw from An Leannag where the An Lòchran office is located – and completing the third year of his Gaelic qualification via long-distance learning. I am sure he will be an excellent officer for An Lòchran and a very welcome addition to the Gaelic community in Glasgow.

### Singing workshop

Clann Gàidhlig is to host a Gaelic singing workshop



An Lochran's new development officer Kyle Orr.

entitled Seinn Òran Gàidhlig (sing a Gaelic song) in the Church of the Holy Trinity and St Barnabas on Back Sneddon Street in Paisley on Saturday November 10 from 9.30am to 1pm.

The cost is £10 and places must be booked in advance by contacting fios@clanngaidhlig.org or calling 07805 918509. No prior knowledge of Gaelic is required.

### Clydebank ceilidh

Despite a poor turnout of patrons, due to the inclement weather, an excellent evening of music and song was enjoyed

by all at the recent Clydebank cèilidh. Chairman was George Paul and singers were Norman MacKinnon, Rhona Morrison and Amanda Miller. Rory and Connor MacDiarmid sang and played the accordion, and Chris Michie captivated the audience with his flute playing, accompanied on the piano by Kirsteen Grant. The piper for the evening was Luke Pringle.

Since the beginning of the new session, the Clydebank Highlanders have been fortunate to have new people join in the ceilidhs. The association hopes they were made to feel welcome and continue to give their support. Best wishes to Rory and Connor who are both competing at the Mòd this week.

### What's on

Saturday October 27: Glasgow Skye Association Marag supper at 7.30pm, Crawford Hall.

Saturday October 27: Stirling branch of An Comunn Gàidhealach cèilidh in the Lesser Albert Hall.

Thursday November 1: The Glasgow Lewis and Harris

Association chairman's dinner at 7.15pm in the Pond Hotel, Great Western Road, at 7.30pm.

Friday November 2: The Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association annual gathering concert in Glasgow University Union at 7.30pm and thereafter the dance with Beinn Lee Ceilidh Band from 10.30pm-2am.

Saturday November 10: Gaelic singing workshop in Church of the Holy Trinity and St Barnabas, Paisley, from 9.30am-1pm.

Saturday November 10: Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association children's party in Heart of Scotstoun, 64 Balmoral Street, at 1pm.

Friday November 23: The Glasgow Uist and Barra Association dinner dance at 7.30pm – venue TBC.

### Pub scene

Park Bar.  
Friday 19: Susan MacFadyen.  
Saturday 20: Robert Nairn.  
Sunday 21: Martainn Skene. Islay Inn.  
Friday 19: Parting Glass.  
Saturday 20: The Raggaels.

## Big folk night is set for Benderloch

Folk legend Rab Noakes and Americana velvet vocalist Jill Jackson play Benderloch's Victory Hall this Saturday, October 20.

Rab, who burst out of the Glasgow folk scene along with the likes of Gerry Rafferty, Barbara Dixon and Billy Connolly, is now celebrating his 51st year in the business with a new album, Welcome to Anniversaryville. Jill Jackson, on a 25-year musical journey, is just one of the greats Rab is collaborating with. For tickets, call 01631 720247.

## Jura Gathering

Next month the island of Jura, despite its small population of 200 or so, will celebrate the 126th birthday of one of the longest-running Glasgow gatherings. The Jura Gathering will be at the St Vincent Bowling Club, Glasgow, on Friday November 9, featuring Clare Jordan and the Jura Ceilidh Band with David MacDonald and Archie McAllister. More information on the Glasgow Jura Association's Facebook page.





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# Shortlisted debut novel is gripping read for all ages

by Susan Windram  
swindram@obantimes.co.uk



Sometimes it feels like young adult (YA) readers get all the best fiction.

That is particularly true of *Black Snow Falling*, the debut novel by L J MacWhirter, published by Scotland Street Press.

Before you even open the first page, this book catches your eye – silver, white and shimmering, Tim Byrne’s jacket design is gorgeous and you can’t help but pick the novel up to investigate further.

The fact that MacWhirter’s book was shortlisted for Edinburgh International Book Festival’s Our First Book Award gives you your first hint that this will be something special.

The book is full of ideas that are sure to fire young people’s



Edinburgh-based author Liz MacWhirter was short-listed for her debut novel *Black Snow Falling* at this year’s Edinburgh International Book Festival.

imaginations and get them talking, including science, gender politics, class and money, the power of books to

inspire and the importance of having a dreams.

There is action, betrayal, love and a powerful spiritual

element running throughout the book that reminded me of *The Lion*, *The Witch* and *The Wardrobe*. And it is that



fight between good and evil, with the mysterious and dangerous dream thieves who threaten to destroy all hope, in which our gutsy protagonist Ruth finds herself sucked into.

The story, an imaginative mix of historical fiction and fairytale, takes place almost 500 years ago in 1592.

Ruth is a young nobleman’s daughter who has lost her

mother and is missing her absent father. But despite her losses and emotional challenges, Ruth embodies the determined spirit that we all hope is inside us, and as such it makes her the type of lead character we all want to identify with.

MacWhirter’s book, while opening with a terrible act, leads us into the drama at a steady pace, building momentum until you find yourself gripped in the drama and excitement of it all.

This is a powerful tale with real moral complexity, and standing strong at its centre is the message of hope, and it is that message that makes it a book that all ages – not just young adults – will enjoy.

MacWhirter has got off to a cracking start – I could not put the book down. And this ‘young’ reader awaits her next novel with anticipation.

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## Dunoon welcomes Royal National Mòd

Scotland's biggest Gaelic cultural festival Am Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail (The Royal National Mòd) returned to Dunoon for the eighth time last Friday.

The eight-day festival kicked off with a special celebration honouring Scotland's Year of Young People, with an official opening by Councillor Robin Currie in the Queens Hall. Co-hosted by young Gaelic student Padruig Morrison, 22, the ceremony heard from An Comunn Gàidhealach's president Allan Campbell before traditional groups SIAN and Beinn Lee took to the stage for an evening of lively music.

In his speech, Allan Campbell remarked on the death of the late John Macleod, who was president of An Comunn Gàidhealach for 10 years, reiterating the appreciation for everything John did as president and for Gaelic in general.

In an exclusive announcement, he revealed An Comunn Gàidhealach, organisers of the Mòd, will establish an annual lecture in John's memory. The first annual John Macleod Memorial Lecture will take place in January 2019 at the



The 2018 Gaelic Ambassador of the Year Eilidh Cormack with her award.

University of Edinburgh, where John studied law. The lectures will be hosted by the Department of Celtic and Scottish Studies and, in a nod to his enthusiasm and encouragement of young people in the Gaelic community, the lectures will always be delivered by speak-

ers under 30 years of age. The news is fitting for this year's Mòd, which celebrates Scotland's Year of Young People with a special programme of fringe events and an opening ceremony showcasing the Gaelic community's young talent.

In his speech, Mr Campbell

reminded everyone of the importance of keeping Gaelic cultural heritage alive, highlighting the important contribution the Royal National Mòd makes to Scotland.

'The future of Gaelic is dependent on the confidence and opportunities which we provide for the young people who will succeed us,' he said.

Earlier in the day, the prestigious Gaelic Ambassador of the Year Award was presented to Eilidh Cormack, 22, of Portree. The award, presented by Michael Russell Argyll and Bute MSP, celebrated how much Eilidh has accomplished within the Gaelic community at such a young age and the bright future ahead of her.

Eilidh, who won the women's Gold Medal on her first competition attempt aged 18 in 2014, is a singer in musical group SIAN and performed at this year's opening ceremony.

John Morrison, chief executive of An Comunn Gàidhealach, said: 'We are delighted to kick-start this year's Royal National Mòd and are excited to showcase Scotland's best Gaelic talent once more.'

'The announcement honouring the late John Macleod is something we have been working to bring to fruition for some time and we cannot think of a more fitting tribute for a man who offered so much to the Gaelic community in his time.'

'This year, we are celebrating young people in our community and we aimed to reflect this with our opening ceremony performers and co-host as well as the deserving Gaelic Ambassador of the Year award recipient.'

'Eilidh Cormack is an exceptional talent.'

'We are certain she has a bright future and that her role as Gaelic Ambassador of the Year will inspire others to follow in Eilidh's footsteps.'

Eilidh said: 'I am absolutely delighted to have been awarded with the Gaelic Ambassador of the year at the Royal National Mòd. I wasn't expecting it, especially being so young. It's going to encourage me to not only look back and appreciate what I've been doing and what the Mòd has recognised, but also encourage me to keep doing it for years to come.'



Còisir Ghàidhlig Bun-sgoil Phort Ilein (Port Ellen) came out on top in the puirt-a-beul, under-13 learners' competition, winning the Macintyre Cup and Olive Campbell MBE Trophy and also won the Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee Trophy for unison singing, rural primary schools. 7\_MOD42DM12\_Monday



Sisters, Frankie and Maeve Macdonald, who are originally from Islay, but now live in Glasgow, both won medals at this year's Mòd. Maeve won the under-11 fluent girls' competition and Frankie finished second. 17\_MOD42DM10\_Tuesday

### Procession cancelled

Adverse weather meant the annual torchlight procession which traditionally opens the Royal National Mòd was cancelled following consultation with emergency services.



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Hannah Greg, six, from Mull and Rowan Willis, 10, Còisir Òg Loch Àilann competed in the girls' solo singing. Rowan came third in the 9-10 years' learners.



Millie Bonniwell, middle, Bun-sgoil Achadh na Creige, (Rockfield, Oban) won the learners 7-8 years prescribed poetry competition and was second in the 7-8 years learners singing. Classmate Esme McLeod, right, was third and Niamh McCrudden from Glasgow, left, was second. Esme was also first in the conversation 5-8 years learners and Niamh was second. 15\_MOD42DM5\_poetry



Above: Brothers Logie, 12, right, and Archie Johnston, 10, from Oban both came away with medals from the Royal National Mòd in Dunoon on Saturday. Logie came top in the under-13s piping competition, whilst Archie came third in the under-13 chanter.

Right: Logie with his trophy.



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Eva Bisp, 7, Bun-sgoil Achadh na Creige, (Rockfield, Oban), won the 7-8 years learners singing competition, with help from Oscar the Mòd dog. 15\_MOD42DM7\_poetry

## Furry friends help pupils to success

Two Rockfield Primary School pupils put their success at this year's Royal National Mòd down to a well-loved teddy.

Eva Bisp and Millie Bonniwell said 'Oscar the Mòd dog' helped them both win a trophy.

'They seem to think the dog brings them good luck,' Eva's mum said.

'Eva had it for the first competition and Millie borrowed it for the second competition.' Millie took the Oscar to Lochaber last year and won a competition there too.

The girls each won a competition on Monday morning. Eva was top in the learners 7-8 solo singing, while Millie won the learners poetry recital for the same age group. Oscar



Esme McLeod, seven, Bun-sgoil Achadh na Creige, with her Mòd penguin. 15\_MOD42DM8\_poetry

was not the only successful soft toy animal on Monday, Esme McLeod, also from Rockfield, used her 'Mòd penguin' during her learners conversation, where she educated the adjudicator on the Gaelic word for penguin and informed him that the animal can hold its breath for 20 minutes underwater.



Lauren Morris, 10, from Islay, won The Cowal Trophy for her poetry recital in the learners 9-10 years. 17\_MOD42DM16\_Monday

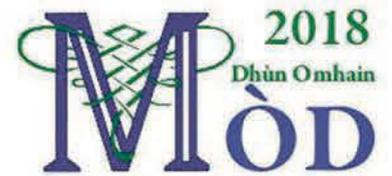


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Sophie Phillips from Lochgilphead competed in the girls' solo singing.



Shannon MacLean, from Tobermory, Patrick Morrison from Uist, and Katie MacInnes from Lewis, formed this year's young person committee. 15\_MOD42DM10\_youngmodcomittee



Liam Gray, 10, Bun-sgoil Bhoga Mòr (Bowmore, Islay), came first in the boys' solo singing, 9-10 years, winning the Dr Archie MacKinnon Memorial Trophy.

15\_MOD42DM8\_poetry



Rachel Bolton, Còisir Òg Loch Àlainn (Lochaline) received the Provost of Falkirk Medal for winning the traditional singing song for 16-18 years learners. She was also second in the poetry recitation 16-18 years. 17\_MOD42DM15\_Monday



Kirsty Nicolson from Stornoway won second place in the girls' solo singing, 13-15 years.

## Young people get say in planning event

A key component in the preparation for this year's Royal National Mòd was the inaugural young persons' committee.

Set up for the Year of Young People, the committee was established to bring the views of younger Gaelic speakers to the fore in the week-long event.

An Comunn Gàidhealach's Young Persons' Committee consists of Shannon MacLean from Tobermory, Pàdruig Morrison from Uist and Katie MacInnes from Lewis, who helped increase

the Mòd's use of social media to help reach a younger audience.

Speaking about the experience, Katie said: 'It has been great.

'It is really important we have young voices on the table.'

And Pàdruig added: 'I think it's really important young people's views have been used in the planning for this year's Mòd.

'There is definitely an important role in having young people continually engaged in future Mòds.'



Anndra Iain MacPhail from Oban High School competed in the solo learners 11-12 years boys competition.

15\_MOD42DM1\_soloboy



Cairdean Ciùil Ìle won the two-part harmony choir competition for under-13 learners. 17\_MOD42DM14\_Monday

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## Allan's Mòd

ALLAN CAMPBELL

GU H-IOMCHÀIDH, agus mar a chithear anns a' chòbhlach Beachd agam sa phàipear seo, bha prìomh àite aig òigridh anns gach cuirm a ghabh àite thar deireadh seachdain fosglaidh a' Mhòid Nàiseanta 2018. Chualas cuideachd mun Chomataidh Òigridh a stèidhich an Comunn Gàidhealach agus mar a tha e na amas gun lean seo mar phàirt chudromach den èisteachd agus conaltradh a bhios aig a' bhuidheann ri òigridh.

Nam òraid fhìn aig an fhosgladh bha dà rud sònraichte air m' aire. Às leth a' Bhùird-Stiùiridh agus ballrachd a' Chomuinn bha mi airson cuimhneachadh le meas agus spèis air Iain MacLeòid a chuir uimhir ri obair na buidhne fad iomadh bliadhna, agus bha mi airson innse gum bheil an Comunn a' stèidheachadh òraid bhliadhna mar chuimhne air Iain. Tachraidh sin deireadh an Fhaoilich gach bliadhna bho 2019 aig Oilthigh Dhùn Èideann, agus thèid gach òraid a libhrigeadh le neach fo thrìthead bliadhna a dh'aois.

Thill mi cuideachd gu cuspair a thog mi an-uiridh a thaobh luach a' Mhòid agus moladh gum bu chòir a mheas, agus a mhaoineachadh mar "sheud-nàiseanta". Chuir mi air adhart argamaid gum bheil am Mòd Nàiseanta agus na Mòdan Ionadail a' cruthachadh buannachd chultarach a tha a' cur ri amasan leasachaidh Plana Nàiseanta Gàidhlig Riaghaltas na h-Alba. Thuirt mi gum bheil e a' brosnachadh Gàidhlig sa choimhearsnachd, a' cur taic ri Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig, agus a' foillseachadh Gàidhlig gu h-eadar-nàiseanta. Rinn mi argamaid gum bheil am foillseachadh sin a' cur ri turasachd an Alba agus a' leasachadh na h-eaconamaidh is a' cruthachadh obraichean, agus san t-seadh sin a' cur ri amasan cudromach eile a th' aig an Riaghaltas.

Na mo bheachd tha gach Mòd Nàiseanta a' cur ri beartas stòras ciùil Gàidhlig a' BhBC, agus bhruidhinn mi cuideachd mun chothrom a tha na Mòdan a' toirt dha luchd-ealain Ghàidhlig, agus a' bhuannachd mhòr eaconamach a tha na sgìrean aoigheachd a' faotainn às gach Mòd.

Ged a tha farpaisich Mhòdan a' nochdadh far feadh an t-saoghail, 's e Alba dachaigh na Gàidhlig againne, agus feumaidh an cànan soirbheachadh na dùthaich mhàthaireil fhèin.

Tha sinn a' cur luach air taic agus adhartasan luachmhor, ach leis an treas Plana Nàiseanta Gàidhlig aig an Riaghaltas a-nise a' dol an gnìomh, tha còir aithne a thoirt dhan Mhòd Nàiseanta, agus Mòdan Ionadail, mar phàirt phrìseil de dhualchas nàiseanta na h-Alba a tha a' cur ri cor agus inbhe na Gàidhlig feadh choimhearsnachdan na dùthcha seo fhèin, agus an t-saoghail.

In my address at the opening of the 2018 Royal National Mòd in Dunoon, as President of An Comunn Gàidhealach, I again argued the importance of recognising the Royal National Mòd as a unique national treasure.

For well over a century this event, with the help of thousands of volunteers, has been part of the dynamic which promotes use of Gaelic in communities across Scotland and beyond. National treasures merit special support.

Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell)  
[ailean@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:ailean@obantimes.co.uk)



Eoghan Caimbeul from Clann Thronairns, Staffin, right, won the fluent traditional under-13 boys competition, while Ross MacLeòid, from Ard-sgoil Phort Rìgh finished second. 17\_MOD42DM01\_Tuesday



Isabella Sommerville from Inverness won the Marybury Gardens Cup for the fluent girls' under-11 singing competition. 17\_MOD42DM02\_Tuesday



Caitlyn Yule and Johanna MacIver McLeod from Àrd-sgoil Greenfaulds received the Donald Ross Memorial Trophy for winning the fluent duets singing for under-13s.

17\_MOD42DM03\_Tuesday



Jenna Yule from Bun-sgoil Chondobhrait won the girls under-nine fluent competition. 17\_MOD42DM04\_Tuesday



The Coro Gaelico Ceólráidh came all the way from Argentina to be at this year's Royal National Mòd. 17\_MOD42DM16\_Tuesday



Brothers Eoghann and Seumas Campbell competed in storytelling, bible reading and presentation, with Eoghann winning three badges.



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## James C McPhee Medal



Holly MacLean, age 15, Àrd-sgoil Thobar Mhoire (Tobermory, Mull) won first place in the girls' solo singing, 13-15 years, winning the James C MacPhee Memorial Medal and also the Jean Graham Memorial Trophy and Alexander Hamilton Trophy for highest marks in music and Gaelic.



Oscar Tormod Fish, Sgoil MhicNeacail, winner of the James C McPhee medal for boys 13-15 learners.



Left: Ruairidh Gray from Sgoil Lionacleit (in Benbecula) won the Highland Society of London Trophy in the 16-18 boys' singing competition.

17\_MOD42DM05\_Tuesday



Calvin Fraser, seven, from Mull Mòd Club won in the solo singing.



Sophie Stewart, age eight, won third place in the solo singing.



Samuel MacAoidh from The Nicolson Institute, Stornoway, won second place in the boys traditional singing.

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## Robert's Mòd

ROBERT ROBERTSON

Sometimes there is more to competition than just winning. The first few days of Mòd week are usually about children gaining advice and wisdom from adult adjudicators or tutors.

On Monday, however, the roles were reversed as I was taught something very important by a group of children and teenagers.

Ever since I was a boy, I've always felt a competitive desire to win. I felt this from junior level all the way to the Gold Medal in 2013 and I never fully grasped the idea of 'it's all about the taking part'. For the last four years, I have conducted Glasgow Islay Junior Gaelic Choir at the Mòd. I am a great believer in always building on progress, so a second place finish in Fort William last year rekindled my desire to win.

On Monday morning, after a year of good work, the final results showed us anchored at the bottom of both the Unison and Puirt a Beul competitions after all the promise of last year. But here's the thing - after gathering them round and delivering a hastily planned team talk, I realised we now had a clearer understanding of what we should take out of these competitions.

The first thing I told them is to have no grievance over the result because Rionnagan Rois were deserved winners of the Unison and Islay of the Puirt. I pointed out we had only nine singers on the stage: two of whom are nine years old, three of whom are 18 years old, with the rest somewhere in between. In 10 years of singing with the National Youth Choir, I was never once asked to sing with someone more than five years older than me, so for some of those youngsters to stand alongside choristers 10 years their senior is a remarkable achievement. We had come up against a host of wonderful choirs who were singing to an impeccably high standard that, given our circumstances, we had been unable to match.

I said all this purely to try and cheer them up. In truth, the competitive side of me was still hurting from the defeat. I had so wanted those children to return to Glasgow having at least been placed.

But I realised they were all taking it on board with a profound understanding that would probably have been beyond me when I was their age. They left Dunoon as anyone who leaves with disappointing results this week should: with their heads held high and with an acceptance that they gave their all and made their parents, fellow choristers and conductor very proud. Those nine youngsters reminded me that this is all that one can ask.



Glasgow Islay Junior Gaelic Choir.



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## Islay crowned choral winners



Còisir Òig Ghàidhlig Ìle, with conductor Arlene McKerrell, who won the Tom Crawford Trophy for two-part harmony, under 19 years open and the Martin Wilson Trophy for puirt-a-beul, under 19 years open.



Finlay MacLennan from Inverness won the An Comunn Gàidhealach Silver Medal for boys' 13-15 years fluent solo singing. 17\_MOD42DM18\_Tuesday



Calum Garvin from Oban competed in the 16-18 years fluent boys' competition. 17\_MOD42DM06\_Tuesday



Ruaraidh MacLean from Comunn Gàidhealach Mhuile (Mull) saw off 29 competitors to win the fluent prescribed eight years singing competition. 17\_MOD42DM19\_Tuesday



Abbie Morris, Àrd-sgoil Ìle, who won the poetry recitation for 13-15 years learners.



Còisir Òig Mhuile (Mull) finished third in the unison and puirt-a-beul under 13 years choir competitions. 17\_MOD42DM08\_Tuesday



Rionnagan Rois, who were first in the under-13 learners unison singing. 17\_MOD42DM07\_Tuesday



Elizabeth MacKenzie, 17, from the Isle of Lewis won gold with her under-19 folk group, as well as finishing second in the under-19 prescribed and sing in a traditional manner competitions. 17\_MOD42DM20\_Tuesday

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## Sun, rain and 7,000 miles on a plane...

### Dunoon Mòd gets off to a flying start

by David McPhee  
[dmcphree@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:dmcphree@obantimes.co.uk)



The number of competitors at this year's Royal National Mòd might be down compared to last year, but you wouldn't know that walking through the Queen's Hall in Dunoon.

The new venue was well used throughout the first half the festival, with something going on in every corner – whether that be a competition in the main hall, a practice session in one of the adjacent rooms, a press conference, or a visit from an Argentinian choir that travelled 7,365 miles to attend this year's event.

And there is even a soft play area upstairs to keep youngsters who aren't taking part entertained.

The weather has been unpredictable, it surprised everyone on Monday with blue skies – especially after drenching

everyone brave enough to watch the sports events over the weekend.

The soft play area was well used on Tuesday, with the sun giving way to more rain.

Mondays and Tuesdays at the Mòd are when the young adults' and children's events take place.

Monday turned out to be the day of stuffed animals, with three pupils from Rockfield Primary School receiving gold badges after performing with either 'Oscar the Mòd dog' or the 'Mòd penguin'.

The prestigious An Comunn Gàidhealach Silver Medal competitions took place on Tuesday, with Finlay MacLennan and Anna NicLeòid, both from Inverness, walking away with the accolades.

A topic of discussion at Tuesday's press conference was the lack of men compet-

ing – only two are currently scheduled to take part in the renowned traditional singing competition.

In response to this, John Morrison, chief executive of An Comunn Gàidhealach, said: 'Competition entries across the board at this year's Royal National Mòd are healthy.'

'This year's traditional medal competition has a total of 16 entries – 14 in the women's category and two in the men's, after one participant unfortunately had to drop out at the last minute due to unforeseen circumstances.'

'With the traditional medal being one of the most prestigious of the week, we are always keen to see strong numbers taking part, so we are open to looking into new ways that we can encourage and support people, and in particular men, to take part, be it through

working closely with younger age groups or choirs.'

Thursday and Friday at the Mòd is when the adult choirs take centre stage and, this year, a choir have travelled from Argentina to take part.

The eight-strong Coro Gaelico Ceòlraidh said performing at a Mòd was a goal of theirs.

Guillermo MacKinlay, who set up the choir, said: 'We started to sing in Gaelic in 2002. I have Scottish ancestors, so I am interested in the language and culture.'

'It's just wonderful to be here – our goal was to try to make it and we finally did. This is a wonderful town. The landscape is just amazing and the people are just so friendly.'

The choir arrived in Dunoon the day before the Mòd started and will stay until Saturday, when the festival comes to a close.



Ciorstaidh Chaimbeul, 18, from Kyle of Lochalsh, won two accordion competitions on Saturday, before winning the fluent solo singing girls' 16-18 years. 17\_MOD42DM14\_Tuesday



Alice Nic a' Mhaolein and Kirsty Nicolson from Sgoil MhicNeacail were third in the 13-18 duet. 17\_MOD42DM21\_Tuesday

Sgoil Sir E Scott under 13 years choir took first places in the fluent under-13s unison, two-part harmony and puirt-a-beul fluent competitions, picking up three trophies in the process: Aberfoyle and District Branch Trophy, Mrs Ann Grant of Laggan Memorial Trophy and Mrs Schroder Cup.

17\_MOD42DM12\_Tuesday







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Left: Cara Morrison from Sgoil MhicNeacail (Stornoway) won the Iain Morrison Memorial Trophy in the fluent girls' 16-18 Sing In A Traditional Manner' contest. 17\_ MOD42DM15\_Tuesday



Clan Thròndairnis, Staffin, won the Harris Tweed Authority Award for waulking song, under 19 years.



Rockfield Gaelic Choir (Còisir Bun-sgoil Achadh na Creige), conducted by Rachael Deans, were second in the under-13 learners unison and puirt-a-beul.



Charlet Rose, nine, from Islay competed in the solo girls' singing.



Felix Hughes, Jaime MacIntyre and Elidh Shaw from Rockfield Primary Gaelic Unit were all smiles at the Mòd. 15\_MOD42DM2\_solos



After a weekend of solid rain, these youngsters were jumping for joy at the sight of the sun at Dunoon Mòd on Monday. Photograph: Graham Hood.



Megan McMillan, 10, from Islay competed in the girls' solo singing.



Josie Rountree, nine, from Islay competed in the solo girls' singing.

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Brodie Crawford from Lochgilphead, competed in the girls' solo singing.



Dearbhla Newman, aged 10, from Islay competed in the girls' solo singing.



# Mòd Dhùn Omhain 2018

Friday 12th to Saturday 20th October 2018

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## Results

### Saturday

Senior Piping, Ceòl Mòr (B360): Piobaireachd, competitor's choice: 1 Gordon McCready, Rinn Friù, James R Johnston Memorial Trophy; 2 Archie Drennan, Druim na Drochaid; 3 Angus Finlay MacPhee, Inbhir Nis.

Ceòl Beag (B361): Playing a four-part, 2/4 March, Strathspey and Reel: 1 Gordon McCready, Rinn Friù, John T. MacRae Cup, Sheelah J Nicol Memorial Trophy for the highest aggregate marks in B360 and B361; 2 Archie Drennan, Druim na Drochaid; 3 Dr Peter McCalister, Dùn Bhlàthain.

Hornpipe & Jig (B362): Playing a hornpipe & jig,

competitor's choice: 1 Gordon McCready, Rinn Friù, Argyllshire Gathering Quaich; 2 Callum Wynd, Dùn Bhlàthain, The Argyllshire Gathering Prize; 3 Archie Drennan, Druim na Drochaid.

Junior Piping, U19 Piobaireachd (C132), open: 1 Gregor Macdonald, Àrd-sgoil an Obain, W.G.G. Wilson Trophy; 2 Ross Conner, Sgoil Ghràmar Ceann Loch Chille Chiarain, 3 Brodie Watson-Massey, Sgoil George Heriot.

Bagpipes Ages U15 (C108): Play a march, own choice. Minimum 4 four parts each: 1 Bobby Allen, Sgoil Chryston, Roderick Munro Quaich; 2 Catriona Norman, Àrd-sgoil MhicLabhrainn; 3 Eala Niamh McElhinney,

Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu.

Bagpipes Ages U15 (C109): Play a Strathspey and Reel, own choice. Four parts each: 1 Bobby Allen, Sgoil Chryston, Lighting Electrical Cup; 2 Dugald MacKechnie, Acadamaidh Dholar; 3 Calum E. MacMillan, Sgoil Lionacleit.

Bagpipes U19 (C131): Play a Jig, own choice. Minimum four parts each: 1 Bobby Allen, Sgoil Chryston, Col Murdoch Mactaggart Bowmore Memorial Trophy; 2 Brodie Watson-Massey, Sgoil George Heriot; 3 Hamish Drennan, Acadamaidh Inbhir Pheofharain.

Chanter U13 (C85): Play a March, own choice. Two parts only: 1 Màili MacLennan, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir

Nis; 2 Rory Turner, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort Rìgh; 3 Caitaidh MacLean, Sgoil Uibhist a Tuath.

Chanter U13 (C85A): Play a Gaelic Air, own choice. Two parts only: 1 Joe MacPherson, Àrd-sgoil Bearraig a Tuath; 2 Caitaidh MacLean, Sgoil Uibhist a Tuath; 3 Archie Johnston, Bun-sgoil Bhun Easain.

Bagpipes U13 (C86): Play a March, own choice. Confined to players who have not won first prize in a Novice Competition prior to 14/10/2018: 1 Logie Johnston, Àrd-sgoil an Obain, Roderick Ross, Ferintosh, Memorial Trophy; 2 Harrison Bishop, Àrd-sgoil Eastwood; 3 Hector Finlayson, Bun-sgoil Caol Loch Aillse.

Bagpipes U19 (C130): Play a March, Strathspey and Reel own choice. Minimum four parts each: 1 Brodie Watson-Massey, Sgoil George Heriot, Royal Highland Fusiliers Cup; 2 Bobby Allen, Sgoil Chryston; 3 Hamish Drennan, Acadamaidh Inbhir Pheofharain.

Junior Instrumental: Accordion (Piano or 3/4/5 row button instrument with Stradella bass Under 19 (C178): Play a March, Strathspey and Reel in the Highland/Gaelic/Piping idiom; own choice: 1 Ciorstaidh Chaimbeul, Caol Loch Aillse, Smith Mearns Trophy; 2 Archie MacKechnie, Acadamaidh Dholar; 3 Kieran MacCormick, Sgoil Lionacleit.

Accordion (Piano or 3/4/5 row button instrument with Stradella bass) Under 13 (C84): Play a March, Strathspey and Reel in the Highland/Gaelic/Piping idiom. Own choice: 1 Anndra Uisdean Cuimeanach, Àrd-sgoil Gheàrrloch, Daniel G R Burt (Chapelhall) Airdie Memorial Trophy, The Smith Mearns Trophy; 2 Innes MacKinnon, Àrd-sgoil Thiriodh.

Accordion (Piano or 3/4/5 row button instrument with Stradella bass) Under 19 (C178A): Play a selection of contemporary traditional tunes. Own choice: 1 Ciorstaidh Chaimbeul, Caol Loch Aillse; 2 Archie MacKechnie, Acadamaidh Dholar;

## Teams pitch in with shinty and football



Inveraray and Col Glen battled it out for this year's Mòd Shinty Cup, with Inveraray winning 6-3 at a wet Dunoon Stadium.



Action from the exhibition football match between Dunoon Amateurs and Glasgow Island.

### Mòd exhibition football match Dunoon Amateurs 0 Glasgow Island 3

By 3pm on Saturday the weather had become decidedly damp, having rained since early morning.

The ladies shinty match had been moved to Dunoon Grammar School, so Dunoon Amateurs lined up to take on Glasgow Island on the Black Park, already soggy underfoot by kick-off.

Not to be put off by a little rain, the players fully committed themselves to the match, the spark of competition still aglow.

Glasgow Island put themselves two goals to the good in the first half as an understrength Dunoon Amateurs toiled on home turf.

The highlight of the game came in the second half when the Glasgow Island goalkeeper gathered the ball to stifle another Dunoon attack.

Seeing no options for short passes, he laced the ball up field out of hand. One devilish bounce later it ended up in the Dunoon net, leaving the Amateurs red faced and the Island keeper celebrating the unlikely of goals.

There was a noticeable sigh of relief when the full-time whistle was blown and the players retired to MacClures Bar in Dunoon for the prizegiving.

### Mòd Shinty Trophy Col Glen 3 Inveraray 6

Inveraray and Col Glen lined up at Dunoon Stadium to compete for the Mòd Trophy.

Heavy rain continued throughout the afternoon, but a small, hardcore crowd of spectators stuck it out, huddling together in the main stand for warmth.

Col Glen began the brighter of the



Inveraray shinty team after defeating Kyle and Strachur 1-0 in the first primary schools' Mòd shinty tournament.

two teams, but went behind when they switched off in defence.

Going a goal down seemed to galvanise them and in the latter part of the first half they were unstoppable, firing in three unanswered goals to go into the break 3-1 up. The second half belonged to the Fynesiders who grabbed the game by the scruff of the neck and did not let go. A rapid double put them level and they piled in with more goals as Col Glen lost their way.

The final score of 6-3 was perhaps a little harsh on Col Glen but a nine-goal

thriller pleased spectators. The trophy was presented to the winners after the match.

### Ladies Mòd shinty Cowan and Bute Ladies 1 Oban Ladies 5

Oban Ladies put Cowan and Bute to the sword on Saturday afternoon with a convincing 5-1 win.

The match was moved from Dunoon Stadium to Dunoon Grammar School's all-weather pitch to make room for the Mòd football match later the same day and Oban adjusted better.



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3 Eòin Coinneach  
Cuimeanach, Àrd-sgoil  
Ghearrloch.

Piano U13 (C81): Play a slow Gaelic Air and March, own choice: 1 Alice MacLennan, Sgoil George Heriot, Jenny M.B. Currie Kilt Pin; 2 Isla Thoms, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu; 3 Eilidh Thoms, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu.

Piano Ages 13-18 (C116): Play a slow Gaelic Air and March, own choice: 1 Rae MacIver, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, Margaret Hill-Boyle Memorial Trophy; 2 Evie Glen, Àrd-sgoil Biggar; 3 Emily Armstrong, Bun-sgoil Thiriodh.

Fiddle U13 (C83): Play a slow Gaelic Air and March, followed by a Strathspey and Reel, own choice: 1 Meredith Kennedy Kiemer, Sruighlea; 2 Zoe Drysdale, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu; 3 Ruaraidh Drennan, Acadamaidh Inbhir Pheofharain.

Fiddle Ages 13-18 (C118): Play a slow Gaelic Air and March and Strathspey and Reel, own choice: 1 Abbie Morris, Àrd-sgoil Ìle, Robert MacCallum Memorial Trophy; 2 Alasdair Campbell, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu; 3 Skye Beautyman, Sgoil Ghràmar Dhùn Omhain.

Fiddle Groups U19 (C176): Play a minimum of three tunes in different tempos in traditional Highland style: 1 Tarsainn na Drochaid; 2 Village School of Music Fiddle Club; 3 Na Daoine Beaga.

Senior: Fiddle Groups (B342): Playing a Slow Air, March, Strathspey and Reel. Scottish traditional tunes, competitor's own choice: 1 Loch-obrach Fidheall Chean Loch Goibhle, Dr & Mrs Atholl Robertson (Oban) Trophy; 2 Na Seann Daoine;



**Tilly Cunningham, from Lochgilhead competed in the girls' solo singing.**



**Feorlin Renton and Rosie Blyth, Bun-sgoil Inbhir Aora, were second in the under-13 duet.**

3 Cowal Community Orchestra.

#### Monday

Folk Groups: U19 (C172): Perform two contrasting songs of own choice with accompaniment of musical instruments: 1 Còmhlán Sgoil Chitùil Obar Dheathain, The Allan Thomas Mitchell Trophy; 2 Deàrrsadh; 3 Deugairean Thròndairnis.

U13 (C172A): Perform two contrasting songs of own choice with accompaniment of musical instruments: 1 Clann Thròndairnis, The Murdo MacFarlane Trophy; 2 Na Smeòraich; 3 Ceòl Beag.

Action Song: Under 13 (C87B): Song with actions illustrative of the theme or demonstration of labour action accompanied by song: 1 Clann Thròndairnis; 2 Còisir Òg Loch Àlainn.

Drama: U13 (C87A): Original play devised and staged by school or group presenting the playlet: 1 Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, Donald Macdonald Memorial Trophy.

Waulking: U19 (C180): 1 Clann Thròndairnis, The Harris Tweed Authority Award.

Junior choral: Unison U19 Open (C173): Sing two songs: 1 Rionnagan Rois, Queen Elizabeth Coronation (1937) Trophy; 2 Còisir Òg Ghàidhlig na h-Eaglaise Brice; 3 Còisir Òg Ghàidhlig Ìle Ghlaschu.

Two-part Harmony U19 Open (C174): Sing two songs: 1 Còisir Òg Ghàidhlig Ìle, Tom Crawford Trophy; 2 Còisir Òg Ghàidhlig na h-Eaglaise Brice.



**Aiden Munro, nine, from Bun-sgoil Port Ilein (Port Ellen) was third equal in the boys' 9-10 solo singing.**

Puirt-a-beul U19 Open (C175): Unison singing of prescribed puirt a beul: 1 Còisir Òg Ghàidhlig Ìle, Martin Wilson (North Berwick) Trophy, 2 Còisir Òg Ghàidhlig na h-Eaglaise Brice; 3 Rionnagan Rois.

Còisir Òg Ghàidhlig na h-Eaglaise Brice, Iain Thomson Memorial Trophy for the highest marks in Gaelic in C173, C174 or C175, East Kilbride District Council Trophy for the highest aggregate marks in C173, C174 and C175, Jean Walker Memorial Trophy for the highest marks in Music in Competitions C173, C174 or C175.

Unison, U13 Learners (C76): Sing two songs: 1 Rionnagan Rois, Donald and Mamie MacPhail Trophy; 2 Còisir Bun-sgoil Achadh na Creige.

Puirt-a-beul, Under 13 Learners (C78): Prescribed puirt a beul: 1 Còisir Ghàidhlig Bun-sgoil Phort Ilein, Macintyre Cup, The Olive Campbell MBE Trophy;

2 Còisir Bun-sgoil Achadh na Creige; 3 Còisir Òg Loch Àlainn.

Two-part Harmony U13 Learners (C77): Sing two songs: 1 Cairdean Cìùil Ìle, Susan Paterson Caledonian MacBrayne Trophy.

Unison Rural Primary Schools Only (C03): Sing two songs: 1 Còisir Ghàidhlig Bun-sgoil Phort Ilein, Badenoch & Strathspey Area Committee Trophy. Solo Singing: Ages 5-6 Learners (C27): Singing of a prescribed song: 1 Bella Derevyankin, Acadamaidh an Tairbeart, Joan Campbell Memorial Trophy; 2 Calum Michael Morrison, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu; 3 Rhona Jane MacLeod, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu.

Ages 7-8 Learners (C27A): Singing of a prescribed song: 1 Eva Bisp, Bun-sgoil Achadh na Creige, Hugh Macintyre Memorial Cup; 2 Millie Kathryn Bonniwell, Bun-sgoil Achadh na Creige; 3 Isla McKechnie, Còisir Òg Loch Àlainn.

Girls Ages 9-10 Learners (C51): Singing of a prescribed song: 1 Aimee Macleod, Sgoil nan Loch, Mrs Roderick B Munro Trophy; 2 Mary Morrison, Sgoil an Rubha; 3 Rowan Willis, Còisir Òg Loch Àlainn.

Girls Ages 11-12 Learners (C51A): Singing of a prescribed song: 1 Doireann Marks, Sgoil Lionacleit, Ronald MacEachen Memorial Cup; 2 Anna MacLeod, Sgoil Lionacleit; 3 Katie Mactaggart, Àrd-sgoil Ìle.

Aimee Macleod, Sgoil nan Loch won the Donald Macleod Trophy for the highest mark in Gaelic in C51 and C52.

Boys Ages 9-10 Learners (C52): Singing of a prescribed song: 1 Liam Gray, Bun-sgoil Bhogha Mòr, Dr Archie MacKinnon (Islay) Memorial Trophy; 2 Innes MacKay, Bun-sgoil an Dùn Beag; 3 = Harvey Smith, Bun-sgoil Chondobhrat

Aiden Munro, Bun-sgoil Port Ilein.

Liam Gray, Bun-sgoil Bhogha Mòr and Innes MacKay, Bun-sgoil an Dùn Beag,

Donald Macleod Trophy for the highest mark in Gaelic in C51 and C52.

Boys Ages 11-12 Learners (C52A): Singing of a prescribed song: 1 Calum

MacLeod, Sgoil Uibhist A Tuath; 2 Seumas MacRae, Sgoil MhicNeacail; 3 Oisín Liam Crawford, Rionnagan Rios.

Boys Ages 13-15 Learners (C103): One prescribed song. James C McPhee Medal: 1

Oscar Tormod Fish, Sgoil MhicNeacail, James C. MacPhee Memorial Medal; 2 Archie Kennedy, Còisir Òg Loch Àlainn; Hamish Kennedy, Còisir Òg Loch Àlainn.

Girls Ages 13-15 Learners (C102): One prescribed song. James C McPhee Medal:

1 Holly MacLean, Àrd-sgoil Thobar Mhoire, James C. MacPhee Memorial Medal; 2 Kirsty Nicolson, Sgoil MhicNeacail; 3 Abbie Morris, Àrd-sgoil Ìle.

Holly MacLean, Àrd-sgoil Thobar Mhoire, won the Jean Graham Memorial Trophy for the highest marks in music in C102 and C103 and Alexander Hamilton Trophy for the highest mark in Gaelic in C102 and C103.

U19 (C177): One song, own choice. Confined to first prizewinners of solo singing competitions at previous Royal National Mods: 1 Ruairidh Gray, Sgoil Lionacleit, Skelmorlie and District Highland Association Quaich; 2 Alice Nic a' Mhaoilein, Sgoil MhicNeacail; 3 Samuel MacAoidh, Sgoil MhicNeacail.

Traditional Singing Open Ages 16-18 Learners (C145A): One song sung in traditional style, own choice: 1 Rachel Bolton, Còisir Òg Loch Àlainn, Provost of Falkirk Medal.

Junior Duet: U13 Learners (C79): 1 Rebecca Morris and Rowan Morris, Bun-sgoil Port Ilein, Angus MacTavish Memorial Trophy; 2 Rosie Blyth and Feorlin Renton, Bun-sgoil Inbhir Aora; 3 Dearbhla Newman and Charlet Munro, Bun-sgoil Port Ilein.

Oral: Poetry Recitation Ages 5-6 Learners (C26): 1 Calum Michael Morrison, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, Phemie Wilson Memorial Trophy; 2 Finlay Tarves, Bun-sgoil Lacasdail; 3 Bethan Newall, Bun-sgoil Chondobhrat.

Poetry Recitation Ages 7-8 Learners (C26A): 1 Millie Kathryn Bonniwell, Bun-sgoil Achadh na Creige, Rotary Club of



**Katie McIntyre, 10, from Fort William competed in the solo girls' singing.**



**Mary Morrison, aged 11, from the Isle of Lewis competed in the girls' solo singing.**

Falkirk Trophy; 2 Niamh McCrudden, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu; 3 Esme McLeod, Bun-sgoil Achadh na Creige.

Poetry Recitation Ages 9-10 Learners (C49): 1 Lauren Morris, Bun-sgoil Bhogha Mòr, Cowal Trophy; 2 Charlet Munro, Bun-sgoil Port Ilein; 3 Rhuraidh Blair, Bun-sgoil Port Ilein.

Poetry Recitation Ages 11-12 Learners (C49A): 1 Rowan Morris, Bun-sgoil Port Ilein; 2 = Rebecca Morris, Bun-sgoil Port Ilein and Iona Willis, Còisir Òg Loch Àlainn; 3 Rory Urquhart, Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir Nis.

Poetry Recitation Ages 13-15 Learners (C100): 1 Abbie Morris, Àrd-sgoil Ìle,

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig Silver Medal; 2 Elizabeth MacMillan-Currie, Àrd-sgoil Ìle.

Poetry Recitation Ages 16-18 Open (C150): 1 Ruairidh Gray, Sgoil Lionacleit; 2

Rachel Bolton, Còisir Òg Loch Àlainn; 3 Seumas Scullion, Àrd-sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu.

Conversation Ages 5-8 Learners (C24): 1 Esme McLeod, Bun-sgoil Achadh na Creige, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig Silver Medal; 2 Niamh McCrudden, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu; 3 Calum Michael Morrison, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu.

**More results, page 42**



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## Results

### Tuesday

**Solo Singing: Girls Ages 9 Fluent (C44(i)):** Singing of a prescribed song: 1 Jenna Yule, Bun-sgoil Chondobhrat; 2 Maeve McKenzie, Bun-sgoil Chondobhrat; 3 Catherine Donner, Sgoil Lionail.

**Solo Singing Girls Age 11 Fluent (C44A(i)):** Singing of a prescribed song: 1 Isabella Sommerville, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis, Maybury Gardens Cup; 2 Rachel Buchan, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu; 3 Halle Durbin, Bun-sgoil Steornabhaigh.

**Girls Age 12 Fluent (C44A(ii)):** Singing of a prescribed song: 1 Ellie-Ceit Johnson, Sgoil Sir E Scott, Kenneth Brown Memorial Prize; 2 Johanna MacIver MacLeod, Àrd-sgoil Greenfaulds; 3 Mhairi MacKenzie, Rionnagan Rois.

**Solo Singing Girls Ages 16-18 Open (C155):** Sing one song, own choice: 1 Ciorstaidh Chaimbeul, Caol Loch Aillse, The Highland Society of London Trophy; Ealasaid NicCoinnich, Sgoil Chiùil Obar Dheathain; 3 Lucy Smith, Còisir Òg Ghàidhlig na h-Eaglaise Brice.

**Boys Ages 13-15 Fluent (C96):** One prescribed song. An Comunn Gàidhealach Silver Medal: 1 Finlay MacLennan, Acadamaidh Rioghail Inbhir Nis, An Comunn Gàidhealach Silver Medal; 2 Cathal Callan, The High School of Glasgow; 3 Conal MacDiarmid, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Glaschu.

**Girls Ages 13-15 Fluent (C95):** One prescribed song: 1 Anna NicLeòid, Inbhir Nis, An Comunn Gàidhealach Silver Medal; 2 Lili McShea, Àrd-sgoil Sheumais Ghilleasbuig; 3 = Ealasaid Faye NicFhionghuin, Àrd-sgoil Loch Abar and Eve Byrne, Àrd-Sgoil Greenfaulds.

**Solo Singing Age 7 Fluent (C23A(i)):** singing of a prescribed song: 1 Calvin Fraser, Bun-sgoil Chondobhrat; 2 Lucy Kennedy, Bun-sgoil Thiriodh; 3 Ewen Darroch, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu.

**Age 8 Fluent (C23A(ii)):** Singing of a prescribed song: 1 Ruairidh MacLean, Comunn Gàidhealach Mhuile; 2 Hannah MacLeod, Bun-sgoil Chondobhrat; 3 Sophie Stewart, Rionnagan Rois.



These youngsters were making the most of the good weather on Monday, soaking up the wonderful atmosphere at Dunoon Mòd. Photograph: Graham Hood

**Boys Ages 9-10 Fluent (C45):** Singing of a prescribed song: 1 Eoghann Caimbeul, Clann Thronairnis; 2 Luke Johnson, Sgoil Sir E Scott; 3 Rory Turner, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort Rìgh.

**Boys Ages 11-12 Fluent (C45A):** Singing of a prescribed song: 1 Ross MacLeod, Àrd-sgoil Phort Rìgh; 2 Alec Macdonald, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu; 3 Ruairidh Drennan, Acadamaidh Inbhir Pheofharain.

**Boys Ages 16-18 Open (C156):** Sing one song, own choice: 1 Ruairidh Gray, Sgoil Lionacleit, The Highland Society of London Trophy; 2 Rory MacDiarmid, Glaschu; 3 Iain MacCarraig, Àrd-sgoil Phort Rìgh.

**Traditional Singing Girls 11-12 years only. Fluent (C70A(ii)):** One song sung in the traditional style, own choice: 1 Isla Scott, Sir E Scott; 2 Isabella Sommerville, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis; 3 Ellie-Ceit Johnson, Sgoil Sir E Scott.

**Traditional Singing Girls Age 13-15 Fluent (C94A):** One song sung in traditional style, own choice: 1 Anna NicLeòid, Inbhir Nis, Traditional Silver Medal; 2 Ealasaid Faye NicFhionghuin, Àrd-sgoil Loch Abar; 3 Kirsty Nicolson, Sgoil MhicNeacail.

**Traditional Singing Boys**

**Ages 13-15 Fluent (C94B):** One song sung in traditional style, own choice: 1 Eòin Coinneach Cuimeanach, Àrd-sgoil Gheàrrloch, Traditional Silver Medal; 2 Samuel MacAoidh, Sgoil MhicNeacail; 3 Innes Scullion, Àrd-sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu.

**Eòin Coinneach Cuimeanach, Àrd-sgoil Gheàrrloch, won the Ann Kelly MacDonald Memorial Trophy for the competitor gaining the highest mark in C94A and C94B.**

**Traditional Singing Girls Ages 16-18 Fluent (C145):** One song sung in traditional style, own choice: 1 Cara Morrison, Sgoil MhicNeacail, The Iain Morrison Memorial Trophy; 2 Ealasaid NicCoinnich, Sgoil Chiùil Obar Dheathain; 3 Rebekah Boyle, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu.

**Traditional Singing Boys Under-13 Fluent (C70B):** One song sung in the traditional style, own choice: 1 Eoghann Caimbeul, Clann Thronairnis; 2 Ross MacLeòid, Àrd-sgoil Phort Rìgh; 3 = Anndra Uisdean Cuimeanach, Àrd-sgoil Gheàrrloch and Luke Johnson, Sir E Scott.

**Eoghann Caimbeul, Clann Thronairnis won the TSB (Scotland) Trophy for the competitor gaining the highest mark in C70A(i), C70A(ii) and C70B.**

**Traditional Singing Girls Under-11 Fluent (C70A(i)):** One song sung in the traditional style, own choice: 1 Sorcha Jo MacDougall, Sgoil Bhàgh a' Chaisteil; 2 Frankie Macdonald, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu; 3 = Jessica MacKay, Sir E Scott and Maeve Macdonald, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu.

**Sorcha Jo MacDougall, Sgoil Bhàgh a' Chaisteil, won the TSB (Scotland) Trophy for the competitor gaining the highest mark in C70A and C70B.**

**Traditional Singing Boys Ages 16-18 Fluent (C146):** One song sung in traditional style, own choice. 1 Ruairidh Gray, Sgoil Lionacleit, Neil MacLaine Cameron Memorial Trophy; 2 Iain MacCarraig, Àrd-sgoil Phort Rìgh; 3 Rory MacDiarmid, Glaschu.

**Presenting a Psalm Under 19 (C171B):** 1 Erin Nic'Illosa, Deugairean Thròndairnis, Allan C. MacLeod Memorial Trophy.

**Presenting a Psalm Under 13 (C171A):** 1 Ross MacLeòid, Àrd-sgoil Phort Rìgh, Jonathan MacDonald Kilmuir Trophy; 2 Ellie-Ceit Johnson, Sir E Scott; 3 Luke Johnson, Sir E Scott.

**Duet: Under 13 Fluent (C74):** One song, own choice: 1 Caitlyn Yule and Johanna MacIver MacLeod, Àrd-sgoil

**Greenfaulds, Donald Ross Memorial Trophy; 2 Maeve Macdonald & Eilidh Thoms, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu; 3 Ellie-Ceit Johnson & Luke Johnson, Sgoil Sir E Scott.**

**Duet Ages 13-18 (C144):** One song, own choice: 1 Hannah Russell and Rebecca Swallow, Còisir Òg Ghàidhlig na h-Eaglaise Brice; 2 Lucy Smith and Holly Smith, Còisir Òg Ghàidhlig na h-Eaglaise Brice; 3 Alice Nic a' Mhaoilein and Kirsty Nicolson, Sgoil MhicNeacail.

**Choral: Unison Ages 13-18 Open (C110):** Sing two songs: 1 Còisir Sgoil MhicNeacail, Mrs Campbell Blair Trophy; 2 Sgoil Sir E Scott, 3 Còisir Sgoil Lionacleit.

**Puirt-a-beul Ages 13-18 Open (C112):** Sing prescribed puirt a beul: 1 Còisir Sgoil MhicNeacail, Belle Campbell Trophy; 2 Sgoil Sir E Scott; 3 Còisir Sgoil Lionacleit.

**Unison Under-13 Fluent (C71):** Sing two songs: 1 Sgoil Sir E Scott, Aberfoyle & District Branch Trophy; 2 Còisir Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu; 3 Còisir Òg Mhuile.

**Puirt-a-beul Under-13 Fluent (C73):** Unison singing of prescribed puirt a beul: 1 Sgoil Sir E Scott, Mrs Schroder Cup; 2 Còisir Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu; 3 Còisir Òg Mhuile.

**Two-part Harmony**

**Under-13 Fluent (C72):** Sing two songs: 1 Sgoil Sir E Scott, Mrs Ann Grant of Laggan Memorial Trophy.

**Two-part Harmony Ages 13-18 Open (C111):** Sing two songs: 1 Còisir Sgoil Lionacleit, Oban Times Challenge Trophy; 2 Sgoil Sir E Scott; 3 Còisir Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu.

**Storytelling: Ages 5-8 Open (C21):** Telling a story of own choice: 1 Jonathan Domhnallach, Sgoil Stafainn; 2 Seumas Stiùbhart, Bun-sgoil Shlèite; 3 Finlay Montgomery, Sgoil a' Bhac.

**Storytelling Ages 13-18 Open (C89):** Tell a story of own choice: 1 Ruairidh Gray, Sgoil Lionacleit; 2 Anndra Monk, Àrd-sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu; 3 John Varwell, Àrd-sgoil Phort Rìgh.

**Storytelling Ages 9-10 Fluent (C41):** Tell a story of own choice: 1 Finlay MacLeay Morrison, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu; 2 Oisín Fuentes, Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce; 3 Haraidh Lang MacDonald, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghleann Dail.

**Storytelling Ages 11-12 Fluent (C41A):** Tell a story of own choice: 1 Maria Monk, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu; 2 Lexy NicLeòid, Àrd-sgoil Phort Rìgh; 3 Isla Scott, Sgoil Sir E Scott.

**Ancient folk tale Ages 9-12 Fluent (C39):** Tell a traditional story: 1 Alasdair Stiùbhart, Bun-sgoil Shlèite; 2 Scott Mac a' Phi, Bun-sgoil Achadh na Creige; 3 Nuala Iona NicDhòmhnaill, Àrd-sgoil Ulapuil.

**Bible Reading Ages 9-12 (C43):** Reading at sight from the Bible: 1 Anndra Uisdean Cuimeanach, Àrd-sgoil Gheàrrloch; 2 Eoghann Caimbeul, Clann Thronairnis; 3 Arabella Manchester, Sgoil Bhaile a' Mhanaich.

**Bible Reading Ages 13-15 (C106):** Reading at sight from the Bible: 1 Seumas Caimbeul, Deugairean Thròndairnis; 2 Eòin Coinneach Cuimeanach, Àrd-sgoil Gheàrrloch; 3 John Varwell, Àrd-sgoil Phort Rìgh.

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FRANCIS CAMPBELL BOILEAU CADELL R.S.A., R.S.W. (1883-1937) Sold for £104,550 (including fees)



## SCOTTISH PICTURES & WHISKY VALUATION TOUR

Lyon & Turnbull, Scotland's oldest and largest firm of fine art auctioneers, are holding a series of valuation events throughout Scotland, offering an assessment of your Scottish paintings and whisky whilst you enjoy the exhibitions at our host venues; some of the country's finest museums and independent galleries.

For more information about the dates and destinations of the tour, or our valuations service in general, please contact us at [info@lyonandturnbull.com](mailto:info@lyonandturnbull.com) or on 0131 557 8844.



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12 NOON TO 4PM**

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Fort William PH33 6AJ**

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RARE 1971 30 YEAR OLD**  
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AUCTIONEERS SINCE 1826

# New chief officer for Argyll health

Joanna Macdonald has been appointed as chief officer for Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership.

Joanna was previously director of adult social care for NHS Highland within the Highland Council area and she has also worked previously for Argyll and Bute Council as a manager in adult services.

Joanna said: 'I was really pleased to be appointed as chief officer for the Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership.

'I started in post in September and in the few weeks I have been here I have already been very impressed by the dedication of HSCP staff and our partner



Joanna Macdonald.

organisations and the high standard of services they provide for the people of Argyll and Bute.

'They are working tirelessly every day in our hospitals, residential homes and com-

munities to provide the best quality care to adults and children in need of our care and support.

'We are also facing significant financial pressures and this was outlined at our Integration Joint Board meeting on September 26 when it was highlighted that we are currently facing a projected overspend of £4.2 million for this financial year. Our goal is to continue to deliver the best health and social care services for the people in Argyll and Bute.

'I am looking forward to working with staff, the public, stakeholders and elected members to make sure that we can continue to make a real positive difference.'



## Viking surgeons gather in Oban

Representatives from the consultant surgeons' team at Lorn and Islands Hospital recently welcomed delegates from the Viking Surgeons Association to the Corran Halls in Oban for their annual conference.

The Viking Surgeons Association is a group of remote and rural surgeons who work in general hospitals in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, rural areas of Northern Ireland, the Faroe Islands, the Isle of Man and Iceland.

The association is open to surgeons working in any remote and rural geographical

location that were reached by the Vikings, including coastal areas of England.

The association's conference is held annually in September in a location chosen to reflect where the membership is based and this year it was hosted in Oban.

It brings together many of Scotland's current surgical trainees along with a long-established network of remote and rural surgeons.

This year's event was very successful and approximately 60 delegates attended over the two days.

**NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN**

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- ARTISAN DRINK
- EDUCATION
- AGRICULTURE
- RURAL EMPLOYER

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# A healthy rate of growth

## LOHO promotes, facilitates and supports people to lead healthier lives

Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) has been working successfully in partnership with Lorn and Oban Healthy Options (LOHO), which is now into its ninth year, and growing.

LOHO promotes, facilitates and supports people to lead healthier, active, happier and safer lifestyles.

Derek Laidler, Argyll and Bute HSCP lead physiotherapist, said: 'Partnership working within health and social care brings together organisations that benefit local communities in delivering multi-agency expertise.'

'The goal of the partnership with LOHO is to ensure we work closely with the community in developing and delivering excellent health and wellbeing services.'

LOHO is established and run by a voluntary board of directors and the range of services it provides is a result

of the commitment and vision of dedicated members of the community. Employed staff are skilled professionals with fitness and health qualifications delivering a number of initiatives, including tailored one to one sessions, specifically designed groups and classes and reablement programmes for individuals receiving community care. They also organise guided walking groups, self-management sessions, outdoor and social activities.

This year LOHO was awarded Big Lottery (as a partner with Scottish Communities for Health and Wellbeing) and LEADER funding which has enabled it to appoint a full-time development manager on a three-year contract. Gill Spink was appointed the role of LOHO development officer and commenced her new role earlier this month.

Gill said: 'I am delighted to be joining the healthy



options team. Not only is this an exciting opportunity to develop and build on the innovative services LOHO delivers, it offers a proactive role to facilitate opportunities for people to engage in healthier lifestyles through social prescribing to improve overall health and wellbeing.'

Community members

can benefit from specialist support to improve their health and wellbeing and can be referred to mainstream LOHO services by their GP or local health and social care professionals. Self-referrals are also encouraged.

Once a client has been referred, they are quickly assessed by LOHO qualified

specialists and access tailored exercise programmes, move well exercise classes, healthy lifestyle education discussions and guided walking sessions.

Alison McGrory, Argyll and Bute HSCP public health principal, said: 'Social prescribing means connecting people with support in their local communities for prob-

lems such as debt, loneliness, relationship breakdown or caring responsibilities.

'Our health is affected by the circumstances we live in as well as the lifestyle we lead and these problems can make us ill if they are not alleviated. Social prescribing is done by staff called link workers over a number of appointments to meet people's needs in a holistic way.'

LOHO initiatives, groups and classes are aimed at people of all ages to support individuals to plan for their future wellbeing, including being happier with as many aspects of their health, wellbeing and life as possible.

For more information on all the services, groups and resources available contact Gill Spink by emailing or calling direct on [info@lornhealthyoptions.co.uk](mailto:info@lornhealthyoptions.co.uk) 01631 565113 or visit the LOHO website <http://www.lornhealthyoptions.co.uk>.

# Own a share

## in community hydro projects in the Scottish Highlands

The Highland Community Energy Society (HCES) are offering a community stake amounting to £1.89 million in total, in six hydro projects in the Highlands of Scotland.

To download or request a share offer visit:  
[www.hces.coop](http://www.hces.coop)



Investments in shares of renewable energy community benefit societies are long term investments to deliver an environmental and social impact as well as a financial return. As with any investment there are risks. Your capital is at risk and may not be readily realisable. Returns are projected, variable, depend on performance and are not guaranteed. Consider all risks before investing. As a community benefit society the share offer is exempt from regulation and as such investments do not receive the protection of the Government's Financial Services Compensation Scheme and investors do not have recourse to the Financial Ombudsman Service.

Part of the Energy4All family

# WHAT'S ON IN OBAN

In partnership with Oban Town Diary bid4oban.co.uk



**THURSDAY 18TH OCTOBER**

**Oban Health Walk**

Oban Congregational Church Hall  
10am - 11.30am

**Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans**

FREE JUKEBOX EVERY THURSDAY

**FRIDAY 19TH OCTOBER**

**Oban Dance Academy - Cheerleading**

Glencruitten Church Hall. All Day

**Friendship Club Heritage Bletcher**

The Rockfield Centre

2.00pm - 4.00pm

**Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans**

Lazy Jams. Open till 2am

**Live Music & Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar Oban**

From 9pm. Free Entry

**SATURDAY 20TH OCTOBER**

**Oban Dance Academy - Cheerleading**

Glencruitten Church Hall. All Day

**parkrun**

Ganavan Sands, Oban. 9.30am

**Big Draw All-Ages Art Workshop**

The Rockfield Centre. 12.00 - 4.00pm

**Serious Play Art Exhibition**

The Rockfield Centre. 10.00 - 4.00pm

**Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans**

Rhuvaal. Open till 2am

**Live Music & Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar Oban**

From 9pm. Free Entry

**SUNDAY 21ST OCTOBER**

**Serious Play Art Exhibition**

The Rockfield Centre 10.00 - 4.00pm

**Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans**

QUIZ NIGHT at 9.30pm

£1 per person, max of 6 per team

Win £20 bar voucher

**MONDAY 22ND OCTOBER**

**Slimming World**

Union Street/Argyll Street, Lochgilthead

5.30pm & 7.30pm

Tel; Rhona 07880 878906

**TUESDAY 23RD OCTOBER**

**Beginners' Sewing Class Starts**

The Rockfield Centre. 7.00pm - 9.00pm

**WEDNESDAY 24TH OCTOBER**

**Slimming World**

Glencruitten Church Hall, Oban

9.30am, 11.30am, 5.30pm & 7.30pm

Tel; Gillian 07796 040803

**Improvers' Sewing Class Starts**

The Rockfield Centre

7.00pm - 9.00pm

**Under The Skin Camera Club**

The Rockfield Centre. 6.30pm - 7.30pm

**Live Music & Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar Oban**

Lorne Pub Quiz. Starting at 9pm

£25 bar voucher prize and free pizza at half time

# Western Isles prepares for Dìleab concerts

Plans are gaining momentum for the Dìleab concerts which will take place throughout the Western Isles in November and December.

The Harris event will take place on Friday November 9 and will feature pupils from Sir E Scott and their showcasing of the themes of land struggle and protest and politics.

On Thursday November 15, Sgoil Lionacleit will host their Dìleab concert based on the theme of the impact of war on our islands.

On November 30, Castlebay Community School will host a concert on the theme of emigration.

The final concert will

take place in Ionad Spòrs Leòdhais, hosted by the Nicolson Institute and presented by well-known broadcaster and former pupil, Alasdair Fraser, on Friday December 14. This concert will be the school's commemoration event marking 100 years since the Iolairè disaster, which had a devastating impact on the school and the wider community.

This concert will feature the school's traditional orchestra, choirs, soloists, psalm presentors and performances from pupils across the Western Isles, including the Sgoil Lionacleit Pipe Band.

Willie Campbell will also be showcasing new songs com-

missioned by the comhairle's education department, featuring the four themes of Dìleab, at each of the four concerts.

BBC Radio nan Gàidheal will record the concert on December 14 and this will be broadcast as part of their series of programmes remembering the Iolairè tragedy.

Commenting on the final concert, which will take place on December 14, Frances Murray, rector of the Nicolson Institute, said: 'It is so important that the current generation of pupils continue to be aware of the huge effect that the First World War in general and the Iolairè tragedy in par-

Events may charge. Please visit [www.obanwhatson.co.uk](http://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](http://www.obanphoenix.com) for more details



If we are able to get screen 2 up and running by Friday there will extra films that people can find on the website - [www.obanphoenix.com](http://www.obanphoenix.com)

THURSDAY 18	12:45 / 14:45	JOHNNY ENGLISH STRIKES AGAIN PG	
11:15 / 13:30	A STORK'S JOURNEY U	14:30	THE LITTLE STRANGER 12A
11:30	MAYA THE BEE - THE HONEY GAMES U	17:00 / 19:15	HALLOWEEN 18
13:15 / 15:30 / 17:45	JOHNNY ENGLISH STRIKES AGAIN PG	17:00	THE WIFE 15
15:30	THE HOUSE WITH A CLOCK IN ITS WALLS 12A	19:30	VENOM 15
17:45 / 20:15	VENOM 15		
20:00	THE LITTLE STRANGER 12A		
FRIDAY 19			
12:00	A STORK'S JOURNEY U	14:00 / 16:00	JOHNNY ENGLISH STRIKES AGAIN PG
12:00 / 16:15	JOHNNY ENGLISH STRIKES AGAIN PG	16:00	A STORK'S JOURNEY U
14:00	MAYA THE BEE - THE HONEY GAMES U	18:00 / 20:30	HALLOWEEN 18
14:00 / 18:15	THE WIFE 15	18:15	THE WIFE 15
16:00	THE LITTLE STRANGER 12A	20:30	VENOM 15
18:30 / 20:30	HALLOWEEN 18		
20:45	VENOM 15		
SATURDAY 20			
11:30	A STORK'S JOURNEY U	13:30 / 20:30	VENOM 15
11:30	MAYA THE BEE - THE HONEY GAMES U	14:00 / 16:00	JOHNNY ENGLISH STRIKES AGAIN PG
13:30 / 16:00	JOHNNY ENGLISH STRIKES AGAIN PG	16:00	A STORK'S JOURNEY U
15:30	THE LITTLE STRANGER 12A	18:00 / 20:30	HALLOWEEN 18
18:00 / 20:15	HALLOWEEN 18	18:15	THE WIFE 15
18:00	THE WIFE 15	20:30	VENOM 15
20:30	VENOM 15		
SUNDAY 21			
12:30	A STORK'S JOURNEY U		

TARBERT BOOK FESTIVAL 2018					
Date	Time	Venue	Author		
Saturday 27th October, 2018	9.00am - 11.00am	Templar Arts & Leisure Centre	Anne Hamilton	People Plot and Place - A workshop, led by Anne Hamilton, examining which comes first in story-writing.	£10
	10.00am - 11.00am	"	Liz Shaw	The young Robert Louis Stevenson meets the Widow with the Lamp on the island of Rona.	£8
	11.30am - 12.30pm	"	Bella Bathurst	The Lighthouse Stevensons	£8
	1.00pm - 2.00pm	"	Joseph Farrell	Robert Louis Stevenson in Samoa	£8
	2.30pm - 3.30pm	"	Les Wilson	The Drowned and the Saved. How War came to the Hebrides	£8
	4.00pm - 5.00pm	"	Bella Bathurst	Sound - a personal insight into the loss and recovery of hearing	£8
	7.30pm - 8.30pm	Stonefield Castle Hotel	Denise Mina	The Long Drop	£12
Sunday 28th October, 2018	11.00am - 12.00pm	Starfish Restaurant	Olga Wojtas	Miss Blaine's Prefect and the Golden Samovar	£8
	12.15pm - 1.15pm	"	Alan Taylor	Appointment in Arezzo	£8
	1.30pm - 2.30pm	"	Struan Stevenson	The Course of History: 10 Meals That Changed the World	£8

Tickets available online at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/tarbertbookfestival](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/tarbertbookfestival) or locally at Ian Y Macintyre and Lochfyne Gallery

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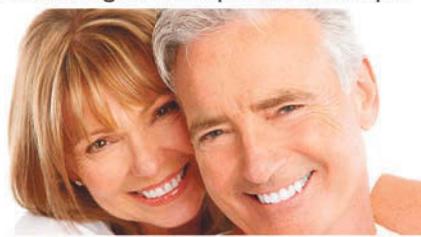
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Sgoil Lionacleit Pipe Band, pictured earlier this year, will play during the Dileab series.

particular had on the island. We are delighted that the many talented musicians in the school will be involved in this fitting commemoration of those lost.'

Councillor Angus McCormack, chairman of the Education, Sport and Children's Services Committee, said: 'Given that this is the Year of Young People and

it is coinciding with the 100th anniversary of the Iolair tragedy, it is highly appropriate that our young people across the Western Isles are working on projects relating to the war.

'I would like to commend the work done by the pupils and staff in collaboration with the comhairle's Multimedia Unit, on important topics

such as emigration and the impact of the war on our communities.

'Having already had a taster of the musical elements which will see young people showcase their talents alongside well-known local artist Willie Campbell, I know that those fortunate enough to secure tickets for the events on are in for an absolute treat.'

# RED HOT CHILLI PIPERS

**Fri 14th Dec 2018, 7.30pm  
Nevis Centre, Fort William**



**Tickets: ticketmaster.co.uk or from the Nevis Centre reception: 01397 700707**

# M'ALBA

## MY ALBA

### DIARDAOIN 18 AN DÀMHAIR THURSDAY 18 OCTOBER

13.30 **UR | NEW:** MÒD 2018: Là Mòr nan Còisirean Dùthchail  
17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
19.00 Vets: Gach Creutair Beò (rpt)  
19.30 **UR | NEW:** MÒD 2018: Buinn Òir an t-Seann Nòis (Part 1)  
21.00 An Là – News  
21.10 **UR | NEW:** MÒD 2018: Buinn Òir an t-Seann Nòis (Part 2)  
22.00 An Sgrùdaire (rpt)  
22.15 Dhan Uisge (Firth of Forth) (rpt)  
22.25 Binneas – Na Trads – The Shee (rpt)  
22.30 Bannan S5 (rpt)  
23.00 **UR | NEW:** Fo Ghlas  
23.50 Binneas – Na Trads (Duncan Chisholm) (rpt)

### DIHAOINE 19 AN DÀMHAIR FRIDAY 19 OCTOBER

13.30 **UR | NEW:** MÒD 2018: Là Mòr nan Còisirean Sgìreil  
17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
18.35 Machair (rpt)  
19.00 An Là – News  
19.28 Fraochy Bay (rpt)  
19.30 Cearcall (rpt)  
20.00 Fuine S5 (rpt)  
20.30 **UR | NEW:** Dreach Ùr  
21.00 Cuirme@Celtic – Moving Hearts (rpt)  
22.00 Cleas Feasgair (rpt)  
22.25 **UR | NEW:** MÒD 2018: Mòd nan Còisirean

### DISATHAIRNE 20 AN DÀMHAIR SATURDAY 20 OCTOBER

16.00 **UR | NEW:** Shinty/Hurling – Scotland v Ireland  
17.45 An Là – News  
18.00 **UR | NEW:** Scottish Premiership – Hearts v Aberdeen  
20.05 Machair (rpt)

20.30 An t-Eilean (rpt)  
21.00 Lorient is Alba: Scotland's Year (rpt)  
22.00 Fo Ghlas (rpt)  
22.45 Belladrum 2016: Cridhe Tartan – C. Duncan (rpt)  
22.55 Scottish Premiership – Hearts v Aberdeen (rpt)

### DIDÒMHNACH 21 AN DÀMHAIR SUNDAY 21 OCTOBER

16.00 **UR | NEW:** SWPL – Glasgow City v Hibernian Ladies  
18.10 Binneas – Na Trads (Tom Orr Scottish Dance Band) (rpt)  
18.15 An Là – News  
18.30 Seachd Là – News Review  
19.30 Alleluia (rpt)  
20.00 Dreach Ùr (rpt)  
20.30 Iùl a' Chiuil – An Ceòl (rpt)  
21.00 An Drochaid (rpt)  
22.00 Lorient is Alba: Scotland's Year (rpt)  
23.00 Trapped 4 (rpt)  
23.50 Dhan Uisge (Firth of Forth) (rpt)

### DILUAIN 22 AN DÀMHAIR MONDAY 22 OCTOBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
19.00 An Solus Buan (rpt)  
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)  
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
20.00 An Là – News  
20.30 **UR | NEW:** Fuine S5  
21.00 Trusadh – An Aghaidh Mhòr (Aviemore) (rpt)  
22.00 Mòd 2018: Mod na Cloinne (rpt)  
23.30 An Sgrùdaire (rpt)  
23.45 Dhan Uisge (Firth of Forth) (rpt)  
23.55 Belladrum 2017: Benjamin Francis Leftwich (rpt)

### DIMÀIRT 23 AN DÀMHAIR TUESDAY 23 OCTOBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's

programming  
19.00 Vets: Gach Creutair Beò (rpt)  
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)  
19.50 Binneas – Na Trads (Tom Orr Scottish Dance Band) (rpt)  
20.00 An Là – News  
20.30 **UR | NEW:** An t-Eilean  
21.00 Am Fear Cinnidh Òg – The Young Clan Commander (rpt)  
22.00 MÒD 2018: Mod na Cloinne (rpt)  
23.30 Alleluia (rpt)

### DICIADAIN 24 AN DÀMHAIR WEDNESDAY 24 OCTOBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
19.00 An Solus Buan (rpt)  
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)  
19.55 Binneas – Na Trads (Tom Orr Scottish Dance Band) (rpt)  
20.00 An Là – News  
20.30 Dealbhan Fraoich (rpt)  
21.00 **UR | NEW:** MÒD 2018: Buinn Òir a' Chomuinn Ghàidhealaich  
23.20 Dhan Uisge (Firth of Forth) (rpt)  
23.30 Fonn mo Bheatha – Calum Màrtainn (rpt)

### DIARDAOIN 25 AN DÀMHAIR THURSDAY 25 OCTOBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
19.00 Vets: Gach Creutair Beò (rpt)  
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)  
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
20.00 An Là – News  
20.30 **UR | NEW:** Dreach Ùr  
21.00 **UR | NEW:** MÒD 2018: Buinn Òir an t-Seann Nòis  
23.20 Dhan Uisge (Isle of Arran) (rpt)  
23.30 An Sgrùdaire (rpt)  
23.45 Belladrum 2016: Cridhe Tartan – Gruff Rhys (rpt)



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## Hogmanay at The Nevis Centre

Bring in 2019 with music from Fergie MacDonald and a piper to bring in the bells

31st December 2018  
Doors 8:30pm  
Show 9:30pm - 1:00am  
Over 18s only\*  
Smart Dress Code  
Tickets £25

Tables of 8 Available  
Phone 01397 700707 to book

\*16-18s may be permitted if accompanied by parent/grandparent, please ask reception for more info



## Join The Big Quiz Night

Quiz lovers can enjoy a great night out and help raise vital cash to help communities across the world next month during this year's Oban Winter Festival.

The Big Quiz Night on Saturday November 17 is being organised by Oban Baptist Church and is taking place in the Corran Halls, with all money raised going to Tearfund.

The Christian charity has been helping communities overcome the worst effects of poverty and disasters for the past 50 years, working alongside local churches and other locally-based organisations in more than 50 countries to help people realise their

plans for a better future. The event will be mirrored up and down the country as churches and other groups take part in the biggest multi-venue, nationwide quiz ever.

Friends and families are being encouraged to enter teams of up to eight quizzers, with every pound raised helping to transform the lives of people living in poverty.

The event starts at 7pm when tea, coffee and snacks will be available, with the quiz kicking off at 7.45pm.

Tickets are £5 per person and are available from the Corran Halls, Oban, by calling 01631 567333.

# Lochaber fiddler's musical road trip

A unique musical collaboration between Canada and Scotland – two countries 3,000 miles apart connected by a bridge – is being featured on BBC Alba this weekend.

Fiddle players Colin Grant from Cape Breton and Ewen Henderson from Lochaber take a unique road trip in Scotland and Canada, a journey of musical inspiration and discovery where they ultimately showcase their music and shared heritage at a unique concert in Canada.

Cape Breton fiddle player Colin's infectious enthusiasm performance has made him a favourite on both sides of the Atlantic. He is joined by talented young Scottish fiddler Ewen, whose own musical roots are deeply embedded in the rich traditional music scene of Lochaber.

Together they take a unique



Ewan Henderson and Colin Grant, in sunglasses, will feature in a BBC Alba programme this weekend.

road trip, a personal journey for both, and a journey of musical inspiration and discovery.

They will seek out musical influences in landscape and people in Canada and Scotland, and connect with

musicians and people and place, and ultimately showcase their music and shared heritage at a unique concert as part of the international music festival, Celtic Colours in Canada.

The Bridge over the Atlantic

is a fitting celebration of common bonds and cultural connections, 150 years on since the birth of Canada as a country.

The programme goes out on Sunday October 21 at 9pm on BBC Alba.

## Jenna Campbell joined Slimming World in July 2017 and lost over 5st

### You can do it too.

“ Jenna enjoys Slimming World as she loves the huge support received at each class from Rhona and the class members. Taster days are one of Jenna's favourites as she gets to try new recipes which she goes on to try at home. Since losing 5 stone, Jenna has much more energy and feels great - thanks to Slimming World! ”



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SAMPLE  
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## The 'Lang' Lunch - A dram fine event

October 26th 2018

11:30am at the Ghillie Dhu, Edinburgh

### - WHISKY TASTING -



For tickets call: 0131 551 7936

## New fringe adds to fear factor at Faclan 2018

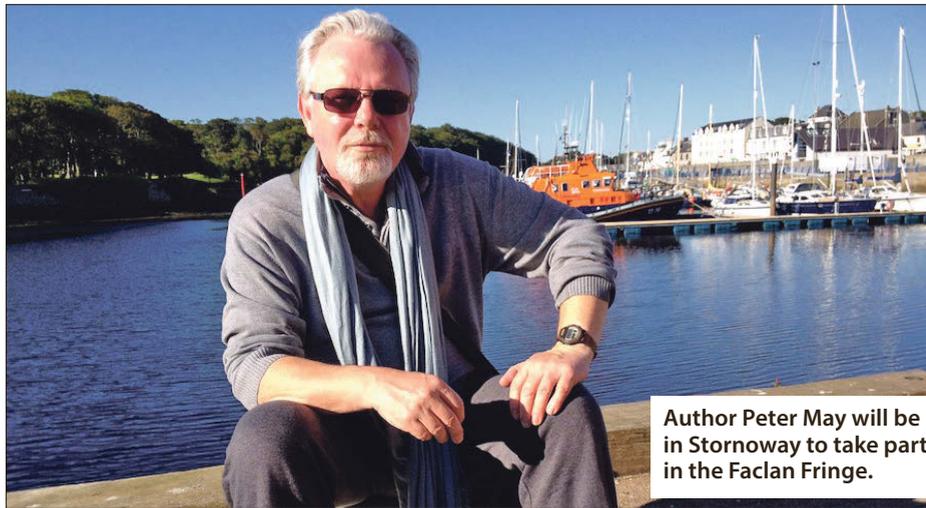
A new fringe programme will add to the excitement of this year's Faclan: the Hebridean Book Festival.

Supported by Outer Hebrides LEADER funding, the first Faclan Fringe, which will take place at An Lanntair on the Isle of Lewis, will consist of four events from November 1-3, complementing the festival's author events and film screenings, following this year's theme - 'fear'.

Crime writer Peter May will personally host a tour of locations from *The Blackhouse*, the first book in his internationally successful Lewis Trilogy.

Composer Jessica Danz will perform *Under the World*, an evening of original music and song at St Peter's Church in Stornoway, inspired by the archetypal story of the descent into the Underworld.

Maricruz Vasquez will create a Day of the Dead Mexican



Author Peter May will be in Stornoway to take part in the Faclan Fringe.

lunch in An Lanntair's café bar on Friday November 2.

The festival's closing party at An Lanntair, Monsters' Ball, will feature live music by Hebridean band the Howling Lords.

The Faclan Fringe is part of a new programme of festivals that will continue at An Lanntair until July 2020.

Faclan is one of the flagship cultural events at An Lanntair in Stornoway, and its uniquely dramatic location draws audiences and top-level authors from across the UK.

Faclan 2018's line-up includes Peter May and Malcolm Mackay, discussing Hebridean Noir; Sir Christopher Frayling

on the 200th anniversary of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* (following a screening of the classic 1931 film); Finlay Macleod on the true history of a semi-mythical 19th-century bogeyman who stalked the moors of Lewis and Harris; and Louise Welsh, who will reflect on the role of fear in her work.

In a very different approach to fear, Kathryn Mannix will explore the various taboos around death.

Other highlights include a Saturday night appearance by leading spoken word performer Hollie McNish, a screening of vampire classic *Nosferatu*, with a live piano score by Peter

Urpeth, and a tribute to the late Gaelic writer, playwright and storyteller Chrisella Ross.

In addition to the packed programme of author and musical events, there will be daytime film screenings throughout the festival, also focusing on the theme of Fear - *Psycho*, *Village of the Damned*, *The Cabinet of Dr Caligari*, *Rosemary's Baby*, *Schalcken the Painter*, *The Babadook*, and classic ghost story *Whistle and I'll Come to You*, which this year marks its 50th anniversary.

Faclan runs from October 31 to November 3. For full details, visit [www.lanntair.com/faclan](http://www.lanntair.com/faclan)

# Next month sees launch of Gaelic Schools Debate 2018

The announcement of the preliminary rounds of the National Gaelic Schools Debate competition has been made and the 2018 competition looks set to be another excellent year.

The first two rounds will be held at the town hall in Stornoway on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 6 and 7.

Last year, for the first time, the first rounds from Stornoway were available online, through e-Sgoil's YouTube channel and the

Deasbad Committee will be making sure that this year's first round will also be live-streamed to a potentially global audience.

Sixteen teams from 14 schools are due to compete. Following on from the positive feedback received from the new competition format, all the schools will participate in debates over the two days, with the four teams with the highest points, across the two days progressing to the final stages, which will be held in Edinburgh on Tuesday and

Wednesday, November 27 and 28.

Agnes Rennie and Boyd Robertson will join Iain Stephen Morrison as judges.

Calum Iain Macleod, chairman of the National Gaelic Schools' Debate management committee, said: 'It is hard to believe that almost 20 years have passed since the first Deasbad took place in Uist in 1999.'

'I would like to thank the following for their support: Bòrd na Gàidhlig, the Scottish Government, Skills

Development Scotland, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, The Highland Council, Glasgow City Council, Education Scotland and, for the first time, the Scottish Qualifications Authority.

'Following the success of the 2017 debate, which saw Calum MacLennan and John Alasdair Bain from the Nicolson Institute emerge as the worthy winners, a high level of competition was set and we look forward to another year of interesting and thought-provoking debates.'

## Your local radio listings Community Radio - your local radio station Tune in to 103.3 or listen live at [www.obanfm.com](http://www.obanfm.com)



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

**MONDAY:** 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 9.00 Monday Morning with Stephen, 11.00 Ian Simmonds on Monday, 17.00 Drivetime, 19.00 Rosie's Highland Fling with Rosie Macoll, 20.00 John McLuckie's Show, 21.00 David Cullen show, 23.00 Station close down

**TUESDAY:** 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 10.00 Ken Hunter's Tuesday Morning, 13.00 Macky on FM, 17.00 Drivetime Jim Lynch, 19.00 Highest Praise - Stuart Chalmers, 20.00 Archie Darlings' Mix, 22.00 Clyde 2

**WEDNESDAY:** 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 09.00 Sound Scottish Repeat, 10.00 Comfort Zone, Doug Carmichael, 11.00 Comfort Zone, 12.00 Comfort Zone, 17.00 Drivetime with Campbell, 19.00 Country Meets Rock & Roll - Len + Ken, 20.00 Country Meets Rock & Roll, 21.00 Gordon's Grooves with Gordon Macintyre

**THURSDAY:** 08.00 - 11.00 Breakfast with Andy and Sarah, 11.00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 13.00 Molly's Mix, 15.00 Drivetime with Stephen, 17.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 18.00 Drivetime with Stephen

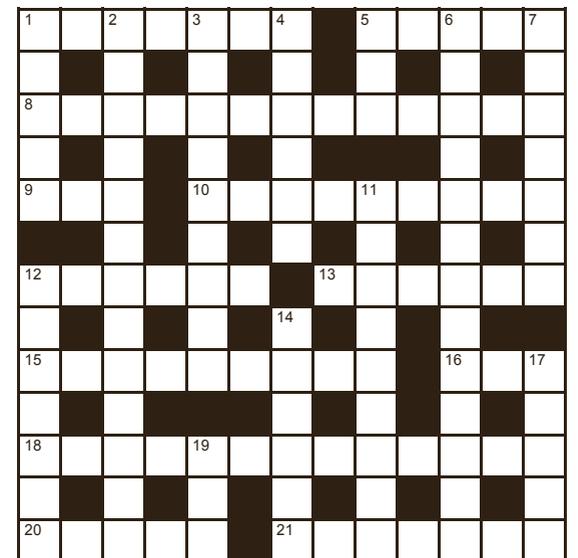
McPhee, 19.00 Christies Collection, 20.00 Christine's CD Collection, 21.00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22.00 Margo Till Midnight, 11.00 Margo Till Midnight

**FRIDAY:** 08.00 Breakfast Show with Laura, 10.00 Teeny and Tiny, 17.00 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 17.30 Drive Show, 18.45 Sports View, 19.00 Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig, 20.00 Lewis Bingham, 21.00 Peter Rainnie

**SATURDAY:** 08.00 Breakfast Show with Stephen, 10.00 Sat Morning Live, 11.00 Saturday Morning, 12.00 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crowsher, 12.03 Sat Morning Live, 12.05 Saturday Morning Live, 13.30 Clyde, 18.00 Sports View - Dream Team, 19.00 Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling, 20.00 Dave Lewis, 22.00 Margo Till Midnight

**SUNDAY:** 09.00 Sunday Morning With Breege, 10.00 Sunday Morning, 11.00 Sunday Brunch With Archie, 12.00 Sunday Brunch, 16.30 Archie Darling, 18.00 Ken's Friends - Ken Hunter, 19.00 New Country Show - David Entwistle, 21.00 Drum & Bass - Graham Scott, 23.00 Station Close Down

## Crossword



### Across

- 1 In a way (7)
- 5 'Giant Brain' computer (5)
- 8 Eminent (13)
- 9 Take a drink (3)
- 10 A member of an Irish political party (9)
- 12 Humans (6)
- 13 Small wooded hollow (6)
- 15 Light metal (9)
- 16 Tiny hair dwelling egg (3)
- 18 District (13)
- 20 Scoundrel (5)
- 21 Ones who gain pleasure from the pain of others (7)

### Down

- 1 Fizzy drinks (5)
- 2 Making in a factory (4-9)
- 3 Average people (3,6)
- 4 Conical tent (6)
- 5 Biblical priest (3)
- 6 Not having common parts (13)
- 7 The rise and fall of a voice (7)
- 11 Shone (9)
- 12 Diary (7)
- 14 Like wine (6)
- 17 Commotions (2-3)
- 19 Weeder (3)

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

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# Lochaber meeting will focus on fluke

The effective control of liver fluke in sheep will be the focus of the next Lochaber monitor farm meeting on Thursday November 1.

Chris and Malcolm Cameron run the 1,200-hectare Strone Farm, Lochaber's monitor farm, near Fort William.

They have seen liver fluke in their sheep for many years and, like many farmers in the area, are keen to minimise its effects in their flock of 550 North Cheviot ewes.

At the meeting on November 1, Matthew Colston, a ruminant technical consultant from ELANCO Animal Health, will give an overview of the problems liver fluke can cause in sheep and highlight practical steps farmers can take to minimise production losses from the parasite.

Mr Colston will also lead a discussion on the various fluke treatments available for both chronic and acute fluke infections in sheep and will be joined by Mairi Thom from

Crown Vets, who will explain how sheep farmers can test for fluke in their own flocks.

The main aim of the meeting is to focus the group on the benefits of strategic fluke testing which will ultimately result in better decision making.

'Establishing whether your farm has a liver fluke problem, using the right treatment product at the right time and managing your grazing tactically are all vital to effectively control fluke,' said Mr Colston.

'It is important for farmers to draw up a fluke control plan in conjunction with their vet or sheep adviser as each farm and time of year brings different fluke risks.'

Six farms in the Lochaber area, including Strone, are involved in a small trial to find the incidence of liver fluke in sheep in the area. They have started collecting faecal samples from small groups of lambs from their 2018 crop.

These samples will be screened for the presence of fluke eggs

and the results analysed in time for the meeting on November 1.

The same lambs will also have a more complex Coproantigen ELISA test on their faecal samples. This second test is able to detect fluke infection around two to three weeks earlier than the standard faecal egg count method and will help determine the exact fluke status in the sheep from these six farms.

The results of the trial will be shared at the meeting and the group can discuss potential treatment strategies for the farms involved.

The Lochaber monitor farm is one of nine in Scotland.

The meeting on November 1 will be at Strone farm at 11am and finish around 3.30pm. Lunch will be provided. To book your attendance, contact Niall Campbell or George Gauley on 01631 563093 or email fbsoban@sac.co.uk.

For more information about the monitor farms, visit [www.monitorfarms.co.uk](http://www.monitorfarms.co.uk)

## Around the markets

Dalmally – United Auctions on Friday October 12 sold 1071 suckled calves at their recent show and sale at Dalmally Auction Mart. An excellent show of quality bred stock was on offer to a very strong force of buyers. Bullocks sold to average £619 per head or 230 pence per kilo (- £9 per head or 5 pence per kilo). Heifers averaged £552 per head or 223 pence per kilo (+ £17 per head or 6 pence per kilo). The entry of calves consisted mainly of spring born calves. The show prior to the sale was judged by Mr A MacFadzean, Dalchomie Farm, Maybole and his awards were as follows: Autumn born bullocks: 1 st, 2 nd and 3 rd = M/s McVicar, Lephinchapel. Spring born bullocks: 1 st and 2 nd = M Hall, Tombuie. Spring born heifer: 1 st = M/s Taylor, Dall.

Shepherds' class: 1 st = Allan MacFadyen, Bragleenmore, 2 nd = Allan Stewart, Barguilean. Overall champion – M/s McVicar = autumn born bullock. Reserve overall – M Hall = spring born bullock. Principal lots and prices. Top prices per head

Bullocks  
AAx: £900(2) – Bragleenmore: £850 – Laggan Farms.  
BSx: £790(2) and £720 – Tiretigan.  
BRBx: £1010, £990 and £950 – Lephinchapel.  
BAX: £515(2) – Drumachar.  
CHARx: £1170 and £1110 – Lephinkill: £1000(3) – Ardbeg

: £940 – Lephinkill: £890(3) and £850(5) – Bragleenmore: £840(4) – Tiraghoil: £810(3) – Musdale: £800 – Bragleenbeg. GALx: £720(6) – Balliemeanoch.  
LIMx: £1050 – 16 Carnoch: £1010 – Tom Na Coille: £1000 – Tombuie: £930 – Strathlea and 16 Carnoch: £920 – Tom Na Coille: £900 – Tombuie.  
LUNGX: £650 – Laggan Farms. SALx: £790(4) and £780 – Machrins, Colonsay.  
SHx: £760 – Barnakill.  
SIMx: £970 – Dunans: £870 – Tiraghoil and Dunans(2).  
BG: £470(2) – Blackmount. Heifers  
AAx: £550 – Craigmore.  
BSx: £590 – Tiretigan(2) and Ardnacara.  
BAX: £440 – Drumachar.  
CHARx: £1070 and £930 – Lephinkill: £830(2) – Barnakill: £820 – Musdale: £810 – Bragleenmore.  
LIMx: £880 – Ardchatten HF: £870 – 16 Carnoch: £810 – Craigmore: £805 – Duncroisk.  
LUNGX: £780 and £750 – Laggan Farms.  
SALx: £650 – Machrins.  
SHx: £480(3) – Drumachar.  
SIMx: £840(2) – Dunans: £800 – Keilator(3) and Ardnacross.

Top prices per kilo.  
Bullocks  
AAx: 253p – High Balantyre: 249p(10) – Scotstown: 243p – Craig Farm: 238p(8) and 236p(7) – High Balantyre.  
BSx: 246p – Kiloran Farmers.  
BRBx: 297p, 294p, 260p, 259p and 250p – Lephinchapel.  
BAX: 240p(2) and 231p – Hillside Farm.

CHARx: 294p(8) – Ederline Estate: 285p(2) – Musdale Farm: 283p(10) – Ederline Estate: 269p(2) – Musdale Farm: 268p – Dunans: 258p(10) – Ederline Estate: 257p – Musdale Farm: 254p(7) – Dunans: 253p(6) – Bragleenbeg: 250p – Musdale Farm.  
LIMx: 292p(3) – Tom Na Coille: 291p – Dall: 277p(4) and 275p(2) – Kiloran Farmers: 269p(4) – Dall: 262p(4) – Craigmore: 262p(2) – Lochuisge: 260p – Tombuie: 259p(7) – Duncroisk: 256p – Kiloran Farmers: 255p(5) – Achallader: 254p – Strathlea and Craig(2): 252p(2) – Glenshellach: 250p(4) – Ardentraive.  
LUNGX: 243p – Laggan Farms.  
SALx: 277p – Kiloran Farmers: 260p(2) and 259p(4) – Machrins: 253p(4) – Brenchoille.  
SIMx: 277p – Kiloran Farmers: 267p(2) – Keilator: 266p(2) – Scallasaig: 263p(6) – Keilator: 261p(4) – Scallasaig: 259p(2) – Duncroisk: 252p(10) – Keilator. Heifers.  
AAx: 242p(6) – Scotstown.  
BSx: 215p – Ardnacara.  
BAX: 242p(7) – Hillside Farm.  
CHARx: 274p(12) – Laggan Farms: 268p(11) – Dunans: 264p(11) and 256p(15) – Ederline Estate: 253p – Bragleenmore: 251p – Ederline Estate(7) and Bragleenbeg(7).  
LIMx: 257p – Tombuie and Auch Estate(2): 246p(2) – Kengharair: 239p(5) – Duncroisk: 237p(6) – Dall.  
LUNGX: 187p – Laggan Farms.  
SALx: 217p(2) – Machrins Farm.  
SHx: 203p(3) – Drumachar.  
SIMx: 304p(3) and 298p(5) – Keilator: 283p(4) and 274p – Auch Estate: 263p(3) – Scallasaig: 253p(2) – Keilator: 251p(2) – Kiloran Farmers: 250p(2) – Auch Estate.  
Oban – United Actions on Wednesday October 10 held their annual sale of all classes rams and ram lambs at Oban Livestock Centre. There were less animals forward on the year when 196 was sold. Quality bred sheep of all breeds were keenly bid for whilst plainer sorts were hard to cash. Principal lots and prices. Shearlings  
BF: £720 – Saulmore: £700 – Drissaig: £680 – Drimsynie: £620 – Arnicle: £550 – Drissaig: £520 – Drimsynie.  
CHEV: £780 – Attonburn: £600 – Ardnacross: £550 and £480 – Commonsides: £450 and £420 – Woodside.  
SUFF: £500, £480 and £420

**Morris Leslie**  
PLANT AUCTIONS

UNRESERVED DISPERSAL AUCTION OF AGRICULTURAL, DRAINAGE MACHINES & EQUIPMENT

10:30am Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2018  
Mains of Arthurstone Farm, Meigle, Blairgowrie, Perth PH12 8QY

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**FAS Succession Workshop**

SRDP Farm Advisory Service

National Advice Hub  
T: 0300 323 0161  
E: [advice@fas.scot](mailto:advice@fas.scot)  
W: [www.fas.scot](http://www.fas.scot)

**Date** Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018  
**Time** 7.30pm  
**Venue** Cairnbaan Hotel, Lochgilphead, PA31 8SQ

Alastair Dale is a lawyer with Dales Solicitors in Galston, Ayr. He will discuss Succession within farming families, the pitfalls and problems as well as repercussions.

Andy Ritchie from Campbell Dallas Chartered Accountants will also be on hand to answer any questions, and will highlight the need to ensure accounts are up to date and what the tax implications may be. This event is free.

Booking is essential. Please book your place by contacting SAC Campbelltown on 01586 552502, alternatively you can book on the FAS website, [www.fas.scot](http://www.fas.scot)

The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development  
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SAC CONSULTING

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– Woodside.  
BFL: £500 – Arnicle : £480 –  
Ardchatten : £450 and £400  
– Arnicle.  
BELT: £300 – Maidencoates.  
TEX: £550 – Achnaba : £420 –  
Fanmore and Barcaldine HF.  
CROSS: £750, £600(2) and  
£550(3) – Dalchirla.  
Lambs.  
BFL: £500 and £350  
– Drimsynie.  
TEX: £420, £400, £380 and  
£300 – Barcaldine HF.  
BF: £300 – Outerwards : £250 –  
Tayvallich Estate.  
Fort William – Dingwall and  
Highland Marts on Saturday  
October sold 293 weaned calves  
and store cattle, 33 OTM cattle  
and 5 adult head of breeding  
cattle.  
Bullocks (183) averaged 196.8p  
and sold to 244.9p per kg for a  
pen of 245kg Limousin crosses  
from Blarmafoldach, Fort  
William, and £970 gross twice  
for a 550kg Aberdeen Angus  
cross from Muirshairlich,  
Banavie, and for a 560kg  
Simmental cross from 2 and 3  
Kinloid, Arisaig.  
Heifers (104) averaged 174.7p  
and sold to 222.2p per kg for a  
pen of 225kg Limousin crosses  
from Keppoch Farms, Roy  
Bridge, and £860 gross for a  
495kg Limousin cross from  
Drumbuie, Drumnadrochit.  
Young bulls (6) sold to 236.4p  
per kg for a 165kg for a  
Limousin cross from Branault,  
Acharacle, and £470 gross for a  
370kg Simmental cross from 1  
Kinsadel, Morar.  
Breeding cattle (5) sold to £900  
gross for a Charolais cross cow



**Champion calf at United Auctions annual show and sale of suckled calves at Dalmally auction market – a Limousin cross Belgian Blue calf from FDA and; D McVicar Lephinchapel farm, Cairndow.** Photograph: Kevin McGlynn

with a male calf at foot from  
Culmill, Kiltarlity.  
OTM cattle (33) sold to 148.2p  
per kg and £830 gross for a  
560kg Aberdeen Angus cross  
cow from Corpach, Fort  
William, and other leading  
prices per head and per kg  
Bullocks up to 200kg –  
National Trust, Isle of  
Canna, £410, Ardtornish  
Farms, Morven, 218.2p;  
201-250kg – Keppoch Farms,  
£590, 6 Bracara, Morar, and  
Keppoch Farms, 241.9p;  
251-300kg – 6 Bracara, £630,  
242.3p; 351-400kg – Distillery  
Houses, Carbost, £600, 8, 9,  
and 10 Cuilchenna, Onich,  
176.3p; 401-450kg – 7 Back of  
Keppoch, Arisaig, £800, 192.8;  
451-500kg – 2 and 3 Kinloid,  
£800, 165.0p.  
Heifers up to 200kg – 8

Cuichuirn, Swordale, £420,  
215.4p; 201-250kg – Insh  
Farm, Spean Bridge, £510,  
221.7p; 251-300kg – Keppoch  
Farms, Roy Bridge, £590,  
Insh Farm, 219.6p; 301-  
350kg – Achnaconeran Croft,  
Invermoriston, £600, 193.6p;  
351-400kg – 4 Muirshairlich,  
Banavie, £650, 171.1p;  
401-450kg – 4 Stronaba, Spean  
Bridge, £720, 177.8p.  
Other leading prices per head  
OTM cows: Achnaconeran  
Croft, (LimX), £730;  
Ardtornish Farms, (SimX),  
£710; Moy Farm, Banavie,  
(AAX), £670; Ardtornish  
Farms, (ShoX), £650.  
Other leading prices per kg  
OTM cows: Ardtornish Farms,  
(LimX), 110.6p; Moy Farm,  
(AAX), 107.2p; Ardtornish  
Farm, (SimX), 106.8p.



Steven and David Gordon.

## Gordon Agri Scotland Ltd are newly appointed Zetor dealers

Gordon Agri Scotland Ltd are delighted to announce that they have been appointed official and authorised Zetor dealers for West Central Scotland and Stirlingshire.

Zetor have a comprehensive range of models from the Crystal, Forterra, Proxima and Major serving the 60HP to 160HP agricultural sector. More recently, Zetor have introduced the Utilix and Hortus range to serve grounds care and commercial applications.

Steven and David Gordon were keen to point out: 'As an established agricultural dealership in this area we look forward to securing the continued custom of the Zetor users. It's an

exciting time for our company, as the Zetor brand offers a comprehensive range of tractors that will allow us to further support our customer's needs.'

Hamish Watson from Zetor UK commented: 'We are pleased to appoint Gordon Agri Scotland Ltd to represent Zetor in the central belt of Scotland. They are a well organised dealership combining experience and expertise that will represent Zetor core values well.'

They are running some excellent introductory offers including low-rate finance. So contact them today to view the range of Zetor tractors or to arrange a demo.

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### Dispenishing sale of tractors, implements and small tools

Massey Ferguson 5445 Dyna 4 tractor c/w loader (58 reg) 3796 hrs; New Holland T5060 tractor c/w Quicke loader & loader attachments (09 reg) 4412 hrs; New Holland 2wd 5635 tractor (1997 reg); creeper box; Ford 4600 2wd tractor (V reg); International 585 tractor (C90 KGG); Lely Splendimo mower conditioner 281pc; Honda 350 2wd quad bike; Marshall QM6 silage trailer 6.5 tonnes; 6 tonne dump trailer; JCB 3CX digger (B reg); Sward lifter Opico 3 leg (2010) good original condition; Claas 46 round baler; Dowdeswell 3 furrow reversible plough; West 1300 dual dung spreader; Lely 3m power harrows c/w rear linkage & Flexicoil; Fiona West Mac 3m mounted seed drill; Redrock slurry pump, PTO driven, 9ft; Teagle XT48 2400 fertiliser spreader; Kay double axle 5 tonne grain trailer; New Holland 274 square baler; Lely Hayzip haybob; Vicon mounted acrobat; Fleming twin bale lifter; Pottinger 2 drum mower 2.3 m; mounted D44 hedge cutter, poweram with hedge flail head; homemade 4 round bale transporter & stacker; cement mixer 3 point linkage; drum mixer; Jarmet 12m sprayer 600 litres; New Holland 1530 combine with 10ft header; Ransome 2 row potato digger; Ransome Faun potato planter; Massey Ferguson 38 grubber 3 drill plough; Ransome non reversible plough; bale sledge; 5 leaf diamond harrows; diesel tank 2500 litres; Major slurry tanker 1100 gallons; 9 tonne bagged lime; 3 tonne PR fertiliser; approx. 50 bales straw; 70 bales feeding straw; 115 round bales silage; 16 packs rock salt licks; Kubota G1700 4ft ride-on lawn mower; single leg subsoiler; bale handler; set of dual wheels; potato riddle Tong grader; portable welder; Keenan Compac 70 feeder (in need of repair); Dirt Driver pressure washer; Ifor Williams livestock trailer (old); 8ft water balanced heavy roller; 10ft Cambridge roller; 3 gang flat rollers; Teagle 808S Tomahawk mounted hydraulic bedder; Major 8ft offset topper, good working order; Kverneland 3 furrow non reversible plough; Quicke bale squeeze; bale spike for loader; Perry bale sledge; Lawrence Edwards bale wrapper; 7.5ft grain bucket for tractor; homemade 1.2m front press; Lister sheep shears; 4 galvanised double cattle troughs; 2 cattle ring feeders; cattle hurdles; assorted metal (4 beams); various small tools; barrels of hydraulic & engine oil  
Inputs: 14 tonne Marshall trailer; JCB JS130 (2001); Barford low loader (2017) Ford 7610 Force 2 tractor (MJH 646X) with Quicke 4560 loader and forks; Leyland 255 tractor (OGS 541M) mint condition; Case 1394 hydroshift tractor (B770 DNS) with Quicke 2030 loader and graip mint condition; Mengele SH25 forage harvester

Sale to commence with small tools etc at 11am. Terms of Sale – Cash

All intending purchasers please register at office prior to sale. All sales are subject to UA Livestock Limited's Terms and Conditions. Bidders and purchasers shall be deemed to have full knowledge of these Terms and Conditions and by taking part and bidding in any auction you agree to be bound by the Terms and Conditions, copies of the Terms and Conditions are available on request

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<b>Zetor Proxima 120HS 4WD</b> , Brand New, c/w ZX3.1P Loader, 120HP.....	£41,495
<b>Zetor Major 80CL 4WD</b> , Brand New, c/w ZL26 loader, 60HP, 30K.....	£32,995
<b>Massey Ferguson 5445 4WD</b> , 2010, c/w MF loader, 40k, 95HP.....	£28,995
<b>Zetor Major 80 4WD</b> , 2015, c/w Trima X21 loader, Only 844 hours.....	£24,495
<b>Claas Celtis 446 RX</b> , 4WD, 2008, c/w Quicke Q41 6ft bucket.....	£22,995
<b>Case JX1090U 4WD</b> , 2007, c/w Quicke Q45 loader / bucket.....	£21,495
<b>Massey Ferguson 5455 4WD</b> , 2004, 95HP, air con, 80% tyres.....	£18,495
<b>Renault Celtis 446</b> , 4WD, 2004, c/w Maillieux MX80 loader, 90HP.....	£19,995
<b>Kubota ME8200 4wd</b> , 2007, c/w Kubota LA1251 loader.....	£18,995
<b>Kubota ME5700 4WD</b> , 2008, c/w Kubota loader/bucket, hyd shuttle.....	£18,495
<b>Kubota ME5700 4WD</b> , 2008, only 2700 recorded hours.....	£18,495
<b>Renault Ceres 335 X 4WD</b> , 2002, c/w Maillieux MX75 loader.....	£16,495
<b>Zetor 7341 4WD</b> , c/w Quicke loader / pallet forks, 2004.....	£15,495
<b>Zetor 5340 4WD</b> , c/w Trima loader / bucket, 2003.....	£13,995
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<b>Case 4230 4WD</b> , 1996, 1 owner from new.....	£11,995
<b>Massey Ferguson 390 2WD</b> , 80HP, 1990, 80HP, 2 spools, PUH.....	£9,995
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<b>JCB 8014 Mini Excavator</b> , 2013, 1.5 tons, 3 buckets.....	£12,595
<b>Kubota KX41 Mini Digger</b> , 2009, 1.7-ton, c/w 3 buckets.....	£10,495
<b>Thwaites 1 Ton Hi Tip Dumper</b> , 2014, AWD.....	£9,795
<b>JCB 8008 Micro Excavator</b> , 2012, ROPS bar, choice of 3.....	£8,295
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# Dacia Sandero named best small hatchback in Honest John Satisfaction Index 2018

- Sandero tops Honest John Satisfaction Survey of 10,000 car owners in small hatchback class
- Dacia overall comes third in the list of best performing manufacturers
- Sandero praised for its build quality, comfort and practicality
- The Dacia Sandero is still the UK's most affordable car, starting at £6,995

The Dacia Sandero has been named as the best performing small hatchback in the Honest John Satisfaction Index 2018. The Sandero came out on top in the small hatch class with an impressive satisfaction rating of 93.8 per cent.

Dacia was third overall in the list of best performing car manufacturers with a score 89.3 per cent.

Daniel Powell, managing editor of HonestJohn.co.uk, said: 'Proof that cutting costs doesn't mean cutting corners on quality, the Dacia Sandero is the UK's best performing hatchback in the Honest John Satisfaction Index 2018, with drivers giving it an outstand-

ing 9.89 out of 10 for reliability. Easy to drive, comfortable and practical, owners also rate the Sandero as a bargain with excellent build quality and affordable running costs.'

Based on the feedback of 10,000 car owners, they were asked to rate their cars in a variety of important areas, with drivers scoring them for reliability, ride comfort, fuel economy, practicality and performance. Owners also ranked their cars for build quality, ease of use, safety and repair costs.

Louise O'Sullivan, head of Dacia UK, said: 'The Sandero epitomises what we are all about at Dacia. This latest recognition by our owners shows why the car is so loved and why it really sums up our slogan "You Do The Maths" by providing an unbeatable combination of quality and affordability.'

The Dacia Sandero starts at just £6,995, making it the most affordable new car on sale in the UK. Demonstrating that the Sandero is not just about an extremely affordable price are the numerous awards it has picked up – notably What Car?'s Best Small Car up to £12,000 for the past six years.

To find out more about the Dacia Sandero please visit WD Semple, Shore Street, Inveraray or all 01499 302150



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66 Renault Captur, DYN DCi NAV, 120,Black, 18,00 miles .....	£12,250
66 Dacia Sandero Leu Dci silver 6,000 miles .....	£8,950
66 Renault Clio S Nav DCi-90 Mars red, 11,000 miles .....	£12,200
66 Renault Clio 1.2 Dyn Nav white, 14,000 miles .....	£9,750
65 Renault Captur Tce, DYN NAV, Cream, 18,500 miles .....	£10,250
65 Dacia Sandero LAU Prime Tce, Blue, 29,000 miles .....	£6,500
65 Renault Twingo S Ce, Blue, 23,000 miles .....	£6,250
64 Renault Captur TCE DYN NAV, Cream, 12,000 miles .....	£9,350
64 Renault Clio DYN TCE Red 16,000 miles .....	£7,500
14 Skoda Rapid TDi white, 27,000 miles .....	£6,950
13 Renault Megan DYN DCi TOMTOM EST Car, Black, 75,000 miles .....	£5,750
62 BMW Series SPH 1.6, Black, 48,000 miles .....	£8,950
62 Fiat Panda lounge, 1.2, white, 55,000 miles .....	£3,950
59 Peugeot 207 HDi EST, Silver, 61,000 miles .....	£3,950
09 Suzuki jimny JLX Plus, Grey, 58,000 miles .....	£4,850

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- 2007 VAUXHALL ASTRA, AUTO, PETROL, 1.8** - 4dr, 75K miles, years MOT, VGC. **£1,950**

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**Closing date: 16th November 2018**



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5 Cuilchenna, Kilmallie  
0.126 ha – Site for a  
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91661

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 16/11/18. Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, info@crofting.gov.scot

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W Guy  
7 Bunacaimb, Arisaig & Moidart  
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**Argyll and Bute Council**

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Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
18/02031/PP	Removal of existing timber chalet and erection of replacement lodge	Dhiseig, Gribun, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute PA68 6EJ
18/02124/PP	Change of use of self catering flat into beauty salon	Fletcher Terrace, 28A Main Street, Tobermory, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute PA75 6NU
18/02103/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 2, Land South West Of Macaulays Cottage, Kilchrenan, Argyll And Bute
18/02143/PP	Upgrading of existing access track to serve telecommunications equipment compound	Land South East Of Garaphail Farm, Cornaigmore, Isle Of Tiree, Argyll And Bute
18/01458/PP	Erection of garage for mountain rescue ambulance	Land North Of Recreation Ground At Nantbank, Taynuilt, Argyll And Bute
18/01745/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of sewage treatment plant and formation of vehicular access (amended design relative to planning permission reference 17/02951/PP)	Land South Of Lochnell Lodge, Kilmore, Oban, Argyll And Bute
18/02108/PP	Installation of air source heat pump system comprising 5 units and new heating system internally	Kilbrandon Church, Balvicar, Isle Of Seil, Argyll And Bute
18/02130/PP	Change of use from dwellinghouse to house of multiple occupation	10 Aldersyde, Taynuilt, Argyll And Bute PA35 1AG
18/02087/PP	Formation of vehicular access, bus parking area and turning circle	Kilbowie Residential Education Centre, Gallanach Road, Oban, Argyll And Bute PA34 4PE
18/02144/PP	Variation of condition 2 and removal of condition 3 of planning permission 16/01449/PP (Transit Berthing Facility comprising; pontoons, breakwater, landing platform, access bridges, intermediate platform, pile guides, access gate, waste bins and temporary construction compound) – in relation to permitted time period for vessels to berth and submission of engineering evidence for over wintering of vessels	North Of North Pier And West Of The Corran Esplanade, Oban Bay, Oban, Argyll And Bute
18/02017/PP	Erection of 2 holiday letting units and store	Land Between Bayview Cottage And Wyvern, Lochdon, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute
18/02107/LIB	Installation of air source heat pump system comprising 5 units and new heating system internally	Kilbrandon Church, Balvicar, Isle Of Seil, Argyll And Bute
18/02064/PP	Erection of storage building	Kilchoman Distillery, Bruichladdich, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute PA49 7UT
18/02040/PP	Installation of vent	60 Frederick Crescent, Port Ellen, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute PA42 7BD

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 Councils website.

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

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

Comhairle Earra – Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



**MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010  
INSTALLATION OF SUBMARINE CABLE  
UPPER LOCH ETIVE, ARGYLL**

Notice is hereby given that Green Highland Renewables has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of the installation of a submarine cable at: Taynuilt post Office, Main Street, Taynuilt, PA35 1JE.

Cost	£1,000,000	
Location	Latitude	Longitude
Upper Loch Etive, Argyll	56° 29.372' N	005° 08.193' W
	56° 29.401' N	005° 08.265' W
	56° 30.140' N	005° 08.190' W
	56° 30.260' N	005° 08.183' W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Taynuilt Post Office, Taynuilt, Argyll, PA35 1JE.

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email to: [MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot](mailto:MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot), quoting reference: 06760 and Green Highland Renewables

**Fair Processing Notice**

The Scottish Government's Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) determine applications for marine licences under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. During the consultation process any person having an interest in the outcome of the application may make representation to MS-LOT. The representation may contain personal information, for example a name or address. This representation will only be used for the purpose of determining an application and will be stored securely in the Scottish Government's official corporate record. Representations will be shared with the applicant and/or agent acting on behalf of the applicant, any people or organisations that we consult in relation to the application and, where necessary, be published online, however personal information will be removed before sharing or publishing.

A full privacy notice can be found at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine/PrivacyNotice>. If you are unable to access this, or you have any queries or concerns about how your personal information will be handled, contact MS-LOT at: [ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot](mailto:ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot) or Marine Scotland - Licensing Operations Team, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB.

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# PUBLIC NOTICES



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**TRANSPORT SCOTLAND**

**MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010**

**BRIDGE MAINTENANCE WORKS, CONNELL BRIDGE, A828, OBAN**

Notice is hereby given that BEAR Scotland Ltd has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of bridge maintenance works at:

Location	Latitude	Longitude
	Co-ordinates	Co-ordinates
Connell Bridge	56° 27.464 'N	005° 23.534 'W
	56° 27.466 'N	005° 23.520 'W
	56° 27.282 'N	005° 23.442 'W
	56° 27.281 'N	005° 23.455 'W

**(WGS84)**

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at

**The Post Office, Connel Village Store, Connel**

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to: Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email to: MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot, quoting reference: **06780** and **BEAR Scotland Ltd.**

**FAIR PROCESSING NOTICE**

The Scottish Government's Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) determine applications for marine licences under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. During the consultation process any person having an interest in the outcome of the application may make representation to MS-LOT. The representation may contain personal information, for example a name or address. This representation will only be used for the purpose of determining an application and will be stored securely in the Scottish Government's official corporate record. Representations will be shared with the applicant and/or agent acting on behalf of the applicant, any people or organisations that we consult in relation to the application and, where necessary, be published online, however personal information will be removed before sharing or publishing. A full privacy notice can be found at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine/PrivacyNotice>. If you are unable to access this, or you have any queries or concerns about how your personal information will be handled, contact MS-LOT at: [ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot](mailto:ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot) or Marine Scotland - Licensing Operations Team, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB.



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**TRANSPORT SCOTLAND**

**MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010**

**BRIDGE MAINTENANCE WORKS, BALLACHULISH BRIDGE, A82, BALLACHULISH**

Notice is hereby given that BEAR Scotland Ltd has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of bridge maintenance works at:

Location	Latitude	Longitude
	Co-ordinates	Co-ordinates
Ballachulish Bridge	56° 41.429 'N	005° 10.954 'W
	56° 41.431 'N	005° 10.933 'W
	56° 41.261 'N	005° 10.930 'W
	56° 41.262 'N	005° 10.955 'W

**(WGS84)**

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at

**The Post Office, Loanfern, Ballachulish**

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to: Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email to: MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot, quoting reference: **06779** and **BEAR Scotland Ltd.**

**FAIR PROCESSING NOTICE**

The Scottish Government's Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) determine applications for marine licences under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. During the consultation process any person having an interest in the outcome of the application may make representation to MS-LOT. The representation may contain personal information, for example a name or address. This representation will only be used for the purpose of determining an application and will be stored securely in the Scottish Government's official corporate record. Representations will be shared with the applicant and/or agent acting on behalf of the applicant, any people or organisations that we consult in relation to the application and, where necessary, be published online, however personal information will be removed before sharing or publishing. A full privacy notice can be found at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine/PrivacyNotice>. If you are unable to access this, or you have any queries or concerns about how your personal information will be handled, contact MS-LOT at: [ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot](mailto:ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot) or Marine Scotland - Licensing Operations Team, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB.



Form G3  
NOTICE TO  
Cameron Stewart  
MacLeod

Court ref. no.  
OBN-F26-18

An action has been raised in Oban Sheriff Court by William Gerald Flynn, Pursuer, calling as a Defender Cameron Stewart MacLeod whose last known address was Tigh Na Buith, Port Appin PA38 4DE. If Cameron Stewart MacLeod wishes to defend the action or make any claim or seek an order he should immediately contact the Sheriff Clerk at Oban Sheriff Court, Sheriff Court House, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AL from whom the service copy initial writ may be obtained. If he fails to do so decree may be granted against him.

Roger Mackenzie,  
Digby Brown LLP, 2  
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Glasgow, G2 1RW  
Solicitor for the  
Pursuer

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# PUBLIC NOTICES

## Assignment Notice

NEIL MACCALLUM is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to assign the tenancy of the grazing share pertaining to the croft at 1 Balephuill (Share), Balephetrish, Tìree in the Balephuill Common Grazings to Tearlach MacDonald of Main Road Farm, Balephuill, Isle of Tìree, PA77 6UE. Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW, info@crofting.gov.scot within 28 days from the date of this advert.

## Proposed Sublet of a Croft/\* Part of a Croft by a Tenant

Neil Bruce Bannatyne is applying to sublet the whole croft at Ard-minish Croft, Gigha and Cara to Hazel Astra Smethurst of 8 Gri-anan, Isle of Gigha, PA41 7AE for ten years. Written comments from this with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to:

Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, info@crofting.gov.scot within 28 days from the date of the advert.

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](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
18/04648/FUL	Leanachan Forest	Torlundy, Fort William	Proposal to construct and operate a run-of-river hydro scheme on Allt Leachdach and Allt Beinn Chlianaig
18/04647/FUL	Land At Leanachan Forest	Torlundy, Fort William	Proposal to construct and operate a run-of-river Hydro scheme on Allt Coire An Eoin
18/04646/FUL	Land 2460M SE Of Aonach Mor House,	9 Forestry Houses, Torlundy, Fort William	Proposal to construct and operate a run-of-river Hydro scheme on the Allt Daim
18/04687/FUL	Lochybank, Camaghael	Fort William	Installation of 2 pods for holiday accommodation
18/04649/FUL	Land To West Of Allt Na Lairige	7220M NW Of Station House, Corroul	Installation of hydro-electricity scheme, including intake structure, buried pipeline, powerhouse, borrow pits, construction compounds, laydown and storage areas, bridge and access tracks
18/04611/FUL	Carrs Corner,	Lochybridge, Fort William	Erection and operation of an asphalt plant for the production and dispatch of coated roadstone for highway maintenance

### Time period for comments is 14 days

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

www.highland.gov.uk



## THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017

The Council has received the following applications from SIMEC Hydropower Allt Daim Ltd (18/04646/FUL), SIMEC Hydropower Allt Coire An Eoin Ltd (18/04647/FUL) and SIMEC Hydropower Allt Leachdach Ltd (18/04648/FUL). The applications are developments falling within the Regulations as Environmental Impact Assessment development and accordingly are supported by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

Reference Number	Description	Location
18/04646/FUL	Construct a run-of-river Hydro scheme on the Allt Daim	Land 2460M SE of Aonach Mor House, 9 Forestry Houses, Torlundy, Fort William
18/04647/FUL	Construct a run-of-river Hydro scheme on the Allt Coire An Eoin	Land at Leanachan Forest, Torlundy, Fort William
18/04648/FUL	Construct a run-of-river Hydro scheme on the Allt Leachdach and Allt Beinn Chlianaig	Land at Leanachan Forest, Torlundy, Fort William
18/04649/FUL	Construction of run-of-river Hydro scheme on the Allt Na Lairige	Land 7220m NW of Station House, Corroul

The applications and the accompanying Environmental Impact Assessment Reports are available for public inspection between the hours of 9.30am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 4.30pm Monday to Friday at the following location:

**Service Point, Charles Kennedy Building, Achintore Road, Fort William, PH33 6RQ**

They can also be accessed online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/> (search using the application numbers above).

Printed copies of the complete individual Environmental Impact Assessment Reports can be purchased from SIMEC GHR Ltd, per Jayson Drummond, Inveralmond Road, Inveralmond Industrial Estate, Perth PH1 3TW; e-mail [info@greenhighland.co.uk](mailto:info@greenhighland.co.uk): at a cost of £400.00 each for paper copies and £20 each for CD.

Any person who wishes to make a representation on the applications and Environmental Impact Assessment Reports can make them online by visiting <http://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/> or by writing to The Head of Planning and Building Standards, ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX. The deadline for receipt of comments is 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

The Council will acknowledge receipt of comments but is unable to respond individually to points or questions raised. Please note that your comments will be published online. Please quote the application reference numbers in your correspondence.

**Stuart Black**  
Director of Development and Infrastructure

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## LEDAIG MOTORS & LEDAIG LEISURE Benderloch

We would like to advise our customers that fuel sales will cease permanently in December, the Outdoor Shop will be closing down on 21st December until April 2019 and the workshop will be closing down at the end of October. After eight years of delivering great service to our many customers Damian will be leaving to join the team at Gunn's Garage, Appin. Lewis and Heather are looking forward to semi retirement and would like to sincerely thank their many loyal customers for all their support over the last forty six years.

Applications are being sought by the trustees of the Miss Agnes Angus Bequest fund from organisations in Oban looking for funding to support activities which meet the criteria of this fund.

The purpose of the Miss Agnes Angus Bequest is to support schemes of lasting public improvement and for the benefit and advantage of the community of Oban.

Applications should be made in writing and submitted to Ms A Macdougall, Argyll and Bute Council, Strategic Finance, Whitegates, Lochgilphead, PA31 8SY by 5th November 2018 and should be accompanied by a current set of audited accounts and bank statement.

# West Coast CLASSIFIEDS

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# Private sales free listings for items under £100

## Antiques and Collectables

BESWICK china Shetland pony, excellent condition, £30 Telephone 01246 456063.

## Audio Equipment

ALBA PORTABLE STEREO CD player/radio. Never used. Still in box, £15 Telephone 01880 820750.

## Baby Equipment

FEEDING CHAIR Redkite 'Feed Me' 350 solid beech adjustable chair, £20 Telephone 07709 150864.

HIGH CHAIR folding - Mamas and Papas. Excellent condition. jkglas@gmail.com, £15 Telephone 01631 566963.

## Bathroom

SHOWER CURTAIN RAIL telescopic white shower curtain rail, 110 - 245cm, brand new, still in packet, £15 Telephone 07708 587388.

## Bicycles

CHILD'S BIKE Ralieg Megamax. Suit 6/7 yr old, purple, 5speed gears, £5 Telephone 07709 150864.

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FIREARMS FOR SALE - Swarovski 10x42 EL,VGC, £800; Swarovski 8.5x42 EL, as new, £950; Swarovski 10x42 SLC HD,VGC £900. FAC required. Telephone 07990 886646.

## Furniture

CHEST OF DRAWERS solid wood, 67w x 42d x 95h cm, £30 Telephone 07709 150864.

KINGSIZE HEADBOARD gold metal frame, £15 Telephone 07708 587388.

MODERN WARDROBE 137cm wide x 222cm high x 61cm deep. Dismantled for easy transport. Photos available , £49 Telephone 07966 435245.

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VINTAGE LAWN ROLLERS cast iron and decorative, for working use or colourful garden feature, various sizes from £90, Telephone 01631 564578.

## Health and Fitness

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### PERSONAL

## THANK YOU

Christine and Bill McKillop would like to thank everyone for the lovely cards, gifts and flowers they received for their 60th wedding anniversary.

## DEATHS

**GALLOWAY** - Peacefully, at the home of her daughter, Radnor Park, Clydebank, on October 10, 2018, Isabella Shaw Gilchrist McCulloch (Ella), in her 97th year, formerly of Bonawe Quarries and Croft View, North Connel, dearly beloved wife of the late William Galloway, much loved mother of Elma and Sandra, mother-in-law of Jim and Tam, and a loving grandmother and great-grandmother.

**MACDONALD** - Peacefully, at Erskine Home, Bishopton, Glasgow, on Thursday, October 4, 2018, Catherine (Kitty) Cameron Macdonald (née MacLean), aged 100 years. Beloved wife of the late Archie Macdonald of Glenfinnan and Glasgow. Much loved mother of Cameron, Catherine and Gillian, and a dear mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral Service to be held at 3 pm on Friday, October 19, 2018 at St. Mary and St. Finnan R.C. Church, Glenfinnan, thereafter to Dail Naoinh Cemetery, Glenfinnan. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Glenfinnan Community Project can be made at the Church door.

**McDOUGALL** - Peacefully at home in Mansefield, Port Ellen, Islay, with his family by his side, Dugald (Dugie) in his 97th year, beloved husband of the late Chirsty, and much loved and loving father of Effie, Mary and Susan, Seanair to Michael and father-in-law to Graeme and Andrew. Funeral service took place on Saturday, October 13 at St John's Church, Port Ellen. Gad ionndrainn.

**SCOTT** - Peacefully, at the Lynn of Lorne Care Home, Benderloch, on Friday, October 12, 2018, aged 82 years, Leonard, beloved husband of Christine, loving father of Mark, Michael and Sally, respected father-in-law to Mandy, Tracy and Alister, adored granddad of Peter, Lauren, Scott, Ryan and James. Service will take place at Cardross Crematorium, on Friday, October 19, 2018 at 12.15 p.m. Family flowers only please.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**KERR** - Sarah, Andrew, Jennifer and Lesley warmly thank everyone for support, flowers, cards, personal messages and home baking received following the sad loss of Ian. Heartfelt thanks to the exceptional carers, district nurses, Macmillan and Marie Curie nurses who looked after Ian so well. Special thanks to Rev. D. Cameron and Rev. C. Fulcher for the comforting service and for their home visits. Thanks to all who attended at church and graveside, to staff at Soroba Hotel, to all at Hamish Hoey and to Moreen Gracie. The substantial sum given in donations will be divided between our chosen charities. God bless you all.

**MACALLUM** - Sean, Darren, Bradley, Cathy, Wilma, nieces and nephews would like to thank the people of Tiree and beyond for the help and support shown to them following the sudden, tragic loss of Allan (Lala), who will be greatly missed by many. Thanks go to Rev Alan Miller for the service and to Iain MacKinnon (Hillcrest) for the tribute he paid to Allan. Thanks to Andy Hayes for the funeral arrangements, compassion and support throughout. Very special thanks go to Iain MacKinnon (Jake) and Ian (Beag) MacArthur for help and support throughout and beyond. A huge thank you goes to Fiona Armstrong of the Farmhouse Cafe for refreshments. Special thanks go to Megan Cowling and Co for setting up the fundraising page, and all those who donated, we are eternally grateful and the family have no words to express how much this was appreciated. Cathy and Wilma would like to thank those who have supported and will continue to support Allan's three boys, whom he adored. Thanks to everyone who attended the church and graveside. A total of £925 was raised for Tiree Surgery. Moran Taing dhuibh uile!

**MACNEIL** - Moira's family would like to thank everyone for their sympathy cards, Mass cards, phone calls, flowers, home-baking and all the kindness and support shown to us in so many ways after the sad loss of our mum. Many thanks also to all the staff who cared for mum while she was in the Lorn & Islands Hospital and Chas from the ambulance service. Thank you to Catriona Hoey of Hoey Undertakers, Piper Donnie Files, The Alexandria Hotel in Oban for catering and Calmac for the respect shown on mums last journey home. To Deacon David, Father James and Father McCart for their prayers and service and Norman Nicolson for playing organ. To Maria Lopez thank you so much for fulfilling a longstanding request from mum to sing "Ave Maria", it was beautiful. Many thanks to all those who attended the services in Oban and Barra from near and far and also many thanks to those contributing to the collection for Barra Lifeboat and Mary's Meals raising a generous sum of £800. Mum would be overwhelmed at the support and generosity shown in so many ways. God Bless.

**REFFIN** - The family of Peter Reffin wish to thank all those who have supported them following his recent passing with words of sympathy, cards, flowers, baking and practical kindnesses, and all who attended Peter's funeral, where the sum of £772.92 was raised for the British Heart Foundation and Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity. Special thanks to the staff at Wards B and A at Lorn and Islands Hospital for their sensitive and compassionate care, to Rev Tom Telfer for his warm words of comfort, and to Ian MacInnes and staff at D&A Munn for their efficient and caring service.

**ROBINSON** - Joan. Chris, David, Pauline and Dorothy and families wish to convey sincere thanks to all staff at the Telford Centre, Fort Augustus, staff of Medical Ward at Belford Hospital, Care at Home Service staff including Liz Confield, Care

& Repair Lochaber, and all friends and neighbours for great care and support of Joan over the last few years and months. Additionally all the neighbours and friends who sent cards and personal messages and those who attended her funeral at Inverness. Also thanks to Dr Feeney and all staff at Glen Mor Medical Practice and Drs Lawler and Flavin in Fort Augustus for excellent medical care. And further thanks to John McLellan Undertakers Fort William, The Clansman Hotel and McDonald Brothers, Inverloch.

## MEMORIALS

**BLACK** - (née MacLean). Treasured memories of Kirsty, my much loved wife and best friend who passed away on October 21, 2016. Loved and remembered, always and forever.  
- Jim.

**JOHNSTON** - Neil. In loving memory of my dear husband Neil, who died October 22, 2005, at home in Longsdale Cottage, Heanish, Tiree. Sadly missed.  
- Vivienne.

**MACCALLUM** - In memory of a loving wife and mother Isobel, who died October 18, 1982.

We think about you often  
And all we used to share  
Our memories always with us  
But wish you were still there.  
- Inserted by her husband Donald and family, 11 Longsdale Terrace, Oban.

**MACCUISH** - Treasured memories of my beloved husband Norman, who passed away October 20, 1997.

A bouquet of beautiful memories  
Is sprayed with a million tears  
Wishing God could have spared you  
For just a few more years  
You gave me many things in life  
Gifts both great and small  
But above all else you gave me love  
The greatest gift of all.  
Love and miss you always.  
- Flora.

**MACDONALD** - Margaret (Maggie May).

In loving memory of my dear partner, sister, auntie and friend, who died October 20, 2015.

Love you forever, miss you every day.

Treasured memories.  
- Tubby and all the family.

**MACINTYRE** - Remembering with love a dearly loved mum Flora, who passed away October 16, 2011.

Loved and remembered every day  
Never more than a thought away.

- Love Margaret xxx

**MACINTYRE** - In loving memory of our precious mum and granny, who passed away on October 16, 2011.

Deep in our hearts we have memories of the good times we shared with you.

All our love.

- Fiona, Frank and family xxxx

**MACINTYRE** - Flora. My precious mum, my best friend. Not a day or night passes that I don't think of you.

Loved and missed so much.

- Shona and James xx

**MACINTYRE** - Flora  
28/03/1938 - 16/10/2011

In loving memory of Flora

Beautiful memories,

silently kept

Of one that we loved,

and will never forget

Love Hughie and Hugh

**MACMILLAN** - In loving memory of Christine, died October 20, 2015, adored mum to Marion, Hector and Joan, beloved gran and great-gran and devoted partner of Iain.

We love and miss you every second of every day

Love you to the moon and back.

- Inserted by her loving family.

THOUGHT  
for the week

'May my words and my thoughts be acceptable to you O Lord' - Psalm 19 verse 14.

As you read this thought for the week, what are the thoughts that fill your mind? What fills your soul?

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Throughout the Psalms are expressions of a rich variety of feelings. There is an openness and honesty which cries out to God in different circumstances.

If you pick up a Bible and open it right in the middle, you'll probably be in the Psalms - and there you may find words that resonate with whatever little bit of life's rich tapestry you are at.

Whatever our thoughts, there is a God who hears, understands, and upholds.

Rev Donald  
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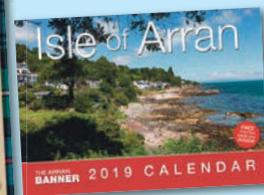
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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

Oban Times

# Allied health professionals focus on eye care

Allied health professionals play a vital role in the delivery of high quality, patient-centred health and social care across NHS Highland. In a series of articles around AHPs Day (which was on Monday October 15), we highlight and celebrate the contribution of just two of these professionals.

Two newly graduated Band 5/6 orthoptists, Amber McGookin and Caitlin Rennie, talk about their role as AHPs and their move to the Highlands.

Amber said: 'Orthoptics is one of the lesser-known allied health professions, but we play a significant role within the NHS. We assess, treat, diagnose and monitor visual system dysfunctions, in adults and paediatrics autonomously, or as part of a larger team with ophthalmologists, optometrists and ophthalmic nurses.'

'Orthoptists are specialists in the assessment and treatment of visual development and ocular motility, with expertise in the screening and treatment of children.'

'In NHS Highland, not only do we see patients in Raigmore, but we also have the added benefit of being able to visit other peripheral clinics throughout the Highlands and in the Western Isles.'

Caitlin said: 'We are a small team of only eight orthoptists. As we are newly graduated we are consolidating our roles within the department and experiencing the wide variety of patients and conditions that Highland has to offer.'

'While we both have different areas that we enjoy – be that neurology, paediatrics or adults – enhancing our skills and becoming vital members within the NHS orthoptics team is rewarding, to say the least.'

A typical day for Amber and Caitlin would see them starting work at 8.45am by verifying previously dictated letters before the clinics start at 9am.

During the clinics, they may see anyone from a 12-week-old baby whose parents are concerned she cannot see, to a four-year-old whom they have to motivate to wear an eye patch for his lazy eye, to a teenager who is struggling with close



Two newly graduated orthoptists, Amber McGookin, left, and Caitlin Rennie.

work and needs to be shown exercises to help, to a lady with thyroid eye disease, and a child who is having squint surgery the following day and requires accurate measurements so the ophthalmologist knows how much surgery to do.

Amber said: 'We may also see a stroke survivor who has double vision, a child with complex needs to ensure they are using their vision to their best potential, or an assault victim whose eye muscles have been trapped in a facial fracture. All of these and many more.'

'If we have time, we do some of our Flying Start programme and we ensure that all our clinical administration is up to date for our 5pm finish.'

'The next day we may be off to Skye or one of the other peripheral clinics to do the same or off to a nursery school to screen every four-year-old's vision.'

Talking about their graduation day and why they both moved to Highland, Caitlin said: 'We graduated with a BSc (Hons) in Orthoptics in July, on a fabulously warm day, along with our fellow classmates from Glasgow Caledonian

University, and we started in NHS Highland within a month.'

'We both had experience in NHS Highland on placement as part of our curriculum, so the move was not as daunting as it would be to a new department with unknown colleagues.'

'Although we are still consolidating our orthoptics knowledge from university, we are also being offered the opportunity to further enhance our skills by developing our slit lamp skills in virtual glaucoma clinics. We also hope to have the chance to broaden our skill set with extended roles in the future.'

Coming to the Highlands has been an experience.

Caitlin said: 'The Highlands covers the largest geographical area within the whole of the UK, which allows us to travel and explore while working. We think travelling to peripheral clinics is one of the benefits of working here. The clinics are attended by many patients with a variety of conditions.'

'It can be daunting knowing that you are in such a rural environment without the full support of the eye department should anything go wrong, but it allows you to have confidence within your own practice and know you can refer when you feel the patient requires further investigations or management.'

'Patients are appreciative that we travel to see them rather than them coming all the way to us, which also improves our relationship with the patient, their attendance of clinics and allows effective care.'

And Amber said there were exciting developments afoot.

She added: 'We are very excited for the opening of the new Elective Care Centre in Inverness which will offer elective surgery to the people of the north of Scotland and will have a new eye out-patient department. We hope this facility will allow us to further extend our roles in the state-of-the-art facilities. Also, the planned new optometry degree course at the University of Highlands and Islands may offer other opportunities including research within the university.'

## GRADUATION



DONNA MAIRI ANNE SMITH

Graduated with a BA Honours 2.1 in Informal Education, Community Learning Development and Social Pedagogy at Canterbury Christ Church University, Kent in January 2017. Also in August the same year, Donna graduated as a Firefighter at Severn Park Fire and Rescue Training Centre in Bristol and was voted the "Recruit's Recruit Award". Donna gained her Firefighters competency in September 2018 at the top of her class. Donna is the daughter of Mairi Lester and Alex Smith Snr and Nan Smith of Angus Terrace, Oban.



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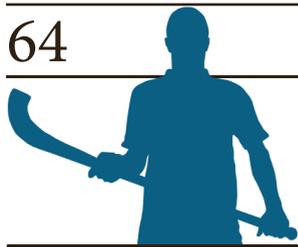
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# SHINTY NEWS

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

## Scotland boss Reid looks

New Scotland head coach Garry Reid is looking for his squad to continue their recent unbeaten record at the Bught Park, Inverness, as Ireland come calling in the latest Marine Harvest shinty/hurling international on Saturday October 20.

The Bught is gaining fortress status with the Scots coming out on top in their last four home fixtures in this spectacular cross-codes contest.

Previous boss Ronald Ross led his charges to a 23-14 win in 2014 in his first year at the helm. Three more home wins followed, proving Ross will be a tough act to follow.

Garry Reid knows all about these games, however. He was involved with the Scotland U17 squad for many years and his tenure as Scotland U21 head coach included a first Scottish win on Irish soil at that level in 2014.

Scotland's recent Bught Park record reads: 2017 - Scotland (2-12) 18, Ireland (0-15) 15; 2016 - Scotland (0-14) 14, Ireland (0-5) 5; 2015 - Scotland (3-15) 24, Ireland (2-8) 14; Ireland; 2014 - Scotland (3-14) 23, Ireland (2-8) 14.

Garry started his senior shinty playing career at Lovat before switching to Bute followed by Glenorchy and then Strathglass, who he also managed, winning the Balliemore Cup as boss on Rothesay in 2009, beating the emerging Kinlochshiel side 5-1 in the final.

Garry Reid was upbeat ahead of the much anticipated meeting between the Celtic cousins. 'Preparations have gone as well as they could go,' he said. 'So many of our players have had really big matches for their clubs in the lead up to the international but they are done now and our focus is on Ireland this Saturday.'

He appreciates the lengths the 32 players in the training squad went to in an attempt to win a place in the final pool of 20 players. 'I contacted each of the 12 players who didn't make it to let them know and thank them for their commitment. It's unfortunate the players only get this one chance during the season to play in a game like this and although they weren't picked this time, I have

no doubt they have the ability to play in this fixture. It's all about making choices and we have selected a really good squad. People say there aren't so many good players out there these days but that's not been my experience. You also worry that the commitment from the players might not be there and that they might not want to be involved but that's certainly not what I've seen. The players are right up for it and they've given me their total respect.'

The 20-player squad includes one goalkeeper - Lovat's irrepressible Stuart MacDonald - and six outfield substitutes. 'The physicality of this game means you need the option of having as many as six outfield substitutes and I intend using them all at some point in the match,' added Garry.

There were initially six changes from last year's 18-15 winning side. John Barr, Keith MacRae, Craig Mainland, Daniel Cameron, Ryan Borthwick and Andrew King are the players left out for various reasons - with Barr, MacRae and Mainland the only starters last time around. However, in a late switch, Kinlochshiel's John MacRae was forced to withdraw after suffering an open fracture on one of his fingers in the weekend win over Caberfeidh so Craig Mainland was called up in his place.

'The spine of the squad is from Newtonmore and that should not be any surprise given they have just won the treble,' explained the Scotland boss. Kinlochshiel and Lovat are also well represented and they and Newtonmore combine to account for 13 of the 20 players selected.

There are places for Oban Camanachd duo Lorne Dickie, who featured in 2016, and Andrew MacCuish. 'Lorne has had a great season and he has so much ability. He's a great passing player and we'll use these attributes to get the ball up front to our forwards. Andrew has had an exceptional season and I think it's important the international rewards players that have done so well for their clubs throughout the year. He offers physicality and he's always amongst the goals. He's so enthusiastic too, but you can say that about all the players.'

Newtonmore skipper Andy MacKintosh returns after missing out in 2017 through injury. Lochaber's Shaun Nicolson has plenty experience of these encounters and he is recalled following his absence last year.

Evan Menzies' inclusion is no surprise. He is a big match player, underlined by his two goals and man of the match performance in Newtonmore's Camanachd Cup Final success last month.

Fort William's Arran MacPhee,



Last season's Scotland squad.

the only player selected from out-with the premiership, is perhaps the manager's wildcard having had limited game time since his return from a serious knee injury. 'Arran has shown his worth and looked really good in training. He gives us a different forward option. He scored twice for the U21s last year and I thought Fort William missed him when he was injured this season.'

There was also a word from Garry for some of the players who missed out. 'Oban Camanachd's Daniel Cameron has been carrying an injury whilst Kilmallie's Liam MacDonald is on holiday. We also lost Kinlochshiel's Keith MacRae through injury early on. They are all good players as is Caberfeidh's Blair Morrison who came very close to securing a place but he will, I'm sure, feature for the U21s and his time in the senior side will come.'

The Scottish mantra in recent games has been to keep the ball on the ground and to use the wide open spaces to stretch the Irish defence and not allow the hurlers to build up a head of steam with their aerial game. 'Our approach will be similar,' said Reid. 'However our squad includes the top six scorers in the Marine Harvest Premiership - Greg Matheson, Evan Menzies, Andrew MacCuish, Shaun Nicolson, Kevin Bartlett and John MacRae - before he was forced out - and we want them doing what they do best so we will be going for goals. To do so, it's important we keep our full forwards up top, close to the goal so they have the best chance of scoring. I don't want them to drop too deep where they will be less effective. We'll work on getting the ball up to them and it may be that we do so by making short passes rather than trying to hit long balls as that would be meat and drink to the Irish defence. Passing the ball along the ground may be difficult on the Bught Park surface at this time of year but we'll still go for it.'

Caberfeidh's dead-ball expert

Kevin Bartlett will again be key. He scored 12 of Scotland's 18 points a year ago.

There are no rule changes as such this year but there will be an Irish referee, John Keane, which brings its own dimension. 'The interpretation of the rules will be key. In general, Irish referees tend to let more go and there may be more of a tendency to get away with hands on the back and perhaps more pulling and shoving. We'll just need to be careful and concentrate on our game. However there's no doubt this will make for a fast pace as it will let the game flow and that's important for the international to remain a spectacle for the supporters.'

Ireland have found goals hard to come by on Scottish soil having drawn blanks on their last two visits. Their co-managers William Maher and Conor Phelan, who gained experience managing the Irish U21s before taking charge of the seniors for the first time in 2017, are a year wiser and although their squad is yet to be confirmed, they are believed to be keen on including the likes of Kilkenny attacker and former GAA/GPA Hurler of the Year Richie Hogan, Tipperary full forward Jason Forde, Waterford's Noel Connors and Clare defender David McInerney.

Garry Reid finishes by recognising the support of his backroom team. 'Robert Geddes is a big help to me and with Kenny Ross still playing, he provides a great link to the players. Their roles are very important. We're also lucky to have Alison Thomson as our physio. Alison is based in Inverness and works with the Ross County youth teams.'

The support doesn't end there. 'Ronald Ross is also helping with the transition and he's always there to turn to,' added Garry. 'Ronald is a big help with the organisation and he's able to offer a view on a range of things as he's been through it all before. He will maybe watch the game from the stand and offer ad-

vice. However I have my own style and will make my own decisions and be in no doubt, I want to win this game.'

Scotland from:

Stuart MacDonald (Lovat)  
Rory Kennedy (Newtonmore)  
Andy MacKintosh (Newtonmore)  
Daniel Grieve (Lovat)  
Conor Cormack (Kinlochshiel)  
Mark MacDonald (Kinlochshiel)  
Michael Russell (Newtonmore)  
Finlay MacRae (Kinlochshiel)  
Steven Macdonald (Newtonmore)  
Shaun Nicolson (Lochaber)  
Glen MacKintosh (Newtonmore)  
Kevin Bartlett (Caberfeidh)  
Greg Matheson (Lovat)  
Roddy Macdonald (Kyles Athletic)  
Lorne Dickie (Oban Camanachd)  
Craig Mainland (Lovat)  
Glen MacKintosh (Newtonmore)  
Andrew MacCuish (Oban Camanachd)  
Evan Menzies (Newtonmore)  
Arran MacPhee (Fort William)

There is no live television coverage this year but the match will be shown in full on BBC ALBA from 4pm on Saturday October 20.

Throw-in is at 2pm and earlybird tickets can be bought at [www.shinty.com](http://www.shinty.com)

Kyles Athletic's Grant Irvine will captain Scotland. The Kyles Athletic playmaker has significant experience in these encounters and will be a popular choice amongst the players.

### It's winner takes all in shinty/camogie clash

The third and final match in the shinty/camogie series between Scotland Ladies and Dublin Ladies also takes place at the Bught Park on Saturday October 20.

The Scots, led this year by Stuart Reid and Ross Brown, are in confident mode having won 19-10 in Dublin last year to cancel out Dublin's 12-2 success in Inverness



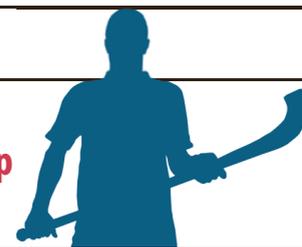
Scotland manager Garry Reid.

**Camanachd Cup  
Macaulay Cup**

**MacTavish Cup  
Celtic Society Cup**

**Sutherland Cup  
Balliemore Cup**

**Strathdearn Cup  
Bullough Cup**



# to extend winning run



a year earlier. Ross Brown, who was involved in both, said: 'Preparation has been good and we will have had four full sessions together ahead of the match - in Newtonmore, Ballachulish, Glengarry and Inverness.

'The girls have had a really busy few months with Scotland training added to crucial league and representative games. The commitment from everyone has been really good and the girls have shown great application during the sessions.

The Scotland ladies squad remains as initially listed but Ross added: 'We have a few players carrying niggles but plans have been put in place for physio and rest to make sure they are as well prepared as possible.'

This is the third and final match of the series against Dublin and Brown knows they will present a strong challenge. 'We have learnt from each game so far. The camogie players are very fast and have high levels of fitness so it will be our aim to match them in those departments.'

Brown also confirmed the Scotland leaders on the pitch. 'We are captained by Kirsty Deans who has been in sparkling form this season with Badenoch & Strathspey. The link-up play demonstrated in training with her fellow forwards is really encouraging. Vice captains Rona Stewart, Badenoch & Strathspey, and Caitlin MacLean, Skye Camanachd, have also had great seasons. Both have plenty internationals ahead of them and will be influential across the half back and centre line in repelling Irish attacks and providing balls for the front line.'

Scotland Ladies from:  
Elizabeth McGregor - Badenoch & Strathspey  
Jeanette McGregor - Badenoch & Strathspey  
Rona Stewart - Badenoch & Strathspey, vice captain  
Mairi Stewart - Badenoch & Strathspey  
Zoe Reid - Badenoch & Strathspey  
Kirsty Deans - Badenoch & Strathspey, captain  
Lorna MacRae - Skye Camanachd  
Rhianna Kirk - Skye Camanachd  
Caitlin MacLean - Skye Camanachd, vice-captain  
Sarah Corrigan - Skye Camanachd  
Ilana Paterson - Skye Camanachd  
Rachel McCafferty - Glasgow Mid Argyll  
Laura McCafferty - Glasgow Mid Argyll  
Shannon Wilson - Fort William  
Donna MacKenzie - Glenurquhart  
Christy McIntyre - Lochaber  
Katie Booth - Aberdour  
Vicki Henderson - Aberdour  
Martin MacLean is the match referee for this one.

Throw-in is at 2pm and earlybird tickets can be bought at [www.shinty.com](http://www.shinty.com)

## Shinty round-up

Kinlochshiel go second in the Marine Harvest Premiership, the Marine Harvest South Division 1 title race goes down to the wire, the Inveraray seconds lifted the Mod Cup and the countdown is underway ahead of the Marine Harvest shinty/hurling/camogie internationals between the Scots and the Irish following the shinty action on Saturday October 13.

## Marine Harvest Premiership

### Kinlochshiel 7 Caberfeidh 2

Kinlochshiel climb to second place in the table after they beat Caberfeidh 7-1 at a very wet Kirkton.

Kinlochshiel keeper Scott Kennedy was still sidelined with a back problem so Graham Kennedy continued to deputise in goal despite being a late arrival with Ali Nixon, who was carrying a hamstring injury, primed to step in between the sticks if called upon. Paul MacRae started at full back, with Finlay MacRae at full centre.

Caberfeidh's Ally MacLennan remained out with a foot injury whilst manager Jodi Gorski was also minus Colin MacLennan, Gavin Mclachlan as well as Graham MacGregor and his son Conor MacGregor. Boss Gorski was Caberfeidh's only substitute but he resisted the temptation to come off the bench. Craig Morrison and Kevin Bartlett both started in the visiting defence with Blair Morrison at buckshee forward.

Caberfeidh, playing up the slope in the first half, made a bright start. The ball was played forward to Iain McCall, who usually features in goals for the Caberfeidh seconds, around 20 yards out but he couldn't get a shot on target from a central position.

Play quickly switched to the other end and when Duncan Matheson's corner from the right fell for Jordan Fraser at the back post, he slammed the ball into the side netting.

Kinlochshiel went back on the offensive and Scott MacLean played in Duncan Matheson but Caberfeidh keeper Ewan Pilcher got behind the ball before scrambling it away for a corner. Keeper Pilcher saved again; this time from Jordan Fraser following the resultant corner.

The pattern of play continued toward the away goal and Kinlochshiel took the lead following a set-piece on six minutes. Jordan Fraser fired goalwards and Ewan Pilcher went for the ball with his hand but couldn't clear the danger and John MacRae forced the ball home from close range.

Ewan Pilcher did well to save with

his hand, keeping out a stinging shot from Finlay MacRae three minutes later. The hosts doubled their lead on 15 minutes. Scott MacLean drifted in a corner from the left. Donald Nixon saw his initial low shot saved but he ran forward to ram the rebound over the line to make it 2-0.

Ewan Pilcher made a solid save with his feet to deny Duncan Matheson following another Scott MacLean corner.

Kinlochshiel went for the kill and Jordan Fraser and John MacRae combined on the left to set up a chance for Scott MacLean who steered the ball low into the net, despite falling to the ground under a challenge, making it 3-0 with 22 minutes on the clock.

A rare Caberfeidh attack saw Jamie Matheson tug the ball wide of the keeper's right post following a corner on the right.

Kinlochshiel's Finlay MacRae then saw Ewan Pilcher save with his feet and although Scott MacLean played the rebound into the danger area from wide on the right, the ball was cleared by the Caberfeidh defence.

Kinlochshiel added a fourth on the half hour mark when a shot from John MacRae on the right found the net.

Moments later, Finlay MacRae cut in from the right and Ewan Pilcher did well to first parry the ball before getting it away to safety.

John MacRae always looked dangerous and he completed his hat-trick with 10 first half minutes remaining. MacRae hit a vicious shot across the keeper from the Kinlochshiel left, beating Pilcher on his left side to make it 5-0.

Kinlochshiel's Scott MacLean was forced off shortly afterwards after being caught in the face with a stick following a tussle with Kevin Bartlett. Andrew MacKenzie came on in midfield with Duncan 'WD' MacRae pushed forward into attack.

A dangerous Iain McCall ball from the left had Kinlochshiel keeper Graham Kennedy racing from his line to clear at the expense of a corner and the home side went into the break with a 5-0 cushion.

Caberfeidh's Blair Morrison struck a shot over the bar on his back-hand early in the second half.

Caberfeidh pulled a goal back on 56 minutes. Iain McCall sent a low cross into the danger area from wide on the right and Jamie Matheson took a great first touch to control the ball before shooting low into the net to make it 5-1.

Any respite was short-lived as Kinlochshiel scored again a minute later. Conor Cormack showed a smart presence of mind as he sent a quick free-hit from the left of midfield over the top of the Caberfeidh defence and Duncan Matheson broke free to go one-on-one with the



**Caberfeidh's Craig Morrison and Kinlochshiel's Scott MacLean battle for the ball in tricky muddy conditions during last Saturday's Marine Harvest Premiership match at Kirkton.**

Photograph: Neil Paterson.

keeper and gleefully guided the ball home.

Straight after the goal, Graham Kennedy stepped off his line to first chest down and then clear a high ball forward from Blair Morrison.

Caberfeidh came within a whisker of scoring a second when a lofted Ryan MacKay ball from the left came off the face of the Kinlochshiel crossbar and deflected wide. Iain McCall, who was having a fine game, fizzed the loose ball in on goal from wide of the right but Graham Kennedy saved with his feet before quickly flicking the ball away for a corner.

Kinlochshiel went back on the attack and when the ball broke to an unmarked Jordan Fraser, keeper Pilcher saved with the rebound coming out to Duncan Matheson. He turned the ball back in to John MacRae but his low shot rolled just outside the keeper's left post.

A nice Caberfeidh move saw Iain McCall find Blair Morrison from the Caberfeidh right. Morrison's powerful drive looked sure to find the net but Graham Kennedy made an outstanding reflex save with his stick and the visitors had to settle for a corner on the left. From the

**Continued on page 66**

## Results

### Saturday October 13

**Marine Harvest Premiership**  
Kinlochshiel 7 v 2 Caberfeidh  
Kyles Athletic P v P Glenurquhart  
Unplayable field

### South Division One

Lochside Rovers 2 v 1 Kyles Ath  
Taynuilt 1 v 4 Bute

### North Division Two

Lochaber P v P Beaulay  
Unplayable field  
Kilmallie P v P Lochcarron  
Lochcarron unable to field a team, points to Kilmallie

### The Mod Cup

Inveraray 6 v 3 Col Glen

## Fixtures

### Saturday October 20

**Marine Harvest Shinty  
Camogie Challenge**  
Scotland v Dublin  
Bught Park, Inverness  
Referee: Martin MacLean  
Throw-up: noon

### Marine Harvest Shinty/Hurling International

Scotland v Ireland  
Bught Park, Inverness  
Referee: John Keane  
Throw-up: 2pm

### Marine Harvest South Division One

Inveraray v Lochside Rovers  
Winterton Park, Inveraray  
John Wood  
Throw-up: 2pm



# SHINTY NEWS

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Continued from page 67

corner, Kennedy made an even better stop to again deny Morrison who had darted in from the right of the 'D'. This time the goalie parried Morrison's bulleted, shoulder-high shot with his club to his right, somehow turning the ball over the top for another corner.

Kinlochshiel's seventh goal came on 69 minutes when a nice flick infield from John MacRae found Duncan Matheson who steered the ball goalwards under pressure from three Caberfeidh defenders, suffering a knock in the process. With the ball rolling slowly towards the goal, Jordan Fraser knocked the ball over the line from close range. Matheson limped off, although he did return later, with another youngster, Martin MacRae, coming on.

The hosts almost scored again with 15 minutes remaining when Jordan Fraser played a short one-two with Andrew MacKenzie from a corner on the left. Fraser's blistering shot took a slight deflection off Kevin Bartlett's caman which made Ewan Pilcher's stunning save to his left all the better.

Ryan MacKay had a good game and, with 10 minutes remaining, he scored his first senior Caberfeidh goal. MacKay did well in the heavy conditions as he jinked in from the right side before tucking the ball low past Kennedy and turning in delight following a fine individual goal.

Ahead of the restart, and with the pitch cutting up badly in both goal areas, referee Brian MacKay spoke to both managers - Johnston Gill and Jodi Gorski - about the worsening conditions, before playing out the remainder of the game.

Caberfeidh finished the game strongly with Ryan MacKay coming close to getting a second and Graham Kennedy again displaying his shot stopping skills in goal.

Kinlochshiel's John MacRae suffered a hand injury in the game, later confirmed as an open fracture on one of his fingers, which requires an operation and rules him out of this Saturday's Marine Harvest shinty/hurling international against Ireland.

The result leaves 2017 champions Kinlochshiel in second spot in the league although they will drop down a place if Kyles Athletic take a point from their final match at home to Glenurquhart.

Caberfeidh picked up their points earlier in the season and whilst

complacency may have set in over the second half of the term, when at full strength, they are probably only a couple of players away from being a very good side.

## Kyles Athletic P Glenurquhart P

Kyles Athletic's push for another second placed finish will have to wait as their meeting with Glenurquhart at Tighnabruaich was postponed.

The game was called off on Friday evening as the pitch was waterlogged which may have been a relief for Glenurquhart who were missing a number of players and looked to be travelling with three of their ladies players included in their squad.

The game has been rescheduled for Saturday October 27.

## Marine Harvest South Division 1

### Lochside Rovers 2 Kyles Athletic 1

Lochside Rovers showed they have no intentions of giving up their title without a fight when they toppled league leaders Kyles Athletic reserves 2-1 at Mossfield.

The match went ahead following a Saturday morning pitch inspection with the Mossfield pitch in terrific condition given the elements.

Lochside included youngsters Daniel MacCuish and Daniel Sloss who started in attack with Ross Campbell and Lewis Buchanan. Gavin Stobbart returned in goal but Niall MacFarlane, Lennon Campbell and Gary McKerracher were all unavailable.

Kyles brought a good sized support, boosted by the inclusion of Sandy MacKenzie and Scott MacDonald, although both started on the bench.

There was a physical start to the match and Christopher Blair was spoken to by referee Des McNulty for a robust challenge which caught Daniel Sloss on the knee.

Lochside took the lead thanks to a sublime individual goal on 13 minutes. Daniel Sloss picked up the ball 22 yards out from goal and turned before running in on goal, riding three challenges, before calmly slipping the ball past advancing keeper Douglas Nicolson to make it 1-0.

Lochside spurned some chances before doubling their lead five minutes before the break with a well-worked goal. Craig Easton found Iain MacMillan on the wing who sent the ball into the corner



No way through for Lochside's Lewis Buchanan as he's crowded out by the Kyles defence during an enthralling South Division One game held at a soggy Mossfield Stadium last Saturday. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

where Daniel Sloss was first to it. Sloss picked out Daniel MacCuish who took a touch before thumping a waist-high shot into the net.

Kyles immediately brought Sandy MacKenzie and Scott MacDonald off the bench.

While Lochside could have been further ahead at the break, the second half belonged to Kyles and they may have regretted not introducing MacKenzie and MacDonald earlier.

Lochside knew Kyles would come at them after the break and the visitors pulled a goal back on 59 minutes when Sandy MacKenzie scored following a free-hit to make it 2-1.

Sandy MacKenzie was proving a real handful for the Lochside back-line so manager Gareth Evans brought Daniel Sloss back into defence to counter MacKenzie's threat.

Kyles came within a whisker of a leveller when Sandy MacKenzie's effort deflected off Chrissie MacMillan and the spinning ball dropped down on the roof of the net with the keeper beaten.

Lewis Buchanan passed up a chance at the other end with 15 minutes remaining with the wet weather now making it difficult for the players to grip their sticks.

This was a great battle in the rain and a throw-back to the old winter shinty days. Lochside have proved to be Kyles Athletic's bogey team all season, beating them twice in the league and in both cup competitions.

Respective keepers Gavin Stobbart and Douglas Nicolson were solid, whilst Lochside full back Chrissie MacMillan and Kyles Athletic attacker Sandy MacKenzie also played well. Lochside's Iain MacMillan was a class apart, spreading play to great effect all afternoon.

Lochside now go into their match against Inveraray's second team at the Winterton this Saturday trailing leaders Bute, who have completed their fixtures, by just two points with the islanders five goals better off. The throw-up time has still to be confirmed.

### Taynuilt 1 Bute 4

Bute did all they could in the hope of finishing top of South 1 as they overcame Taynuilt 4-1 at Taynuilt Sports Field.

Iain McDonald put Bute ahead on 15 minutes. Craig MacKay and Craig Fisher combined at a short corner and MacKay played the ball to the back post where Iain McDonald struck it on his back-hand on a slight angle.

Taynuilt's Keegan MacPhee levelled on 20 minutes, ensuring the sides would go into the break level.

Bute made a strong start to the second half and regained the lead on 46 minutes following great one-touch passing between all four forwards close to the Taynuilt goal. Crag Fisher played the ball across the goal leaving Iain McDonald to roll the ball into an empty net.

Bute extended their lead on 52 minutes when Ryan Craig knocked the Taynuilt keeper over with a firm but fair challenge following a ball over the top and Iain McDonald fired home to complete his hat-trick.

Bute rounded off the win with 20 minutes remaining. The goal came following a hit-in and Iain McDonald beat two players before thumping the ball on the move into the roof of the net to make it 4-1.

Bute's young squad hope to be playing National Division shinty next year should they win South

1 but they have to wait to see if Lochside can match their points total and better their goal difference.

## Marine Harvest North Division 2

### Kilmallie W/O v Lochcarron

The Kilmallie second team were given a walk-over when Lochcarron were unable to field a team for their clash at the Canal Parks.

This was Lochcarron's final fixture of the season, whilst the Kilmallie colts end their campaign at home to their Beaully counterparts on Saturday October 27.

### Lochaber P Beaully P

The contest between the Lochaber second team and the Beaully second team at Spean Bridge was postponed on Friday evening because of an unplayable field.

The match has been rescheduled for Saturday November 3.

## Mod Cup

The Inveraray second team beat Col Glen 6-3 to lift the Mod Cup following their 2pm throw-up at Dunoon Stadium.

Craig Taylor, Lewis MacNicol and Fraser Watt all scored twice for Inveraray with a Conor Kennedy brace and Finan Kennedy counting for Col Glen.

Graham Fisher was the match referee.

Oban defeated Cowal & Bute 5-1 to win the ladies match.

## WCA round-up

There were two Women's Camanachd Association league fixtures over the weekend.

## Marine Harvest North Division 1

### Skye Camanachd 11 Lochaber 2

The Skye Camanachd Ladies second team were 11-2 winners against the Lochaber Ladies second team in their 2pm throw-up at a wet Pairc nan Laoch, Portree, on Saturday October 13.

Helen Lamond, Abby MacLean and Holly MacLean were amongst the Skye goal scorers, whilst Natalie MacDonald and Shanna Michie scored for Lochaber.

## Marine Harvest South Division 1

### Tayforth 0 Ardnamurchan 5

The Ardnamurchan second team defeated Tayforth 5-0 at Musselburgh on Sunday October 14.

Hannah MacDonald grabbed a hat-trick, whilst Frances MacDonald and Iona Cameron got the others.

The win means Ardnamurchan

### Marine Harvest South Division One

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bute	18	13	3	2	51	19	29
Kyles Athletic	18	12	4	2	54	17	28
Lochside Rovers	16	11	3	2	46	19	27
Aberdour	18	8	4	6	44	33	20
Col Glen	17	6	4	7	33	38	16
Ballachulish	18	5	5	8	37	39	15
Taynuilt	18	3	5	10	25	51	11
Inveraray	17	4	2	11	33	51	8*
Tayforth	18	3	3	12	25	56	7*
Kilmory	16	5	1	10	23	48	5*

\* points adjustment

and Dunadd are now level on points at the top of the table so they will now play-off for the title.

## John Stewart is new Kilmallie boss

Kilmallie have announced John Stewart is their new first team manager, replacing Mark MacPherson who stood down after leading the club to a Marine Harvest National Division title and Balliemore Cup success at the end of last season.

John Stewart is one of Kilmallie's most recognised players over recent times and was the club's number one choice as soon as Mark MacPherson confirmed his intention to step down at the end of the 2018 shinty season.

He played his early shinty for Caol Primary School and Kilmallie at U14 and U17 level before making his first team debut aged 15 years.

His performances on the field helped towards a number of Kilmallie successes and he was recognised with three years at Scotland U21 level and nine years at Scotland senior level.

Injury problems plagued Stewart towards the end of his career, although a comeback coincided with a Camanachd Cup semi-final appearance in 2017 in which Kilmallie lost out 3-2 to eventual winners Newtonmore.

As well as having a wealth of experience, John has a solid knowledge of the game and is respected throughout shinty.

Following the appointment, John Stewart said: 'I'm delighted and honoured to be asked by the board to manage the Kilmallie first team. It's something I've wanted to do after finally retiring from playing at the end of 2017. I've enjoyed a year off and feel refreshed, ready for the season ahead.'

'I'm excited about the challenge of premiership shinty and the opportunity to build on the recent success our previous manager Mark MacPherson has brought to the club excites me greatly. I'd like to thank Mark for all his hard work over the last four years. He's left the team in a very good place. I'm sure he won't be too far away should I need to pick his brains and I've already pre-warned him of that.'

'We will be looking to start pre-season training early in the New Year.'

On looking at Kilmallie's ambitions for the 2019 season, Stewart added: "I have to admit staying in the premiership has to be the obvious thing to say. There have been too many promotions followed by relegation the following season in recent times. I'm confident we can achieve that goal along with some decent cup runs; all playing good shinty."

## Glengarry Development Day

Glengarry Shinty Club recently held their annual club development day with more than 60 children enjoying a number of events.

Ronald Ross was in attendance to oversee the Glengarry junior coaches lay on some coaching and skills sessions following which the youngsters played some age-group matches against invited guests Ardnamurchan.

In some close, competitive matches, Ardnamurchan won the P3 & P5 games with Glengarry winning the P7 & U14s matches.

The newly-formed Ardnamurchan men's team then played their first match against a Glengarry 'Futures' squad.

It was a decent contest and the experience from a few older heads helped Glengarry seal victory, with Ardnamurchan looking sure to be a welcome addition to the shinty leagues soon.

Glengarry offered thanks to event sponsors The Glengarry Trust and Marine Harvest Community Awards for allowing them to open up the club and bring the game of shinty to so many new faces.

The continued hard work from volunteers, coaches and committee members has helped the club, who finished third in Marine Harvest North Division 1 last season in their first term following promotion from North 2, achieve their bronze level ClubMark certificate, presented to the committee by Ronald Ross.

Glengarry, who have also completed their 2018 Development Plan, have made huge strides forward and have now set their sights on the silver award for 2019.



New Kilmallie manager John Stewart. Photograph: Abridge Photography.

# SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £650

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

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

### Easy to enter

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

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

### Competition rules

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

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

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

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

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

Winners agree to have their photograph taken for publicity purposes.

Winners' names and home towns will appear in the newspaper. Employees of 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:  
R Nicolson  
Fort William  
C O'Doherty  
Tobermory

OT

## WINDSURFING

## Wave Classic in focus



Photographs: Richard Whitson

# Mother and son are just champion

Oban Bowling Club held its annual prize-giving on Saturday October 6 after a final game on the green and a meal which was enjoyed by all who attended.

The game was contested by a team representing the club's president verses a team representing the club's vice-president. Despite the weather in the afternoon, everyone had a great time and in the end the president's team were the winners. The following are the names of all the club prize-winners this year.

Gents: Club Champion - A Forbes; Senior Singles - A Carmichael; MacBrayne Trophy - D MacAlpine; MacEwan Trophy - R Dairon; Centenary Handicap Trophy - P MacKinnon; Balloted Pairs - D MacAlpine and G Innes; Senior Balloted Pairs - N MacDougall and P Murphy; Nominated Pairs - D MacAlpine and C Carmichael; Balloted Triples - I Boyd, R MacLeod and P Park; Nominated Triples - N MacDougall, G Flannigan and D MacLean; Mixed Pairs - N MacDougall and A MacDougall.

Ladies: Club Champion - D MacLean; Ardsheil Trophy - D MacLean; MacLean Senior Ladies Trophy - A MacDougall; Morag Skinner Trophy - A MacDougall; D Cumming Trophy - M Park;



Ladies' and gents' champions: mother and son Donna MacLean and Andrew Forbes.

Senior Ladies Handicap Trophy - S Grieve; MacLean Junior Trophy - E Gargan; Ladies Nominated Pairs - H MacLean and D MacLean;

Ladies Balloted Pairs - M Carr and K Gargan; Ladies Nominated Triples - A MacDougall, A Stewart and L Carmichael; Ladies

## BOWLS

Nominated Triples - H MacLean, E Gargan and K Gargan.

## Henry has the drive to succeed

He showed so much promise that they bent the rules to allow an Ardrishaig teenager into the professional golf ranks.

Henry Palmer picked up his first set of plastic golf clubs at the age of two. By the time he was eight years old, he was doing 18 holes round his local course in Salisbury.

He and his family moved to Ardrishaig in 2014 when Henry was 12, as mum Caroline and dad Philip took over the Allt na Craigh guest house. Henry soon joined Lochgilphead Golf Club, travelling further afield to become a member at Machrihanish.

His long-held desire to become a professional golfer never wavered, and earlier this year he began a course to become a pro golf teacher through the European Golf Teachers' Federation (EGTF).



Getting set to tee off his pro coaching career at Lochgilphead Golf Club. 06\_a39HenryPalmer03

'I always wanted to play golf professionally in some form,' Henry explained, 'but a big part of going on the EGTF course was so that I could

## GOLF

earn money coaching golf while at university.'

He officially turned pro-

fessional on July 20, a week before his 17th birthday. Recognising his potential, the EGTF lowered their minimum age for acceptance from 18 to 16 years of age to allow Henry to take part.

Along with 12 other golfers from all over the world, he undertook a week of intensive training on how to teach golf - and make learning golf fun - at Ashbury Manor in Devon, under the watchful eye of EGTF president Peter Dunne.

'I really enjoyed the course,' said Henry. 'I had previously done a PGA course on assisting a pro coach, but I found this one much more interesting.'

Already he has been dipping his teaching toe in the water at Lochgilphead Golf Club, and he would be interested in hearing from anyone looking for golf tuition.

# Saints face tough tie in West of Scotland Cup



Oban Saints get this season's West of Scotland Amateur Cup campaign under way this Saturday afternoon with a very tricky away tie against Uddingston.

Newly formed in 2017, Uddingston were admitted to the Strathclyde Saturday Morning Amateur Football League which was already home to some excellent teams and, in UB United, would provide the runners-up in last season's West of Scotland Cup.

Placed in Division 1A of the league pyramid system, a sensational 31 points from a possible 36 saw Uddingston edge out Yoker United and Southside to be crowned league champions in their debut season.

After a thrilling title chase which went right down to the wire, Uddingston faced fellow league new boys and title hopefuls Yoker United in their final match of the season knowing that a draw would be good enough to secure the league trophy.

Yoker, whom Saints fans will recall from last season's Scottish Amateur Cup seventh round tie at Glencruitten, required a win



Oban Saints pictured in their new polo shirts kindly supplied by sponsors D & K Lafferty Contractors.

Match Preview and photo: Derek Black

to draw level on points with Uddingston which, despite Yoker's superior goal difference, would force a winner-takes-all play-off.

A blistering start at Uddingston's Porterswell Playing Fields saw Yoker race into a two-goal lead. However, Uddingston were not to be denied their first piece of silverware and scored three second half goals without reply to lift the league trophy.

In addition to promotion to Championship A,

Uddingston's success earned manager Stephen Clarke the Strathclyde Saturday Morning Amateur Football League manager of the year award and players Keiran McGurk, Kieran Muldoon and Jack Lyons places in the league's team of the year.

Uddingston have continued their excellent form into the new season, where six wins from six have lifted them to the top of the league table three points ahead of nearest challengers, Paisley-based Barony of Blackhall.

Although there is still a long way to go in the league campaign, Uddingston already look a good bet for a second successive promotion and a place in the Strathclyde Saturday Morning Amateur Football League Premier Division.

In the major cup competitions, narrow victories over Ayrshire's New Farm Loch and Nico's of their own league have set up a massive Scottish Amateur Cup home third round tie against Ayrshire Amateur Football

Association giants and two-time cup winners Hurlford Thistle.

In the West of Scotland Cup, while Saints were enjoying a walkover against Greater Glasgow Premier Amateur Football League side Rannoch, Uddingston were paying a visit to Argyll to face last season's Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division Two Champions Lochgilphead Red Star.

Injuries to key players have prevented the Lochgilphead men from picking up where

## FOOTBALL

they left off last season and Uddingston returned home with a comfortable 3-0 victory under their belts to set up what is sure to be a keenly contested second round tie with Saints.

Saturday's match on the 4G surface at Glasgow's Toryglen Regional Football Centre must be played to a finish on the day with extra-time and penalty kicks coming into play to decide the winner if the two sides cannot be separated after 90 minutes. Kick-off at Toryglen is 1pm.

Taking charge of proceedings is experienced referee Stuart Broadfoot of the Central Scottish League.

Saints co-managers Donald Campbell and Willie Gemmell hope to have a strong squad to choose from with the good news that injured pair Matt Kelly and Myles McAuley may return to training this week but Matt Rippon is out with torn ligaments. The Oban side are expecting a difficult game, but if the squad play the way they have been recently, then a place in the third round draw should be on the cards.

# Camanachd Association announce Scotland's first School of Shinty

Kingussie High School and the Camanachd Association are delighted to announce Scotland's first School of Shinty (2018). The initiative is the first of its kind in Scotland connecting more young people with more shinty throughout the academic year. It was launched on October 10, exactly 125 years since the Camanachd Association was formed in Kingussie.

The School of Shinty is a joint initiative between Kingussie High School and the Camanachd Association, with support from the local shinty clubs, Newtonmore and Kingussie Camanachd.

The exciting plans are aimed at ensuring continued growth of shinty within Kingussie High School to meet the development aims of both the school and the local clubs.

The School of Shinty will begin with a 10-week block of shinty this year from October to December, and then in year two it will be offered continuously throughout the year as part of an elective.

As well as the development of shinty skills and match tactics, the school will offer opportunities to learn about an overall approach to sport, including the physical fitness,

time management, mental preparation and nutrition/hydration required to compete at the top of any sport.

The key aspects of shinty that the school will incorporate includes:

■ Coach education (staff and pupils).

■ Officiating education (staff members and pupils) delivered by the Camanachd Association regional development manager with support from the local shinty clubs.

The overall vision of the school of shinty is to enhance even stronger links between the high school and the local clubs, grow the number of people involved in shinty and improve the core skills of those participating through more time on task.

The Camanachd Association are currently exploring opportunities for a number of similar initiatives across the country to further develop the game and importantly support our clubs in their efforts to sustain participation throughout secondary school.

Announcing the inspired new initiative, acting head Ian Adamson said: 'We are excited to be in partnership with the Camanachd

Association to be the first School of Shinty in Scotland and the benefits that this will have on not only Kingussie High School but the local shinty teams and community is fantastic. The programme will allow youngsters to develop their shinty skills and form pathways to local junior teams and eventually for some the first teams of Kingussie and Newtonmore. At the same time, pupils will also be developing a range of important skills like teamwork, communication and resilience. I recently visited another school outside of Highland that has a well-established school of sports and the engagement, attendance and attainment of the pupils involved has progressed significantly since it started.'

Derek Keir, chief executive of the Camanachd Association, is also delighted with the announcement and said: 'Primary school participation has grown substantially over the past few years. However, sustaining this into secondary schools was highlighted as a priority through our club consultations last year. As a result, we have been working hard with education and indeed secondary schools across Scotland

to explore innovative solutions that broaden the number of people delivering shinty and enhance the number of opportunities young people have to access our sport. The School of Shinty presents more time on task for aspiring players and will be delivered through the curriculum to complement the extracurricular provision already provided. One of the principles of the curriculum is relevance and there is not a more relevant sport in shinty communities to have as a context for learning.'

The local clubs are also fully behind the idea, and Norman MacArthur, president of Newtonmore Camanachd said: 'Newtonmore Camanachd is delighted to be a partner in the new School of Shinty at Kingussie High School.'

'It is an exciting initiative that could spell the way forward for the sport of shinty in many parts of the country. It is good news that shinty is developing in this way, and it will help to keep teenage players involved in the sport. The more the partners can work together the healthier the future of shinty will be in Badenoch.'

Russell Jones, president of Kingussie Camanachd, said:

## SHINTY

'Kingussie Camanachd is delighted to support Kingussie High School in this partnership to promote shinty. Kingussie, Newtonmore, Kincairdie and Badenoch and Strathspey Ladies' Shinty clubs all operate within a 10-mile radius of the school. As well as being socially and culturally important to keep the game strong in our area, encouraging students to play shinty in school can lead to long and successful playing careers with these local clubs, therefore promoting health and wellbeing long in to adulthood.'

Sportscotland chair Mel Young, said: 'It is great news that Kingussie High School, the Camanachd Association and local clubs will be working together to create Scotland's first School of Shinty. Initiatives like this and strong links between partners within the sporting community will continue to help the sport grow. At sportscotland we will keep working closely with partners right across the country to improve opportunities in sport as part of a world-class sporting system.'

OT

## GOLF



Robert MacIntyre. Photograph: Bounce Sports.

## Poor last round proves costly for MacIntyre

Oban golfer Robert MacIntyre travelled to China last week to take part in the Hainan Open played at Sanya Luhuitou Golf Club in Sanya City.

Robert started off well and carded a two under par 70 in the first round with five birdies and three bogeys.

In his second round, Robert carded three birdies and two bogeys. He had a superb eagle on the 13th but a double bogey on the 18th resulted in a score of 71.

The young Glencruitten golfer finished level par with a 72 in the third round which featured three birdies and three bogeys.

Unfortunately, Robert carded a four over par 76 in the last round with five birdies, five bogeys and a disastrous eight at the 7th which dropped him down the leader board and he finished in joint 47th place with a four round total of 289.

The tournament was won by Finland's Kalle Samooja who carded a four round total of 273, 13 under par. Scotland's Grant Forrest finished second two strokes behind on 272 with American Sean Crocker in third place.

Robert stays in China for the Foshan Open taking place in Foshan City, Guangdong Province in south-east China starting today (October 18).

## HOCKEY

## Oban defeat Helensburgh in Argyll derby match

Oban men faced Helensburgh 2s in their first Argyll derby in the men's hockey league.

For the second week running, Oban went 2-0 up at half time, and so how would the team play in the second half?

With the benefit of three subs, the side were able to rotate effectively to make sure everyone had a good balance of playing and resting.

Valuable contributions from debutants Cameron Hathaway, Donald Histed and Gavin Yates helped see the side through and secure the 2-0 win.

MOM was Gavin Yates who added great strength and depth to the side in his role as sweeper. The defence in general were solid. A massive thank you to Charmaine Love for umpiring, who had a great game herself. Oban's next game is another Argyll derby where the team face Helensburgh 3s.

## SCOTTISH AMATEUR FOOTBALL LEAGUE

## Results and fixtures

Last Saturday's results: Premier Division - Alba Thistle v Oban Saints, postponed; Premier Division One - Hillington v Campbeltown Pupils, postponed; Lochgilhead Red Star v Port Glasgow, postponed; Premier Division Two - Glynhill Moorcroft v Tarbert, postponed.

This Saturday's fixtures: West of Scotland Cup, 2nd round - Uddingston v Oban Saints; Premier Division One - Claremont v Campbeltown Pupils; Easthall Star v Lochgilhead Red Star; Premier Division Two - Tarbert v Houston United

# Craig's high five as Lomond at Glencruitten

Oban Lorne	35
Loch Lomond	12

Tennent's West Division 2

Oban Lorne welcomed 12th placed Loch Lomond to Glencruitten on a damp, miserable autumn day. The underfoot conditions were surprisingly firm given the amount of water which had fallen in Oban at the beginning of the week, so credit must be given to Argyll and Bute Council's groundsman Ian Hay and his team for the work they have done to get the pitch into this condition.

Oban knew that they were going to be under pressure physically with Lomond being the bigger and heavier team

by a long way. The coach's talk before the game had emphasised the need to move the Lomond team around the park to tire them out.

The home side welcomed back prop Andy MacDougall, second row Eric Roberts, stand-off Finlay Carmichael and winger Roddy Morrisison as well as a first start at scrum-half for 18-year-old James Divers.

The first 10 minutes or so were a scrappy affair with Oban managing to convert two penalty kicks by Finlay Carmichael to take a 6-0 lead.

The conditions were proving tricky with the wet, slippery ball leading to a lot of handling errors which in turn led to a lot of scrums – an area

where Loch Lomond had the early dominance, pushing Oban off a couple of their own balls.

With Oban starting to adapt to the conditions and the tactics of the visiting team, who were quite happy to keep the ball close to the forwards and hitting runners one out from the ruck, Oban managed to secure a turnover and a couple of passes released Craig Wright from fullback and he managed to cross in the corner for his first try of the afternoon.

Straight from the restart, Oban were on the front foot again and, after some good work by the forwards, Oban managed to work the ball wide for Wright to hit the line hard and outpace the covering defenders to score behind the posts. This try was again converted by Carmichael to give Oban an 18-0 lead.

At the restart, a high tackle off the ball on Lorne MacLachlan left the referee with no option but give the Lomond scrum-half a straight red card for dangerous play.

This should have been the start of a period of dominance for Oban but they took their collective eye off the ball and allowed Lomond back in to the game in the last 10 minutes of the half.

Lomond upped the pressure and Oban conceded a number of penalties around the



breakdown. After the referee had given the Oban captain a warning about repeated infringements, Lomond pressed hard and were rewarded with a try in the last minute of the half. This left the halftime score at Oban 18, Loch Lomond 5.

The Oban coaching team reiterated the need to play with width to get outside the Lomond pack and make them work that bit harder to move around the park.

Things did not go to plan straight away as Craig Wright was to receive 10 minutes in the bin for retaliating to some aggressive play from one of the Lomond players.

This unsettled the Oban team and allowed Lomond to dominate the opening 10



Craig Wright dives over for one of his five tries.



Oban Lorne captain Iwan Roberts weaves his way through the Loch Lomond defence.



Lorne MacLachlan gathers up a loose ball.

# Lorne dump Loch



Craig Wright celebrates scoring five tries with his team mates after the win over Loch Lomond. Photos: Stephen Lawson

minutes or so of the second half. Some resolute defending kept Lomond at bay until their massive prop took a short crash ball five yards out from the line to score Lomond's second try which when converted took the score to 18-12 to Oban.

A few changes were made at this time, Calum MacLachlan moving back into the front row after starting the game centre.

Young David Cameron finally arrived to take his place at centre and was joined by Lorne Sinclair in the back row coming on for Ben Macfarlane-Barrow, who had another fine game after impressing in last week's loss at Lenzie.

The changes brought a bit

more cohesion to the Oban game and they started to play on the front foot and gave the ball wide at every opportunity.

Some fantastic individual running from Craig Wright led to him scoring a further three tries in the last 20 minutes of the game to secure another bonus point victory for the Green Machine.

The final score of 35-12 does not reflect how hard Oban were made to work for this victory. Some harsh words from head coach Andrew Johnston at full-time reflected the disappointment in the performance and the inability to follow the game plan.

Possibly a nod to how far the team have come this season when they can have a bonus

point victory and still be unhappy with the performance.

Another pleasing note was again the number of young players included in the squad stepping up to take responsibility with no fewer than eight players being under 20 years of age. Young James Divers had a great game at scrum-half, covering for Borisov Vasil, who was away on international duty with Bulgaria and will have a fight on his hands to keep his starting position on this showing.

This all bodes well for the future a couple of years down the line with a good strong core of players and a number of great young talent coming through at u18/u16 levels.

Saturday's win leaves Oban in joint second place in the

## RUGBY

league on 27 points alongside Uddingston, with Lenzie leading the league by a further two points.

This weekend Oban are on their travels again for another top of the table clash against Uddingston, who were narrowly beaten by last weekend's opponents Lenzie 12-6.

This will be another massive test for the young Oban squad to overcome but a repeat of last week's performance away to Lenzie will keep them right in the title race.

Oban Lorne's next home game is on Saturday October 27 as Clydebank RFC visit Glencruitten.



Calum MacLachlan barges his way through.



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## WEATHER

### Thursday

Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze from the south  
Temperatures 8°C to 12°C.

### Friday

Light rain and a moderate breeze from the south west  
Temperatures 10°C to 12°C.

### Weekend Outlook

Light rain on Saturday  
Light rain on Sunday  
Moderate breeze from the west south west  
Temperatures 12°C to 15°C.



FRIDAY

## TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday October 18, 2018 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

	06.44	2.0	13.55	3.1
<b>Thur</b>	19.26	2.1	***	**
<b>Fri</b>	02.42	2.8	08.21	1.9
	14.50	3.2	21.04	1.9
<b>Sat</b>	03.18	3.0	09.22	1.7
	15.28	3.5	21.46	1.7
<b>Sun</b>	03.46	3.3	10.02	1.4
	16.01	3.7	22.19	1.4
<b>Mon</b>	04.17	3.5	10.36	1.2
	16.35	3.9	22.50	1.2
<b>Tues</b>	04.50	3.7	11.06	1.1
	17.08	4.1	23.21	1.0
<b>Wed</b>	05.20	3.9	11.35	0.9
	17.40	4.2	23.52	0.8

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:**  
Craig's high five as Lorne  
dump Loch Lomond at  
Glencruitten

**NORTH WEST  
MARINE**  
DIVING & MARINE SPECIALISTS  
**SPONSORS OF THE  
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AND TIDES - SEE PAGE 71**

# A life on the ocean waves



After a slightly delayed start due to weather disruptions with the ferries, the Tiree Wave Classic windsurfing event kicked off on Sunday October 14 for the 32nd year.

Day one saw light and variable winds, unsuitable for competition but still enough for the young professionals to show off some impressive wave skills.

With 86 competitors registered, Tiree Wave Classic is bigger and

better than ever with 21 per cent higher attendance than the previous year in October 2017 which had 71 entrants.

This year's event as such is the largest entry list in the competition's 32-year history and the largest attendance at any British Wavesailing Association event since the governing body was founded.

Participants travel from around the globe to attend the Tiree-

based competition in what is now the longest running professional windsurfing event on the planet and Argyll and Bute's primary (if not only) international sports event.

'All we need now are wind and waves,' stated William MacLean, the event organiser. 'Tuesday's forecast currently looks good with strong winds and reasonable waves which should see a great day of competition.'

## WINDSURFING

The event will end a day early this year on Thursday October 18 due to a lack of CalMac ferry capacity. Tiree seems to get a bit busier every year and it would appear that the success of the event, and its growth, run hand in hand with Tiree's popularity as a visitor destination in October each year.

More photographs on page 68

Action from the  
Tiree Wave Classic.



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# LOCHABER TIMES

## & OBAN TIMES

No 8429

Thursday 18 October, 2018

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90p



Photos and results from the 2018 Royal National Mòd

## Fort William High Street shortlisted

Town improvements spark award nomination

## New Fort chairman aims to bring stability



# Joint plan for Coire Glas

## SSE and Scottish Canals to form partnership for hydro scheme

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Barges carrying millions of tons of rock excavated in construction of what would be Scotland's largest ever hydro power scheme could soon be seen along the Caledonian Canal in the Great Glen if it gets the go-ahead.

The Coire Glas project on the shore of Loch Lochy, proposed by energy supplier SSE, would also be the first new pumped storage scheme to be developed in the UK since 1974.

Using the Caledonian Canal to minimise disruption to the local community and the roads in the area is being considered and, in a joint statement last week, SSE and Scottish Canals said their partnership could lead to the revitalisation of the Caledonian Canal as a freight route, offering an option to future projects in the area to make use of the canal helping to further minimise traffic disruption in the area.

Catherine Topley, chief executive of Scottish Canals, commented:

'Thomas Telford's iconic Caledonian Canal was built more than 200 years ago to help stimulate the Highland economy providing jobs, tourism benefits and the movement of freight, opening up the Scottish Highlands to trade with the world.'

'Today the Caledonian Canal and the Great Glen continue to thrive as one of Scotland's most visited tourist destinations, and it is with great pleasure we enter today's agreement with SSE to work together to bring another of the original uses of the Caledonian Canal back - water-based freight transport.'

'In partnership with SSE, we'll undertake a detailed feasibility study and logistics modelling to determine the options available as we look to deliver more opportunities for the local economy and businesses to benefit.'

But the scheme is not without its share of controversy, with local communities in the area of the proposed scheme concerned about the amount of disruption that would be

caused by its construction.

Earlier this year, community councillors agreed to back the scheme but only with the proviso that extensive planning conditions were attached to any consent.

At the July meeting of Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council, members insisted on a number of conditions, one of which would be the requirement for assurances that loading of any barges on Loch Lochy would not create excessive noise and dust.

Coire Glas project manager Sean Kelly said: 'As a project of national significance, we wanted to find a sustainable solution to the challenge of rock excavation at Coire Glas and it is fitting that this solution would involve such an important part of Scotland's heritage.'

'SSE has a long-standing relationship with Scottish Canals and we're pleased to be able to formalise our shared interest further and hope that together we help rejuvenate the Caledonian Canal both for the project and for the future.'

## All action heroes...



Clann Thronairnis from Staffin and Kilmuir, Skye, won the Margaret MacDougall Memorial Trophy for the under-13s Action Song competition at the year's Royal National Mòd in Dunoon.

Located in the north-west of Loch Lochy in the Great Glen, SSE was granted planning approval in 2013 for a 600MW

pumped storage scheme at Coire Glas. However, to maximise the potential benefit of this site, SSE submitted an

application to the Scottish Government for consent to increase capacity of up to 1500MW in April this year.



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LT

## Warrant granted for arrest of accused

A warrant for the arrest of a Fort William man was granted after he failed to appear at the town's court last week.

Sean Thomas Laskey, 29, of Carn Dearg Road, Claggan, had previously denied committing a breach of the peace by behaving in a disorderly manner in licensed premises in the town on April 15 this year.

Laskey is accused of throwing a glass, which smashed, shouting and swearing, and raising a bar stool over his head.

Laskey has also pleaded not guilty that on the same day in the town's High Street he behaved in a threatening or abusive manner likely to cause fear and alarm by making abusive remarks to police officers.

**READMORE**  
www.obantimes.co.uk

# Knuckleduster and knife cost Fort man £600

A man from Torlundy was fined £600 by a sheriff last week after admitting possession of a knuckleduster and a locking knife.

Procurator fiscal Alison Young told Fort William Sheriff Court that Valentins Surunvos, 37, who is originally from Latvia but has lived in the UK for three years, had been spoken to by police officers after they came across his car in the middle of the A830 road on May 4 this year, near Kilmallie Church, Corpach.

Surunvos's car had a flat tyre but after speaking with him the officers decided that, owing to his demeanour, they would carry out a breath test.

This gave a zero result, but a subsequent search of his person discovered that

Surunvos had a four-knuckle knuckleduster attached to his belt and a locking knife, with a blade of more than three inches, in his trouser pocket.

Defence agent Hamish Melrose said his client had started a new job with Marine Harvest on October 1 and had been employed since coming to the UK.

'He has never come to the attention of the police before,' Mr Melrose told the court.

'I don't think he comprehended the seriousness of carrying these items in this country. But it is not as if he was walking down Fort William High Street with them.' Mr Melrose said the knuckleduster in question was more of the 'cosmetic type' and more for show.

'He says he never had any

intention of using these weapons and my discussions with him have brought it home to him that these sort of charges can attract custodial sentences.'

Mr Melrose asked Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald to take into account that, apart from this incident, Surunvos had not been in trouble with the police during his time in the UK, had a steady job and fixed address.

Fining him £300 on each of the weapons charges, as well as ordering the knuckleduster and knife to be forfeited, Sheriff MacDonald told Surunvos: 'I hope now you realise the culture in this country is very different, with the possession of weapons of any kind frowned upon to say the least.'



Megan (centre) pictured here after the head shave with her brother Owen (left), mother Louise (second right) and dad Mike (right), joined by hairdresser Ashleigh Fraser (second left) of Caol Cutz Hair Design.

## Brave Megan raises £1,300 for charity

A Lochaber youngster said goodbye to her beloved locks last week after an unforgettable trip to the hairdresser's. Megan Pescod, from Corpach, took the brave decision to shave her head last Friday and sacrifice the hair that she loved in the name of charity.

The Lochaber High School S1 pupil has been fundraising for weeks as part of the nationwide Brave the Shave for Macmillan campaign to raise money for people living with cancer.

The recent fundraising stunt has helped Megan smash her initial fundraising target of £150, by raising just over £1,300 so far.

Having had family and friends affected by cancer, the youngster has previously hosted coffee mornings in aid of Macmillan after hearing about the work of the charity at school.

Megan's hair has also been posted to The Little Princess Trust, which provides real hair wigs free of charge to children and young people up to the age of 24 who have lost their hair because of cancer treatment.

Megan and her family would like to thank everyone for all the support, sponsorship and donations and would like to give a special thanks to Ashleigh Fraser at Caol Cuts Hair Design.

## Transport forum

Lochaber Transport Forum meets on Tuesday October 23 at Duncansburgh Church Hall at 12.30pm. The forum's AGM takes place on Friday October 26 at Duncansburgh Church Hall at 11am.

### PRACTICAL BASIC BOOK-KEEPING

A workshop that takes you through keeping financial records, understanding the key components of book-keeping: purchase and sales ledgers, cashbook, produce a bank reconciliation and understand VAT.

Thu. 25 Oct 2018, 0930-1230hrs, Oban

Thu. 1 Nov 2018, Lochgilhead; Wed. 14 Nov 2018, Mull

### REACHING MORE CUSTOMERS

A practical 'hands on' workshop packed with proven techniques you can use to reach more customers and increase sales. You will examine a range of simple, but effective marketing actions, which will help promote your products to as many potential customers as possible.

Fri. 26 Oct 2018, 1000-1600hrs, Oban

### BUILD YOUR OWN BUSINESS WEBSITE

Learn from scratch how to build and manage an attractive and effective website for your business. This course provides you with an overview of how to plan, develop and manage your website.

Tue. 30 Oct 2018, 0930-1630hrs, Oban

Tue. 20 Nov 2018, 0930-1630hrs, Lochgilhead

### INTRODUCTION TO ONLINE TRADING

A workshop focussing on the basics required for trading online, looking at various tools, platforms and payment options and online marketplaces like Etsy and Amazon.

Thu. 22 Nov 2018, 1000-1600hrs, Oban

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email [ig@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:ig@argyll-bute.gov.uk)



# Supermarket worker is put on Sex Offenders' Register

Supermarket worker Kamil Borowka from Fort William was placed on the Sex Offenders' Register last week when he appeared in court and admitted groping two women in a town pub in August.

Procurator fiscal Alison Young told the court Borowka, 34, who is originally from Poland but who has lived in the UK for six years, had been in a pub in the town's High Street on August 19.

Mrs Young told how CCTV cameras in the bar had recorded the incidents at 1.15am. They showed that Borowka, who did not know the women involved, was 'pretty drunk'.

'The first complainer is seen coming up to the bar and is standing next to the accused,' said Mrs Young. 'There appears to be some conversation between the two

and he appears to have bought her a drink.'

'At this point she [the complainer] turns her back and faces towards a friend, at which point he starts rubbing his left hand over her back and bottom, over the top of her clothing.'

'The complainer's friend saw this and moved between the two of them as the complainer is seen to be distressed.'

'The next complainer is nearby and the accused then squeezes her bottom, at which point she turns and challenges him.'

'Staff were then alerted and the accused was ejected from the premises and the police alerted.'

Mrs Young told the court both incidents were very short in timespan.

Defence agent Hamish

Melrose said Mrs Young's narrative of the events had been 'fair' and said his client, who is single, had been very drunk at the time of the offences. 'When the second offence takes place, the complainer put a finger up to his cheek and threw her drink over him. Mr Borowka was incredibly apologetic to the police and ashamed at what he had done,' Mr Melrose told the court.

'He was very much under the influence of alcohol at the time, although that is no excuse.'

Sheriff Gary Aitken deferred sentence until November 6 for a criminal justice social work report and placed Borowka on the Sex Offenders' Register from that day's appearance.

Borowka's bail was continued.

## Help sought as siblings retire

Kilchoan Community Fire Station is on the look out for the next generation of firefighters in the village as one of the family members that serve the station is set for retirement.

Run by watch manager Rosie Curtis, the crew includes her husband David, her brother Hugh MacLachlan and, until recently, her sister Nan MacLachlan.

However, following Nan's retirement from the service earlier this year, brother Hugh is to step down in the very near future, ending almost 60 years of service between the pair. This will leave just Rosie and her husband, along with four other members of the community, to man the station.

The tiny Ardnamurchan station may only serve a small population but it is seen as 'vital' by Rosie and the community, with the nearest fire engine up to an hour and a half drive away.

# Disgraced former hotel owner is back in court

A former Duror hotel owner ordered to repay the money he made from trafficking workers from South Asia was back at Fort William Sheriff Court last week.

Shamsul Arefin, 50, was jailed for three years in 2015 at Fort William Sheriff Court after he was found guilty of human trafficking.

At Fort William Sheriff Court in May this year, Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald ordered Arefin must repay nearly £94,000 made through his exploitation of four men while owner of the Stewart Hotel, Duror.

Arefin had recruited the men from Bangladesh with promises of employment and a salary which could help them improve their lives. They were told to pay him substantial sums of money in return for the jobs and, on arrival, the men found their salaries were substantially lower than they had been promised, they were working



Fort William Sheriff Court.

excessively long hours and their duties were far beyond what they expected.

At May's court appearance, Sheriff MacDonald had made a confiscation order for £93,443.

Sheriff MacDonald heard last week, however, that the compensation order was due

to expire in a few weeks, yet Arefin had still not paid the money due to issues surrounding the valuation and sale of his house in Surrey.

Arefin's solicitor, John Good, told the court ongoing efforts to release funds over the near six months since the compensation order was made had been 'intensive'.

But Mr Good explained the house had now been valued at only 75 per cent of the figure recorded at the end of April and an application had been lodged to ask for the terms of the confiscation order to be varied so Arefin could have longer to raise the funds.

Mr Good added: 'This house is the only asset he has and he lives there with his severely ill wife and young son. The house has been specially adapted because of his wife's illness and I am submitting there are some exceptional circumstances in this case.'

Mr Good said he was looking to extend the six-month

period for a further three months prior to the disposal of the asset.

The court heard that, according to these valuations, Arefin's house was now worth around £100,000 less than when the compensation order was made and, if sold at such a valuation, he and his family would, in effect, be homeless once the compensation is paid.

Procurator fiscal Alison Young said the Crown opposed the application to extend the deadline by an extra three months on the grounds it was premature.

'It seems to be the perception of the Crown Office that no attempt to date has been made to sell the property,' she said, but added the Crown Office was prepared to agree to further discussions with Arefin's legal representatives.

Sheriff MacDonald ordered the deadline be extended from October 25 to November 9.

## Residents object to toilet plans

Several Mallaig residents have objected to a planning application for a new toilet block and motorhome service facility at West Bay.

The Road to the Isles Facilities Group (RIFG) submitted the plans to Highland Council to increase the number of public toilets at peak times and to provide the only public motorhome service point along the A830 Fort William to Mallaig road.

The plans have proved contentious due to the location on a 'well used' grassy area in West Bay and the suitability of the site for a motorhome sewage dump facility.

In response to the objections, the RIFG said that while there were some valid issues highlighted, 'some were the result of misconceptions'.

The volunteer group said there will be enough green space for a picnic area after construction and the sewage disposal facility will not be visible.

# Lochaber Chamber chief stands down

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce chief executive Lesley Benfield has announced that she is to stand down from her position.

Mrs Benfield will remain in post until her replacement is found, before moving to a new role within the Chamber to lead the Developing the Young Workforce programme for West Highland.

'After a good run as the chief executive of one of the most active rural Chambers of Commerce in Scotland, I think it is the right time for the organisation to recruit fresh thinking to keep delivering for members of the Chamber,' said Mrs Benfield. 'Arrangements for the appointment of my successor are already being put in place and we look forward to welcoming a new chief executive to lead the team by early 2019.'

Mrs Benfield took up the role of chief executive in October 2013 and led the Chamber through the merger of Fort William Chamber of Commerce and the Outdoor



Lesley Benfield is to take up a new role.

Capital of the UK Ltd in 2014. 'We are proud of our successes over the past five years due in part to Lesley's leadership and the performance of the team at the Chamber,' said president Bruno Berardelli.

'We appreciate all she has done for the Chamber and respect her decision. We are glad that Lesley will be remain as a key part of the Chamber team in her new role.'

Frazer Coupland, former destination manager at

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, will be joining the Chamber's executive team on a temporary basis as interim destination management organisation manager, effective from October 29, until a new chief executive is in place.

Mr Berardelli added: 'We are pleased that Frazer Coupland, who recently led a refresh of the Outdoor Capital of the UK destination strategy, will be on hand to support Lesley through the leadership transition.'

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Kelsey Ward next to the replacement blackboards on the Highland Bookshop front. Photograph: Iain Ferguson

## Fort William bookshop makes light of window smash

Staff at the Highland Bookshop on Fort William's High Street put a comic slant on their misfortune this week.

On Friday morning, the team were shocked to find that one of the large window panels on the shop front had been smashed.

Not content with just covering up the damage, the

staff got creative and decided to put a positive spin on the incident.

Shop assistant Kelsey Ward said: 'We put it up on social media and we had lots of people commenting on it and trying to guess the quote - we just had to make sure it was spelled correctly! Everyone has been very supportive.'

## 170kgs of rubbish collected from Ben

Underpants, a golf tee and fragments of a broken toilet were just some of the items retrieved from the side of Ben Nevis by a hardy team of volunteers during the annual Real3Peaks mountain clean up on Saturday October 13.

An astonishing total of 170 kilograms of rubbish was collected by the team, who carried 34 bags of rubbish back down from the top of the UK's highest mountain.

In among the usual haul of banana peels, plastic bottles and tissues, the group picked up a number of unusual items, including T-shirts, longjohns, a beach shelter, half a boot, a smashed Christmas bauble and an unused military flare.

Real3Peaks founder Rich Pyne said it was 'an amazing turn up', even though some team members missed out due to cancelled ferries.

Spending a total of eight hours on Ben Nevis, the group split into two teams, one covering the red burn area and one covering the summit.



'The summit itself was a complete mess,' Mr Pyne explained, 'which was a real shame as the rest of the hill looked very promising after the clean-up which took place a month ago by the John Muir Trust. We spent an hour there and ended up with approximately three bin bags each. Quite a load to carry for five miles.'

Mr Pyne thanked all of the volunteers for their hard work and thanked the John Muir Trust and Highland Council for the loan and supply of the litter-picking kit.

'If every person who went on Ben Nevis (approximately 100,000 per year) took down one piece of litter, the hill



Some of the red burn team, top, and above, team members assess their rubbish haul.

would be pristine in about 18 months,' he added.

Litter picks were also held at Bennachie, Aberdeenshire, Ben Lomond and the Fairy Pools on Skye as part of the challenge.

## Landslips close roads

Contractors and council engineering staff continue to work on two roads which were closed after the recent spell of bad weather.

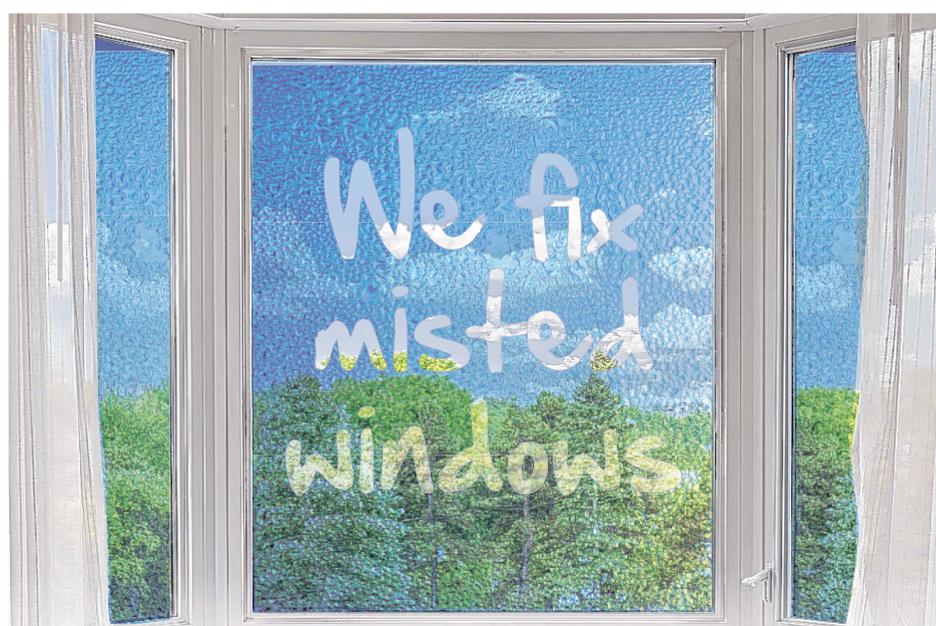
The B8043 Kingairloch road, adjacent to the Kingairloch estate road and at B849 Drimnin road, near Killundine were closed due to landslips.

Work was still being carried out this week to allow the Drimnin road to open to LGVs. However, the road can take light vehicles although there might be some delays in getting through the site.

It was hoped that the road will be fully open this week as there is no alternative route. There will be a delay in reinstating the bitmac surface but the road will be fully driveable.

There is a local diversion in place for the Kingairloch road. Engineers were due to undertake a hill inspection this week. Once this inspection is completed there will be a clearer view on when the road can reopen.

Council staff are continuing to liaise with the local communities.



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## Fort supermarket worker ordered to be of good behaviour

A Fort William supermarket worker was ordered to be of good behaviour when he appeared at the town's sheriff court last week.

Kamil Borowka, 34, of the town's High Street, pleaded guilty to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner toward his ex-partner, the mother of his child, at her home on Lochaber Road, Fort William, on Monday July 15.

The court heard that Borowka, who has lived in Fort William for six years, banged on the door and window of the house and then waiting outside before confronting her outside the house, when he stuck his foot out to stop the wheels of the pram in which the child was sitting. He further admitted to shouting at the woman from his car as she walked down Lochaber Road before he drove off.

Procurator fiscal Alison

Young told the court that there had been 'ongoing tensions' between Borowka and his former partner.

'Clearly he felt he could turn up whenever he wanted and see the child, which is not the case,' Mrs Young told the court.

The incident occurred three months after Borowka's three-year relationship with his ex-partner had ended.

Borowka's solicitor, Hamish Melrose, said that at the time of the incident Borowka had not long returned from a trip to his native Poland after his father had died. He went on to say that the issues between Borowka and his ex-partner were in relation to the child. He said that Borowka had visited the house on Lochaber Road because he had found another place to live in the town and needed to collect bedding and clothing, and wanted to speak to his

ex-partner about child care and other such issues.

Mr Melrose explained that his client agreed he was at the house and there was an exchange between him and his ex-partner after she left the building.

Mr Melrose said that Borowka felt that his behaviour 'wasn't great' and 'not the best way to deal with the situation' and the issue between him and his ex-partner has since been 'wholly rectified'.

Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald deferred sentence for six months until April 23 in which time Borowka is ordered to be of good behaviour, particularly towards his ex-partner.

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# Flooding cuts off access to Glenfinnan Monument

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

The National Trust for Scotland says last week's floods which saw it forced to close footpath access to its famous Glenfinnan Monument have not affected the foundations of the iconic structure.

The giant edifice on the shores of Loch Shiel, which commemorates the Jacobite Rising of 1745, is reputed to stand on the spot where Prince Charles Edward Stuart raised his standard.

The heavy rains last week saw the level of the nearby loch rise to the extent the waters flooded the adjacent Highland games field and came within 10 feet of the monument itself.

But while the monument



The games field in Glenfinnan was completely flooded.

Photograph: Stephen Carruthers.

was not affected, public access via the footpath had to be closed off for several days due to the water.

A spokesperson for the National Trust for Scotland told the Lochaber Times: 'Despite the terrible weather conditions experienced on Tuesday [October 9], this level of flooding is not exceptional at Glenfinnan. Every winter, the water tends to come up to the tower base at least once.

'There is no evidence of the weather or the flooding causing any immediate damage.

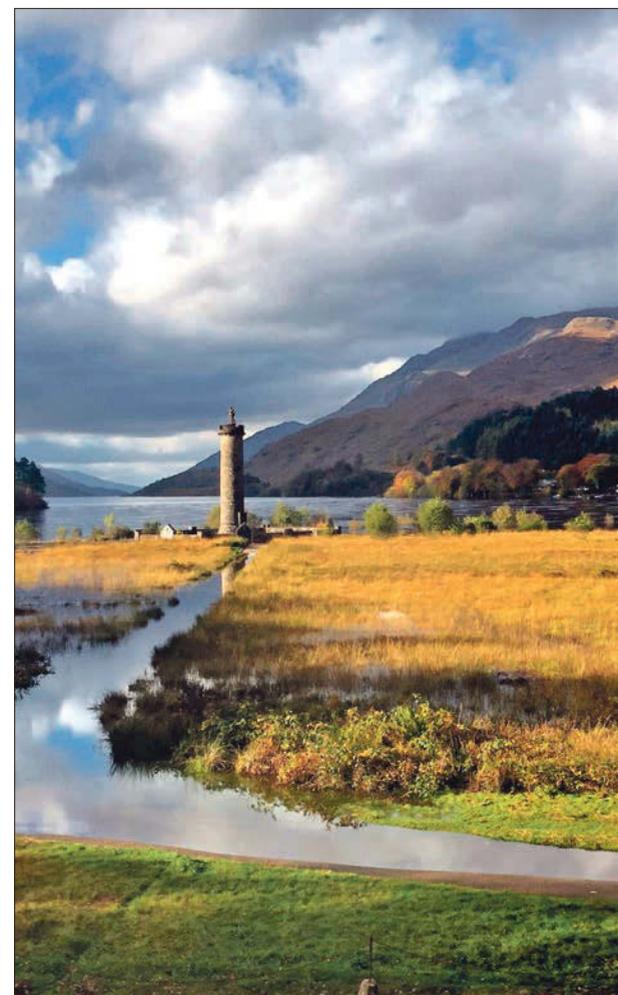
'The monument is inspected several times a year to check its structural integrity and at the same time the soil around the tower is sampled with a probe for water content.'

The Glenfinnan Monument has tilted from the vertical over many decades - thought to be about a millimetre of movement each year - pri-

marily due to the sandy soil that its foundations are sunk into. The tilt on the tower was recently about 3.5 degrees off vertical. The National Trust for Scotland monitors the tilt by the use of four laser points located in the surrounding landscape.

The Lochaber Times also contacted Glenfinnan Community Council to ask if the rising flood waters had caused any concerns regarding the small private cemetery located near the monument and close to Loch Shiel, which is still used.

A community council spokesperson commented: 'This area has always been subject to flooding and the trustees will be keeping an eye on the area. There are no immediate concerns.'



The public path to the Glenfinnan Monument was submerged by flood waters last week.

Picture courtesy of The National Trust for Scotland.

## Fort diving centre is set to fold

The Underwater Centre in Fort William has been placed into administration, putting more than 50 jobs at risk.

Staff were told this week that the subsea training centre has been forced to cease trading and the process of appointing administrators is 'ongoing'.

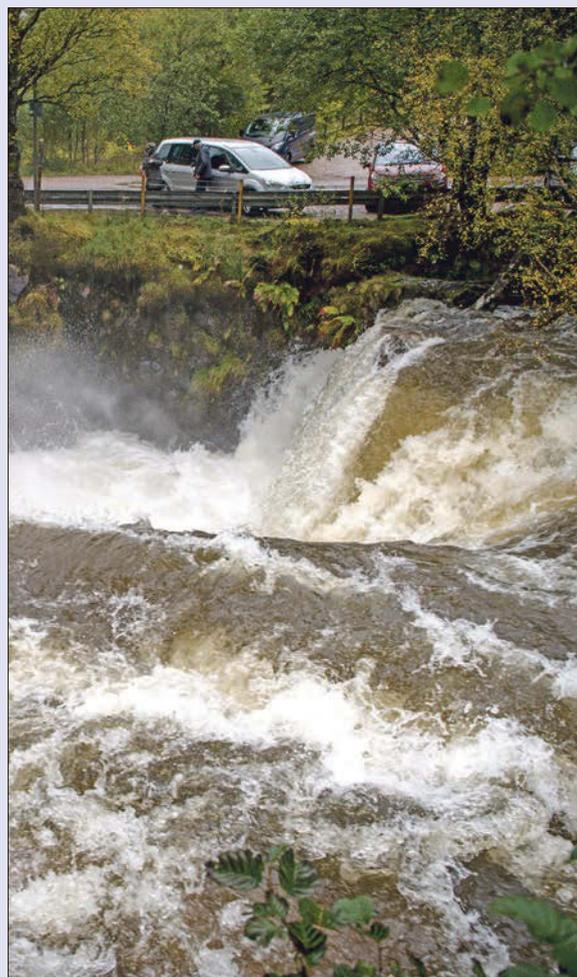
David McGhie, managing director of The Underwater Centre, said: 'We regret to confirm that The Underwater Centre has been forced to cease trading and will be placed into administration. It was heartbreaking informing our committed, loyal and professional staff.

'Government, industry and the local management team have been working hard over the past year to try to find a sustainable solution for the centre. Unfortunately, this has not been possible.'

In May this year, a deal was announced to restructure The Underwater Centre which saw industry and public bodies, including Subsea 7, TechnipFMC, Premier Oil, Oil & Gas UK, and Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), collaborating to support the diver training company.

Kate Forbes MSP said that 'no stone has been left unturned'.

## Rain, rain go away...



Recent heavy rainfall saw swollen rivers and localised flooding in parts of Lochaber. Our photographer captured this amazing scene at the Lower Falls in Glen Nevis last week. Photograph: A Brightside Photography.



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## VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER

What can we learn from success ... and failure?

We all know that we're not supposed to let 'fear of failure' stop us from trying our best in life and in business. We all know it shouldn't hold us back from trying something different. But the reality is that it is hard to discount that voice in our heads that doesn't want us to take the risk, whether in business or in any area of life.

'Resilience' is a word that you may have come across if you've got children or grandchildren in education. It is something being instilled in younger generations to prepare them for their future.

It means the strength to handle knock-backs; to be able to deal with the possibility of failure and be willing to learn and bounce back from it. If we can better develop our own capacity for resilience, it can only benefit us in our approach to business and to every area of life.

Lochaber Ideas Week 2018 has a range of speakers and seminars that will inspire us to take a fresh look at how we do things and what we might want to change or develop.

Join us to hear an amazing



and uplifting story of perseverance in the face of adversity from Michael 'Eddie the Eagle' Edwards on Monday November 12; listen to an inspiring lecture on the importance of friendship in dealing with mental health issues and addiction from Alastair Campbell at this year's Charles Kennedy Lecture on Thursday November 15 and find out more about how best to support colleagues at work at our Mental Wellness at Work seminar on November 16.

These are just some of the thought-provoking and inspiring events that are open to the whole community during Lochaber Ideas Week from November 12 to 16.

To find out more about the wide range of topics visit [www.lochaberchamber.co.uk](http://www.lochaberchamber.co.uk) or see the programme in October's Lochaber Life. Lochaber Ideas Week 2018 is presented in partnership with Developing the Young Workforce West Highland.

# Fort William High Street shortlisted

## Town improvements spark award nomination

Fort William Town Team says it is delighted that the town's High Street has been shortlisted in the category for SURF's Scotland's Most Improved Place.

The entry focused on the huge improvements made in the town centre in recent years, including better public spaces in Gordon Square and Cameron Square, increased social housing, the redevelopment of the old primary and secondary schools, the installation of the pontoons and, of course, the formation of the Town Team itself.

The entry describes how the transformation has been achieved by teamwork between local and national businesses, volunteers and the council.

The two other shortlisted

projects are Dundee Central Waterfront and Westray Development Trust.

Sue Keen, secretary of the Town Team, who spearheaded the entry, said that it was 'fabulous' that all the hard

**'All the different groups have made a huge difference to the town'**

work done by the whole community to improve the High Street has been recognised.

And, commenting on the shortlisting, Sarah Kennedy of Fort William Marina and Shoreline Company, told us: 'We are delighted to hear that Fort William High Street has been shortlisted for the SURF Awards.

'All the different groups have made a huge difference to the town and it is so nice that all our hard work and personal time devoted to this wee town is being recognised. Fingers crossed that Fort William will win the award.'

Highland Council Lochaber leader Councillor Andrew Baxter called it a 'fantastic' achievement for the Town Team.

'The nomination is a recognition of how working together can make a big difference,' he said.

'Fort William is almost unrecognisable from a decade ago with so many areas regenerated and being used again. We've still got a long way to go but I am confident we have a bright future ahead.'

The judges will be visiting Fort William on Friday October 26 to see the High Street for themselves and to talk to the community about the achievements made.

The winner will be announced at The 2018 SURF Awards presentation dinner at the Grand Central Hotel, Glasgow, on December 6.

Fort William Town Team was set up in July 2014 and is a community organisation of more than 60 volunteers who are all passionate about maintaining and regenerating Fort William High Street and surrounding areas for the benefit of residents and visitors.

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The powder horn dates from 1745, the year of the Jacobite Rising that saw Prince Charles Edward Stuart try to reclaim the throne.

## Ardgour historic gunpowder horn on show at new V&A

A gunpowder horn dating from 1745 and belonging to a clan member of the Macleans of Ardgour is one of eight historic artefacts from the High Life Highland collections at the Highland Folk Museum and Inverness Museum and Art Gallery to have gone on show as part of the permanent displays at the newly opened V&A Dundee, writes Mark Entwistle.

Objects loaned by the Highland museums also include a woollen blanket woven by hand in the 1830s on the Isle of Lewis; a hand-crafted silver luckenbooth brooch made in the second half of the 19th century by itinerant travellers at Applecross; and a fine Inverness silver quach made circa 1780 by local artisan

Thomas Borthwick. The objects from the Highland Folk Museum are exhibited in a display about local design specialisms across the north of Scotland, celebrating the hand-crafting skills of Highland makers, including woodworking, weaving, knitting, and horn and silver working.

Hailing the new displays, Ian Murray, High Life Highland's chief executive, commented: 'High Life Highland is delighted to be working in partnership with V&A Dundee to bring these fascinating, very personal examples of traditional Highland craftwork to new audiences.'

'V&A Dundee attracted 27,000 visitors in its first week and is projected to welcome

more than half a million visitors in its first year.

'I am delighted that all of these visitors will benefit from the opportunity to see these special Highland objects up close, and very much hope that many will be inspired to visit the places in the Highlands where they were originally made, as well as the Highland Folk Museum and Inverness Museum and Art Gallery, where HLH care for superb collections of items of a similar quality and historical significance.'

The Highland objects are shown alongside displays of furniture, textiles, metalwork, ceramics, fashion, architecture, engineering and digital design – showcasing the very best of Scottish creativity.

## Kinlochleven youngsters give retiring teacher special send-off



Retiring as acting head of Kinlochleven Primary School, Peter Carrick was given a special send-off by pupils at a football-themed assembly with pies, Bovril and team scarves to match his love of the game. A lifelong fan of Clyde FC, Mr Carrick began his teaching career in Irvine, working in schools across Ayrshire before taking up a post in Kinlochleven 13 years ago, teaching most classes in the school.

## LOCHABER IDEAS WEEK



12-16 NOVEMBER 2018

Presented by Lochaber Chamber of Commerce

In partnership with Developing the Young Workforce West Highland

## Shaping Tourism in Lochaber

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce is delighted to announce 'Shaping Tourism in Lochaber' sponsored by Nevis Range Mountain Experience as part of Ideas Week 2018!

This is a free event on Thursday 14th November; tickets must be booked in advance.

Join our panel of expert speakers from the tourism industry including: Riddell Graham (Visit Scotland), Allan Bulloch (Booking.com), Chris O'Brien, CEO of Nevis Range, Chris Taylor (Visit Scotland), Marc Crothall of Scottish Tourism Alliance and a representative from Expedia.

Don't miss your chance to get up to date with the latest trends in tourism in Lochaber.

This event is kindly sponsored by Nevis Range Mountain Experience. Nevis Range Mountain Experience is a year round attraction, home to the UK's only mountain gondola. Located near Fort William, they provide a wide variety of outdoor activities from skiing and snowboarding,



to mountain biking, and restaurants.

Followed by a seminar on Welcoming Chinese visitors to Lochaber

Tourism to Scotland is changing. Visitor numbers from China are on the rise and expected to grow dramatically over the coming years. What can you do to make sure your tourism business is ready to welcome visitors from China?

This seminar will look at changing trends in our visitors' needs. We will discuss cultural and practical considerations for making Chinese visitors welcome and key steps you can take to make sure Chinese visitors choose your tourism business.

## High Performance Seminar Unlock your potential

Unlock your potential and get the very best out of yourself and your team with top high-performance coach Don MacNaughton on Thursday 14th November.

Come along to get inspired, get motivated and get the best out of yourself and your team.

Don is an exceptional communicator whose ability to inspire and engage is guaranteed to give you and your people energy and motivation. Don has helped thousands of people in the business, community and sports to change the way their people think – and act. Tickets cost £25 + VAT and could be the best investment in your business you ever make!

This event is kindly sponsored by Liberty British Aluminium

Footer: Lochaber Ideas Week 2018 is



presented in partnership with Developing the Young Workforce West Highland.

To find out more and book tickets visit [www.lochaberchamber.co.uk](http://www.lochaberchamber.co.uk)



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## WHAT'S ON in Lochaber

Lochaber Music for All presents the Maxwell Quartet for a concert at Kilmallie Community Centre, Corpach, on Wednesday October 17 at 7.30pm.

Kilmallie Community Company is holding its AGM on Friday October 26 at 7.30pm at the Kilmallie Community Centre in Corpach.

Lochaber Transport Forum will hold its open quarterly meeting and annual general meeting at Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church Hall, Fort William, at 11am on Friday October 26.

Aye2Aye Lochaber is delighted to welcome Dr Craig Dalzell to present on the subject: The Economy and the Growth Commission. The talk takes place on Friday October 26 at 7.30pm at Duncansburgh Church Hall.

A craft fair is taking place at Duncansburgh Church Hall, Fort William, on Saturday October 27 from 11am to 3pm. Contact Chris on 07900

928515 for more information.

The Lochaber Rotary Club's pop-up café is joining forces again with the local crafters to put on a cracking day of activity at the Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church Hall on Saturday October 27.

Friends of Nevis is holding its AGM on Friday November 2 at Glen Nevis Restaurant at 6.30pm. The short meeting will be followed by a representative of the John Muir Trust. All welcome. Number in advance if possible. Contact Rory at info@friendsofnevis.co.uk.

The AGM of the Nevis Landscape Partnership will be held at Voluntary Action Lochaber, An Drochaid, Fort William, on Tuesday November 13 at 5.30pm.

**GETINTOUCH**  
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telephone 01397 703003

# Depute head says farewell to school

by Neill Bo Finlayson  
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Former pupils and members of staff made a return visit to Kinlochleven High School last Friday as part of a This is Your Life assembly for the retiral of depute head Gordon Milne.

Joining the profession as a chemistry teacher 37 years ago, Mr Milne went on to further qualify in computing and taught both subjects in Lochaber High School before relocating to Kinlochleven High School in 2005.

Mr Milne was well known and highly regarded for his contribution to all aspects of school life, from sports to stage productions and trips out of school. In an effort to keep his special retiral assembly a complete secret, a school trip had been organised for the day before, getting him 'out of the way' for a few hours. During this time, staff and pupils prac-



Above, Gordon Milne is presented with a gift from head teacher Rebecca Machin. Photographs: Iain Ferguson

tised moving into the assembly hall in total silence after walking past his office pretending to go to classes as normal.

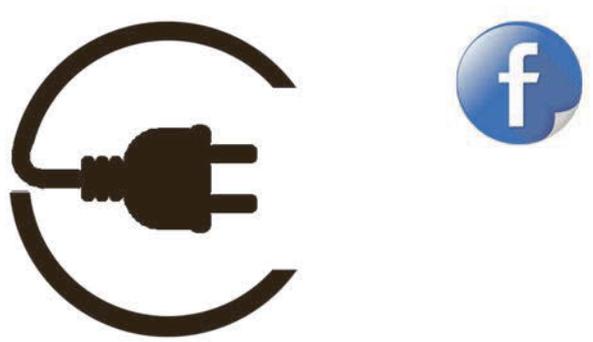
This venture was a great success, as were the many other 'revelations' and a short

performance from the recent school show.

Mr Milne made his own hilarious confession as he thanked everyone for their kindness and consideration: he had been copied in to the email chain to staff from head teacher Rebecca Machin headed 'Gordon's retiral - Top Secret' so had a good suspicion of what was happening from the start.



In his own specially constructed box, Gordon Milne is entertained with an excerpt from the school's recent Royal Variety Performance, in which he worked behind the scenes.



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Members of the Lochaber Sensory Care social group dressed up for their 1930s-themed murder mystery event recently.

## New members sought for friendship group

A friendship group for older people from Point recently celebrated its 100th monthly meeting – and is inviting other members of the community to join the fun.

Cairdean Og Allt nan Gall is one of the biggest friendship groups for older folk in the Outer Hebrides, with around 65 members.

They hold a social afternoon at Ionad Stoodie on

the first Tuesday of every month and have various other activities and outings through the year, including a trip to the mainland every summer, fundraising soup and pudding events, plus meals out.

The Cairdean receive financial and moral support from community wind farm Point and Sandwick Trust, and get the use of the

wind farm's minibus, when required.

Membership of the Cairdean is open to anyone aged 60 and over living anywhere in Point from Aignish and Knock down to the Shulishader boundary.

Anyone wanting to inquire about joining should phone Duncan Don on 01851 703125 or email him on duncanmdon@gmail.com.

# LSC enjoys 1930s murder mystery

Members of the Lochaber Sensory Care (LSC) social group searched through their wardrobes (and perhaps a few charity shops) to find suitable attire for their 1930s-themed murder mystery, which was held in the Alexandra Hotel recently, writes Neill Bo Finlayson.

The event is one of a variety of activities from their busy programme.

LSC appreciates all the support for the valuable local service. LSC's social group meets on the second Tuesday of every month from 2pm-4pm in the Alexandra Hotel. If you would like to join them, you will be warmly welcomed. Just give LSC a call on 01397 704889.

Congratulations to all

prize-winners in Lochaber Sensory Care's grand raffle, drawn at the weekend.

The group thanks all those who sold and bought tickets to support them, to those individuals who donated prizes, and to the following businesses: Arisaig Hotel, Ballachulish Co-op, Susan Bell, Ben Nevis Distillery, Ben Nevis Inn, Iain Ferguson from alba.photos, Gallery in the Fort, Glencoe Activities, Glengarry Castle Hotel, Glen Nevis Holidays, Glen Spean Brewery, Highland All Terrain, Highland Book Shop, Holly Tree Hotel, Claire Innes, Lidl, Marine Harvest, Muthu West End Hotel, Nevis Range, Plumbase, The Tavern and West Coast Railway Company.

## Parliamentary recognition for Camanachd Association

Ian Blackford, MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber, has this week helped to raise awareness of the 125th anniversary of the Camanachd Association by lodging what is known as an Early Day Motion (EDM) at the Westminster parliament.

EDMs allow MPs to draw attention to an event or cause and register their support by signing individual motions.

Last Wednesday October 10 marked the 125th anniversary of the establishment of the Camanachd Association. On that date in 1893, in the Victoria Hall in

Kingussie, representatives of various shinty clubs throughout the country met 'for the purpose of forming a Camanachd Association'.

A number of events have taken place in celebration of the occasion, including The Big Day of Shinty at the Glasgow 2018 European Championships, which treated attendees to a shinty-themed ceilidh, as well as a shinty sixes competition later in the day.

And now even parliamentary recognition has been given to the landmark following Mr Blackford's motion.

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LT

### Neo-natal unit receive donation in honour of Kenny Campbell

The family of the late Kenny Campbell presented a cheque for £484.68 to staff at the neo-natal unit of the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow. The money was collected at the funeral service of Mr Campbell on Thursday August 23. Fort William FC youth development also received a cheque. Porscha McLean, granddaughter of Mr Campbell, spent four months in the neo-natal unit after she was born in December 2017. The money will be used to purchase items for the unit. Pictured are staff from the unit collecting a cheque from the family of the late Mr Campbell.



# £23m funding gap written off

by Neill Bo Finlayson  
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Lochaber MP Ian Blackford has warmly welcomed news this week that NHS Highland will have its debt written off by the Scottish Government and has been given three years in which to balance the books. This comes following warnings from Audit Scotland that it has 'serious reservations' about the financial management of NHS Highland after it was confirmed that the

health board faced a funding gap in the region of £19 million to £23 million in this financial year. In a statement to the Scottish Parliament, Health Secretary Jeane Freeman announced that NHS territorial boards will now be required to set out finance and improvement plans that break even over a three-year period. Currently plans are assessed over one year. The decision has been welcomed by Mr Blackford as hugely significant.

He said: "The step to remove the legacy debt from NHS Highland is a fantastic gesture by a government that is clearly committed to deliver for people in the Highlands and Islands. It now presents a fantastic opportunity for the health board to press ahead with the delivery of the quality care which we already see day in, day out from the hard-working staff. 'Delivery of health and social care has to be the bedrock of our society. I am utterly delighted that this

step has been taken which will benefit patients, staff and management as we work towards making the Scottish health service the very best that it can be.' If this condition is met, boards will be offered the flexibility to underspend or overspend by up to one per cent of budgets in any one year. In order to allow more funds to be spent on patient care, the Scottish Government will not seek to recoup 'brokerage' loans paid to territorial boards in the

last five years. It is hoped that the new deal will give NHS Highland more flexibility to continue its delivery of quality care across the region. However, Highlands and Islands MSP Edward Mountain was more hesitant and said that this debt write-off is 'not a long-term fix'. 'While I welcome the Scottish Government's plans to wipe the slate clean on NHS Highland's overspending, questions still remain on the health board's ability to manage its own finances,' he said.

'Audit Scotland, in their damning report on NHS Highland's finances, concluded that the health board has historically found it difficult to achieve savings on a recurring basis. 'Writing the debt off is not a long-term fix for our health services. 'It only buys time for the senior management of NHS Highland but it does not guarantee that more services won't be centralised and that therapies and drugs won't be cut.'

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# Plans lodged for hospital at Broadford

by Neill Bo Finlayson  
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

The redesign of health and social care in Skye and Lochalsh took a step forward last week with the submission of a planning application to build a new £15 million community hospital in Broadford.

The planning permission for the hospital is part of wider redesign of services that will include alterations and refurbishments to the Portree Hospital building, as well as the Broadford and Kyle health centres.

This redesign will bring together community health and care teams allowing them to better support the delivery of integrated care within the Skye, Lochalsh and South West Ross (SLSWR) communities.

As well as in-patient accommodation, the facility in Broadford will include an emergency department, X-ray and ultrasound services, out-patient clinics, an infusion suite and a midwife-led community maternity unit.

The site for the new hospital is located between the current Dr Mackinnon Memorial



An architect's impression of the new £15 million community hospital in Broadford.

Hospital and Broadford Health Centre. An archaeological and ecological assessment of the site has been completed to identify any potential problems at an early stage. Initial results have been positive with no findings likely to affect construction.

NHS Highland's project director for the redesign, Gill McVicar, said: 'This is another exciting step forward. The submission of the planning application signals that we are at an advanced stage in the design of the new facility and we hope to have a positive conclusion to the application process.'

The wider redesign across the SLSWR region will see the new, modern integrated health and social care 'hub' in Broadford and redesign of

the Portree Hospital building. The new community hospital in Broadford is being designed and built by hub North Scotland Ltd, an initiative set up by the Scottish Futures Trust. Balfour Beatty is the main contractor working alongside architectural firms Oberlanders based in Edinburgh and Portree-based Rural Design – and engineering firms Waterman Group and Rybka.

The full business case – which is combined with a redesign of services and a newbuild hospital in Badenoch and Strathspey – is to be presented to the Scottish Government in early 2019. Construction of both new hospitals will commence once this is approved.

## MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



Continuing from last week's introduction to the wonders of the Glasgow restaurant Ox and Finch, the following is a subjective, 'layman-like' stab as to why this eatery has the desired effect on diners.

I would add, as referenced to last week, that in Oban, wider Argyll and other heartlands of the Oban Times readership there are many fine restaurants that in their own fields would equal or surpass this city contender. I'll maybe touch on a few of these in future columns, but as it would put me at risk of being lynched by any who didn't get a mention, I'll stick to the safe anonymity of Glasgow for the time being!

The fact that you are served tapas-style dishes in Ox and Finch is of great attraction to me. Being able to try three or four dishes each means the taste buds remain alert throughout the meal and at no point does one get bored with

the fayre being consumed. This Spanish-influenced idea of lots of small dishes instead of one big one certainly adds to the variety of the experience.

One of my favourite aspects of the place is the open-plan layout, meaning the chefs and kitchen staff are in full view from the tables. It is excellent to watch the speed, efficiency and skill of the kitchen operation and also how pristine everything and everyone always is. Watching the dishes being constructed and placed on the serving bar ready to be taken to the tables also adds greatly to the anticipation of the food's arrival. When it comes to the table it does not disappoint!

Seared scallops, with piccalilli, black pudding and apple was first to arrive last Monday. The scallops were succulent with the deeply sweet flavour that can only be achieved by the freshest prod-

uct, the black pudding exuded a strong savoury spice and was crumbled to perfection among the clams and the sharp high-frequency sweetness of the apple cut through above the rest, accentuating the richness and perfection of balance in the dish.

A crab and crayfish cocktail with Bloody Mary and pickled celery, and a dish made up of slow-cooked lamb shoulder, bulgar wheat, apricots, almonds and mint yoghurt were close behind the scallops in their pleasing effect on the taste buds.

What marks this restaurant out particularly is that even with their regularly changing menu, I would give them five stars on each and every occasion I have visited.

The magical pleasure of food is conjured and delivered expertly and with impeccable consistency in Ox and Finch and I would recommend to all.

## MP welcomes funding for charity

A mental health charity in Ardnamurchan has announced new grant funding last week, on the same week as World Mental Health Day (Wednesday October 10).

Ewen's Room, which is based in Ardnamurchan, has been awarded a grant of £3,000 towards the cost of its work in counselling for young people.

Each year, the Corra

Foundation distributes just under £1 million through its Henry Duncan Grants programme to grassroots charities working in their local communities.

The Corra foundation has 30 years of experience contributing to improving the lives of individuals and communities experiencing disadvantage all across Scotland. The organisation

has given out over £138 million in grants and made over 15,000 awards to charities.

Lochaber MP Ian Blackford said: 'I am delighted this grassroots charity is receiving these funds, enabling them to continue their great work in my constituency.'

Mr Blackford highlighted the marking of World Mental Health Day in parliament last week.

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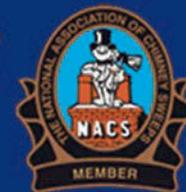
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### CHIMNEY SWEEPING THROUGHOUT ARGYLL, LORN AND THE ISLES

# Graduations at Sabhal Mòr

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (SMO) hosted an evening of celebration in Sleat on Friday October 5 as the National Centre for Gaelic Language and Culture enjoyed one of its most successful graduation ceremonies in its 45-year history.

In total, 64 students graduated from the undergraduate and postgraduate programme which the college offers, with particular success in the increased number of students graduating with honours degrees and indeed the highest number of first-class honours awards achieved since SMO was established in 1973.

Chairman of the board of directors at SMO Angus Macleod addressed those present: 'Forty-five years ago, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig was established to reignite Gaelic and create new opportunities. The underlying philosophy for the Gaelic language and culture was to protect, utilise, encourage and develop it. That is still our main aim, every day and every year.'

This year's graduation welcomed a new principal and vice-principal, with Dr Gillian Rothach and Dr Marsaili MacLeod having recently taken over from Prof Boyd Robertson and John Norman Macleod.

Vice-principal and director of education, Dr MacLeod said: 'It gives us great pleasure that more than 60 students are graduating today and that the highest number in the college's history are graduating with a first class degree.'

'We are very proud of all those graduating and now joining our alumni community of more than 1,000 students whose talents and skills are flourishing the world over.'

The degree programme offered at the college includes a range of subjects with Gaelic, such as teaching, media studies, Gaelic development, traditional music and Gaelic culture, which are all taught through Gaelic immersion techniques.



Dr Rothach, principal of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, was 'extremely proud' of the graduating students, saying: 'Where once there was not even primary education available in Gaelic, today

we at Sabhal Mòr can offer students a full range of tertiary qualifications, from an apprenticeship, to an HNC, HND, BA, BA Honours, continuing professional development, masters and PhD.

We wish our graduates every success and hope that they will keep in touch!'

In addition to celebrating the academic achievements of students, the annual honour of Sàr Ghàidheal was award-

ed to two individuals in recognition of their tremendous contribution and dedication to the Gaelic language and culture - Margaret MacLeod from Peterhead and Lewis, and Iain MacFarlane from



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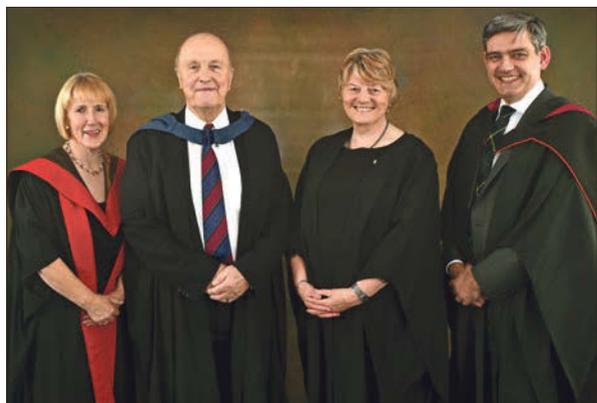
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# Ostaig



Left, students who graduated from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig last week and, above, principal of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Dr Gillian Rothach, left, and chairman of the board of directors at SMO, Angus Macleod, right, presented the annual honour of Sàr Ghàidheal to Margaret MacLeod from Peterhead and Lewis, and Iain MacFarlane from Mull in recognition of their tremendous contribution and dedication to the Gaelic language and culture.

Mull. An award was also given in memory of Niamh Henderson, from Mallaig, who was a student at the college and who died suddenly last year. Niamh was a first-year student studying Gàidhlig is Conaltradh.

This year's graduation lecture was delivered by Flora Guidi, head teacher of Bunscoil Ghàidhlig Phort Rìgh, who thanked all staff, past and present, for their work in the continued reignition of the Gaelic language.



Sabhal Mòr Ostaig's Student of the Year, Isabelle Flower, being presented with her award at the graduation ceremony.

## Gap-year Isabelle is Student of the Year

A Gaelic student, studying at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on a gap year, has been named as the college's Student of the Year.

Isabelle Flower, who undertook the first-year course for fluent speakers called Gàidhlig is Conaltradh, is one of a growing number of students who come to Sabhal Mòr Ostaig from Celtic or Gaelic departments at other universities to take a year out and study Gaelic in an immersion environment.

Originally from Dunbar, Isabelle is a student at the University of Glasgow, studying Gaelic and French. She has always had a keen interest in languages, but it was only in her final year in James Gillespie's High School that she got the opportunity to learn Gaelic. Since then, she has done incredibly well, achieving fluency in Gaelic and is full of enthusiasm for the language.

Isabelle said: 'I am delighted

to be awarded Student of the Year. It was a real pleasure to do this course and it's a great honour for my success to be recognised in this way.'

Course leader Dr Tim Armstrong said Isabelle has 'simply excelled' in her course work but has proved to be a 'positive force' outside of class.

'Each year we have students who excel academically, and also students who are particularly gregarious and supportive of the Gaelic language community on campus, but Izzy was both,' said Mr Armstrong. 'Not only did she consistently use Gaelic herself, but she non-judgmentally and compassionately encouraged everyone around her to use it.'

Isabelle has also been credited with Royal National Mòd award for Learner of the Year 2018 and will be presented with this award at the Mòd in Dunoon.



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- James Bridge & Jean Graham, Nairn



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## LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)  
or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HBShame of litter louts  
spoiling Ben Nevis

It is almost beyond belief in this day and age that so many people take themselves onto the wonderful, wild slopes of Ben Nevis only to discard their litter in what should be a pristine environment.

As we report this week, a team of volunteers has collected an astonishing 170kgs of rubbish from the Ben.

What is more, the variety of items gathered from the mountain is surprising to say the least. The clean-up squad picked up such diverse detritus as T-shirts, longjohns, a beach shelter, half a boot, a smashed Christmas bauble and an unused military flare.

As organiser Rich Pyne correctly said, if each person venturing onto Ben Nevis took away one piece of litter, the mountain would be pristine again in 18 months.

We all have a duty to do our bit to protect our wild places, including our mountain ranges. We would urge everyone not only to take home their own litter but also to pick up one other item.

Such a great thing  
for Megan to do

There are a countless number of people across the Lochaber area who devote their efforts to raising money for a whole range of different charities.

However, there are not many as young as Megan Pescod, the Lochaber High School first-year pupil who has just raised more than £1,300 for the nationwide Brave the Shave for Macmillan campaign to raise money for people living with cancer.

Further more, Megan has also donated her newly-shorn locks to the The Little Princess Trust, an organisation which provides real-hair wigs for young people undergoing treatment for cancer.

It was a brilliant initiative for Megan to undertake for two splendid causes and we salute her.

Eminently sensible solution  
to prevent future flooding

There have been many theories and solutions put forward in the past few days regarding Oban's flooding – drains not cleared, the Black Lynn not deepened and the pumps not working being just three of them.

None of these can have any effect when the sea in Oban Bay is level with the water in the Black Lynn, or above it, making drainage impossible.

Earlier in the year I attended an afternoon event at the Rockfield Centre. The council and its consultants had organised this event to allow concerned members of the public to express their views on the frequent flooding.

In the considerable time I was there, only two other people came in. One of the consultants told me that the answer would be to hold back more of the Black Lynn floodwater in the Lon Mor, translated from the Gaelic as the 'big puddle', opposite the hospital in Glenshellach. This could be achieved by means of a low dam or wall around the lower side of the area. When the time was right – ie, at low tide – water could be gradually released and would flow down the Black Lynn and into the sea without flooding Lochavullin.

To a layman like myself, this appears to be a sensible solution, but unfortunately the Lon Mor is owned by a developer and part of it has already been filled in and built on. We all know about the problems encountered when building on a flood plain and it seems sensible to suggest that any further development on the Lon Mor should be stopped immediately.

Maurice Wilkins,  
Laurel Road, Oban.

Many people do not know  
Lochavullin prone to floods

Re the flooding in Oban last week, I know a lot of people will say drivers should have known better than to park at Lochavullin car park in this weather, which is possibly true, but what about tourists and others who do not know the town?

Argyll and Bute Council needs to put up warning signs at both entrances that the car park is prone to flooding in heavy rain, especially at this time of the year. Roads are horrendous out of town but surely in this modern era they could be designed to drain of excess water. Drains also need to be checked regularly to prevent blockage.

Wendy MacGillivray, by email.

## 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,

simply send it to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto: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,

Road network in Fort  
William is inadequate

I was interested to hear Nicola Sturgeon offer to take Jeremy Corbyn to visit the 'smelter in Fort William' so that she could show him '... how to deliver an active industrial policy' during her keynote speech to the SNP conference last week.

Might I suggest that should Mr Corbyn take her up on her kind invitation, they should probably plan to arrive by helicopter, since the primary road into Fort William – the A82 – is

barely fit for B-road designation? Having arrived in Fort William, should they manage it, they would be well advised to park at the West End car park and walk to the smelter, since this will be far quicker than trying to drive across town.

As an alternative, could I humbly suggest that a far better plan would be to ask the smelter not to employ another 400 individuals, ask Linnhe Leisure to not upgrade the Nevis Centre to encourage greater use of the facility, to beg NHS Highland to not build a new hospital and Highland Council to not build another 200 homes at Blar Mhor, until she has had time to find the funds required to

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# DISTRICT NEWS

## FORT WILLIAM

Fort William Town Team met on Monday October 8 in the West End Hotel. Among items discussed were:

**Backlands:** the car park is still closed. Travelodge is being chased for payment of the town team invoice by email and by leaving voicemail.

**Cruise ships:** Four cruise ships visited Fort William this summer. A fifth was cancelled as a result of bad weather. Visits went well, particularly communication between the ship and shore. The piper was popular with cruise ship passengers and other visitors to the town. Geopark talks were popular. The town team is liaising with the museum in the hope it will be open for a time on Sundays for all cruise ship visits. Twelve ships are scheduled to visit in 2019.

**Pontoons:** The historical diving suit/Ben Nevis event starting with a dive from the pontoons raised more than £7,500. Beneficiaries include Lochaber Mountain Rescue, the family of the diver who died rescuing boys stranded in a cave in Thailand and the historical diving society.

The pontoons will stay in place over the winter but will need maintained. The surface between the pontoons and the shelter has been levelled by Highland Council which was thanked by the town team. Highland Council may paint the word 'slow' at the entrance to the West End car park. A speed limit is unenforceable. Fort William Marina and Shoreline Company is negotiating with the three landowners of the site of the pontoon extension.

**Retractable canopy:** Revised plans have been submitted to Highland Council for planning approval.

**New cinema:** Several volunteers had been into DV8 to see the plans for the proposed new cinema. Challenges facing the developer regarding the tightness of the site, noise and dust were discussed.

**Adopt-a-plot:** Gardening was cancelled twice in September as a result of bad weather. The town team have decided to leave the annuals in until end of October as they are still looking good. It was agreed to ask

Lochaber Rotary Club to leave in the Sundial Garden annuals which were due to be removed on Wednesday October 10.

Morrisons has donated 300 winter pansies which the town team will plant in Cameron Square and the hub, leaving the bottom tiers of the three tiered planters until after the SURF judging. The team will try to leave the begonias in Cameron Monument garden and war memorial garden until after the Remembrance Day service. If there is an early frost, team members will remove the begonias and plant the pansies earlier.

**Christmas tree in Cameron Square:** Nevis Landscape Partnership and Forestry Commission have agreed to donate the tree. There will be Christmas lights this year, but because of council cutbacks, there will be no lights in the high street in 2019 unless outside funding/volunteers can be found.

**Fort William 2040 Consultation:** Two members of the town team attended the workshop and gave an update on some of the discussions that took place, particularly in regard to transportation. It would seem nothing is likely to be done regarding roads congestion until 2025. Councillors pushing for a decision on a link road earlier than 2025 are lobbying for the next phase of the STAG appraisal to determine options as soon as possible.

Concerns were expressed about the 400 new houses due to go up on Blar Mor and the extra traffic this will create. Planning has been submitted for the first 120 units. There was discussion about a cycle way joining Corpach to Fort William and from Caol incorporating the Caol flood defence. There will be a report on the issues raised.

## SUNART AND SKYE

Two businesses based in Lochaber and Skye have been recognised at the northern regional heats of the UK-wide Rural Business Awards.

Resipole Studios and Fine Art Gallery, based on the edge of Loch Sunart, was crowned Best Rural



Mrs Thomson's group who have been painting rocks as part of the Fort Rocks campaign.



Youngsters were painting rocks last week and will now hide them around the town over the October holidays.

## Pupils' pebble art shows how Fort William rocks

Lundavra Primary School pupils have been painting pebbles as part of an online art campaign.

The youngsters have joined in with the Fort Rocks online campaign which involves finding, painting and then hiding rocks around Fort William to 'show everyone exactly how much Fort William Rocks'.

The idea is to paint a stone with either a picture or a phrase showing a random act of kindness and leave it for someone to find. The pebble-art campaign has

become a worldwide craze and some of Fort William's stones have reached as far as Arizona and Perth, Australia.

Mrs Thomson's Lundavra Primary School group painted their stones last week and have varnished them ready for the Lochaber weather.

The pupils will hide them over the October break with a Facebook logo on the back and the words 'Fort Rocks'.

Leah Whyte started the Fort Rocks Facebook page along with

Katy MacDonald after her son Yusuf, a Caol Primary School pupil, loved looking for the rocks.

Mrs Whyte said: 'Lots of parents are commenting that it's getting the youngsters away from electronic tablets and TVs and back into getting outdoors to find stones or to hide them and they are enjoying spending time with the children while they paint.'

Go to the Fort Rocks - Painting, Hiding and Finding Facebook page to follow the journey of some of the stones.

Creative or Media Based Business, while Skyeskyns, a tannery from Skye, won Best Rural Manufacturing Business.

The companies were presented with their awards at a glittering ceremony in Bolton on Tuesday October 9.

With its stunning location in a 19th-century barn, Resipole Studios and Fine Art Gallery showcases the best of contemporary Scottish art, while Skyeskyns, established in 1983, is the sole remaining commer-

cial wooskin tannery in Scotland.

Following their impressive win at the regional awards, Resipole Studios and Skyeskyns will now go on to represent Scotland at the national final in February 2019.

## STRONELAIRG

The final wind turbine blade was lifted into place last week at SSE's Stronelairg wind farm.

The 66-turbine wind farm south-east of Fort Augustus sits in the

Monadhliath Mountains, more than 600 metres above sea level.

David Sutton, head of projects, said: 'It's fantastic to see Stronelairg reach this important milestone. Since construction began in 2016, the project team has battled severe weather, difficult road conditions and geography as they worked to reach this milestone.'

'Their ability to safely and responsibly deliver the project to this point shows the skills and expertise of the team and they should be immensely

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proud of their work.

'I'd like to thank the local community, Highland Council, Police Scotland and Transport Scotland for their support throughout the construction of the project. Without the supportive relationship built by the team, delivery of the project would not be possible.'

The Stronelairg team has worked closely with the local community throughout the project, taking their feedback on board, including amending the turbine delivery times from day time to evening deliveries to help minimise disruption during the busy tourism season.

Stronelairg leaves a development legacy in Fort Augustus, delivering more than £3million of road, footpath and crossing upgrades, greatly improving road safety for the local community and visiting tourists. Most notably Stronelairg constructed and helped to complete the final section of the South Loch Ness cycle and walking trail which was officially opened in August this year.



The final blade is put on the wind turbine.



Fort William Fire Station group manager Pat McElhinney, left, and police inspector Isla Campbell, right, present Helen Cormack with her prize.

## Caol Conversations may lead to a better place

Members of the Caol community and Lochaber Community Action Group met last Monday to share ideas on how to make Caol an even better place to live.

Scottish Fire and Rescue, Police Scotland, Voluntary Action Lochaber and several other partners attended the event and discussed cleanliness, litter, recreational facilities and activities and improving activities for youth activities.

One local resident said: 'This event was a great opportunity to meet others and discuss how we can contribute to community life in Caol.'

Despite poor weather, the event was well-attended with tea, coffee and cakes supplied by the Caol Community Centre team and winners of the Caol consultation prizes were presented with their awards.

Kate Smith won a £25 voucher for the Moorings. Second prize was a £15 voucher for the Lochy which was won by Helen Cormack and the third prize of a bottle of wine from Browns was won by Martha O'Hagan.

Group manager Pat McElhinney said: 'This was an excellent event, which allowed residents to communicate with Caol Community Action Group. Actions and priorities can now be drawn up as a result. This is empowerment in action as residents are deciding what it wants to do to improve the area. Thank you to everyone who attended the event.'

If you would like to support your community please contact Pat McElhinney on [pat.mcelhinney@firescotland.gov.uk](mailto:pat.mcelhinney@firescotland.gov.uk)

## Retro Roamer

[fort@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:fort@obantimes.co.uk)

### More Roamerisms from the early 1990s

It was a town holiday on Monday so, right away, there were problems. For example, the scheduled meeting in Lochaber House of the divisional planning committee took place, after some head scratching, in the Alexandra Hotel. Somehow, clerks to the public holidays sub-committee of the district council and the clerks who serve the planning committee on an agency basis, contrived to make a right brochan of it all. Councillors on the committee had tried to get into Lochaber House, but the doors of the chambers wouldn't open. Facilities in the Alex were first class, however, especially for the press. But the sting was very much in 'the tale' because, in the meantime, a team of engineers from Inverness had tried to storm Lochaber House to sort the heating, which had broken down the previous Friday. They didn't know it was a sort of town holiday.

Malkie Morrison's coupon came up at the weekend. He showed the resultant cheque to several colleagues, all the while keeping his thumb over the total amount. So everyone trooped into the nearest Lochside hostelry to celebrate. Their ranks were strengthened by some peninsula punters returning from the tup sale at Corpach. With a flourish, Malky proffered the cheque across the bar. 'Take drinks for the boys out of that till the money is exhausted,' said Malky. 'And then I'll pay you the amount in cash. I'll have a half and a half pint to start it off.' There was a mad rush after that. But all the other punters got was a communal bag of crisps before the barman called 'time' on Malky's winnings. Aye, Malky had got £2.40 for his 22 points on Vernons.

There was great hilarity at the mart on Friday. Mallaig sheep were on the menu - sorry, on the stocks. Now the Seagull City breed can do things ordinary sheep cannot. Like open gates and doors, wait in shelters for buses, push prams along the pavements, conduct traffic from the Mallaig roundabout and generally disport themselves as befits those with the Freedom of Mallaig.

Had a wee smile to myself when I read the minutes of Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council's latest meeting. 'The aluminium level in the water supply in Achnacarry was raised by a member,' one of the items read. A bit like the report in the local press a few years back which advised that: 'Prior to a meeting of the police

safety committee, a council delegate raised the accident rate.'

Nevis Bridge was finally stormed by the Tarmac brigade 10 days after the road surface had been left with contours similar to a moonscape. We had all bumped and thumped that stretch, musing it wasn't a lot of fun. However, it was considerably more less laughable on Monday. The roads gang moved in at first light. For some reason there was absolutely no direction in the way the tarring contract was being carried out. Sorry, technically, that's wrong. There was one direction. If you happened to be travelling north over Nevis Bridge you were all right. But if you had designs on reaching town - tough! Which explains the phone calls to Highland Region, the police and this office from an incensed cross-section of the motoring public whose universal cry was: 'It's taken us an hour to drive from Lochy Bridge to Fort William.' The end results were broken appointments at the Belford and at doctors' and dentists' surgeries, missed connections, pupils late for school and taxis and buses stranded. There was no traffic management. Someone wants to advise our 'authorities' it's busy all year in and around Fort William, not just in the summer. And, wait for it, all the council's roads officials were attending an all-day meeting on Monday - in Inverness, of course.

Neeny Ross' portable radio was playing up. Neeny had a go at fixing it on Saturday but gave up for the more rewarding pursuit of watching Fort William FC playing and winning at Claggan Park. However, at home, in the early hours of Sunday, came unexplained sounds from the living room. The bold Neeny crept downstairs, opened the door and there on the sideboard was the radio going full blast - with the voice of a newsreader giving out the previous day's football results on the BBC World Service. Apparently, Neeny has now dumped his radio. So if any of you hear music or voices in the dead of night emanating from Brackletter dump, it's okay. It'll be Neeny Ross' radio come to life again.

A piper was playing at the top of Station Brae, across from the Grand Hotel which had its windows open during the Rotary Club of Lochaber's weekly meeting. The club president betook himself across the street while the pipes were blasting out. 'What's that you're playing?' he enquired. 'Within a mile o' Edinburgh Town', came the somewhat hesitant reply. 'Well,' said the Rotarian, 'You're no' within 100 miles of it so maybe you wouldn't mind moving a bit nearer the capital?'

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## FOOTBALL



Oban Saints co-manager Willie Gemmell played for Fort William a few years ago. Match preview: Derek Black

## Tough tie for Oban side in West of Scotland Cup

Oban Saints get this season's West of Scotland Amateur Cup campaign under way this Saturday afternoon with a very tricky away tie against Uddingston.

Newly formed in 2017, Uddingston were admitted to the Strathclyde Saturday Morning Amateur Football League which was already home to some excellent teams and, in UB United, would provide the runners-up in last season's West of Scotland Cup.

Placed in Division 1A of the league pyramid system, a sensational 31 points from a possible 36 saw Uddingston edge out Yoker United and Southside to be crowned league champions in their debut season.

After a thrilling title chase which went right down to the wire, Uddingston faced fellow league new boys and title hopefuls Yoker United in their final match of the season knowing that a draw would be good enough to secure the league trophy.

Yoker, whom Saints fans will recall from last season's Scottish Amateur Cup seventh round tie at Glencruitten, required a win to draw level on points with Uddingston which, despite Yoker's superior goal difference, would force a winner-takes-all play-off.

A blistering start at Uddingston's Porterswell Playing Fields saw Yoker race into a two-goal lead. However, Uddingston were not to be denied their first piece of silverware and scored three second half goals without reply to lift the league trophy.

Uddingston have continued their excellent form into the new season, where six wins from six have lifted them to the top of the league table.

In the major cup competitions, narrow victories over Ayrshire's New Farm Loch and Nico's of their own league have set up a massive Scottish Amateur Cup home third round tie against Ayrshire Amateur Football Association giants and two-time cup winners Hurlford Thistle.

In the West of Scotland Cup, while Saints were enjoying a walkover against Greater Glasgow Premier Amateur Football League side Rannoch, Uddingston were paying a visit to Argyll to face last season's Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division Two Champions Lochgilphead Red Star. Injuries to key players have prevented the Lochgilphead men from picking up where they left off last season and Uddingston returned home with a comfortable 3-0 victory under their belts to set up what is sure to be a keenly contested second round tie with Saints.

Saturday's match on the 4G surface at Glasgow's Toryglen Regional Football Centre must be played to a finish on the day with extra-time and penalty kicks coming into play to decide the winner if the two sides cannot be separated after 90 minutes. Kick-off at Toryglen is 1pm.

Saints co-managers Donald Campbell and Willie Gemmell hope to have a strong squad to choose from with the good news that injured pair Matt Kelly and Myles McAuley may return to training this week but Matt Rippon is out with torn ligaments.

The Oban side are expecting a difficult game, but if the squad play the way they have been recently, then a place in the third round draw should be on the cards.

# Lochaber edge past Shawlands to go third

Lochaber	20
Shawlands	17
West Region Division 3	

Shawlands' forward pack proved a tough match for Lochaber, who eventually overcame the dogged visitors in a close encounter at Banavie.

Lochaber were looking to turn around last week's disappointing result but knew they would be in for a tough game after losing to Shawlands home and away last season, and it was the visitors who were first to get points on the board with the first try of the game.

Lochaber quickly got three points on the board through the boot of Jonathan McCook, however, as the game went back and forth with both teams evenly matched. Shawlands' pack gave Lochaber's scrum

the biggest test of the season so far.

Conor Taylor got his first try in the left corner after sustained pressure from Lochaber's forwards, with Jonathan McCook converting the try. Shawlands did cross the line again but Campbell Wilson and Matt Murray were able to stop the ball being grounded. Taylor got his second try of the afternoon after Lochaber had worked their way down the right hand side, stopping just short of the try line. After several pick and goes, Taylor was able to force his was over the line with McCook converting to make it 17-5 at half-time.

Not long in to the second half Lochaber were reduced to 14 men after captain Callum MacDonald was shown a yellow card for team infringements after the referee did not know which player



Angus Jenkins is the target for Shawlands Steven Meenagh. Photos: Iain Ferguson, alba.phoos

had committed the penalty. Soon after, Shawlands got their second try to make it 17-12 and get back in the game.

Lochaber thought they had their third try when William Stewart broke a tackle to cross the line. Initially the referee seemed to award the try before changing his mind as he couldn't see the grounding. A few minutes later, the same thing happened when Taylor crossed the line for the third time and once again the referee changed his mind, saying he couldn't see the grounding.

The final few minutes would be a tense affair as Shawlands got their third try with around 10 minutes remaining bringing the score to 17-17.

With less than two minutes remaining, Lochaber were

## RUGBY

awarded a penalty right in front of the posts which McCook kicked to make it 20-17. Shawlands looked to hit back straight after Lochaber gave away a penalty with time up, which meant Shawlands were able to kick for touch to gain territory. From the line-out Lochaber were able to put pressure on the Shawlands forwards who knocked on which brought a tightly fought game to an end.

The win moves Lochaber up to third in the league. The Banavie club have no game this weekend but are back in action on Saturday October 27 at Banavie where they will welcome Glasgow University Medics.

The kick off is at 3pm.



Lochaber's John MacKerlich under attack from all directions.

## Wordsall wins squash club handicap tournament



The annual Lochaber Squash Club handicap competition took place at the weekend, at the Lochaber Leisure Centre. Neil Worsdall took first place, beating Donald Smith in the final. Alan Love, having been put out of the first round by Chloe Ball, beat Stevie MacLeod in the final of the plate competition.



Spean Bridge were overall winners, while Lundavra finished second, Inverlochty came third.

# Spean take Lochaber schools triathlon gold

Nineteen primary schools from the Lochaber area entered this year's inter-school triathlon event which took place last Wednesday (October 10).

The event is organised by High Life Highland's Active Schools team, staff at Lochaber Leisure Centre, where the event was based, and the Lochaber visiting primary PE teachers. Each of the schools sent a team of three participants – one

swimmer, one cyclist and one runner.

The race started in the pool with participants swimming 200m, or eight lengths of the pool.

Beating his second place finish from last year, Banavie's swimmer, Sean Troy Cann, was first in this section of the race. Cann almost broke the course record in a great time of 3:00.12 and was followed closely by Helen Jones from Lochaline Primary who fin-

ished just ahead of Charleigh Adams from Lundavra.

Once all the swimmers had completed their section, the event moved to the Braveheart car park where the bikers were ready to take on their 4km ride. Coming back comfortably in first place was last year's first placed runner, Sorley Swabey, from Spean Bridge Primary, in a super time of 8:45. Second place went to Kyler MacLeod from Inverlochty Primary who

crossed the line in 9:38 and in third place was Riley Forsyth from Lundavra in 9:47.

This year the organisers made a slight change to the run, making this part of the event a mass start.

The pace on this leg was blisteringly fast, with Ben Corner from Inverlochty Primary taking the win in 8:50. In second place on the run was Duncan MacDonald from Spean Bridge Primary, who came in at 9:05. Murray

Donald from Invergarry Primary rounded out the top three runners, completing the course in 9:10.

Spean Bridge were overall winners with a combined time of 21:55, while Lundavra finished second, completing the course in 22:57, and rounding off the podium in a time of 23:34 was Inverlochty.

The organisers would like to give a huge congratulations to all of the children who took part in what is a great

## TRIATHLON

introduction to multisport events and to the parents and teachers who brought them all. Massive thanks also goes out Stevie Martin Snr at Lochaber Leisure Centre for managing the swimming element, to No Fuss Events for donating medals, to the Lochaber High School pupils who marshalled the event and, of course, to the organisers.



The mountain biking podium (l-r): Kyler MacLeod who finished second, Sorley Swabey who came first and Riley Forsyth who finished third.



The running podium (l-r): Duncan MacDonald who finished second, Ben Corner who came first and Murray Donald who finished third.



The swimming podium (l-r): Helen Jones who finished second, Sean Troy Cann who came first and Charleigh Adams who finished third.

LT

## GOLF



Robert MacIntyre. Photograph: Bounce Sports.

## Poor last round proves costly for MacIntyre

Oban golfer Robert MacIntyre travelled to China last week to take part in the Hainan Open played at Sanya Luhuitou Golf Club in Sanya City.

Robert started off well and carded a two under par 70 in the first round with five birdies and three bogeys.

In his second round, Robert carded three birdies and two bogeys. He had a superb eagle on the 13th but a double bogey on the 18th resulted in a score of 71.

The young Glencruitten golfer finished level par with a 72 in the third round which featured three birdies and three bogeys.

Unfortunately, Robert carded a four over par 76 in the last round with five birdies, five bogeys and a disastrous eight at the 7th which dropped him down the leader board and he finished in joint 47th place with a four-round total of 289.

The tournament was won by Finland's Kalle Samooja who carded a four round total of 273, 13 under par. Scotland's Grant Forrest finished second two strokes behind on 272 with American Sean Crocker in third place.

Robert stays in China for the Foshan Open taking place in Foshan City, Guangdong Province in south-east China starting today (October 18).

## LOTTERY NUMBERS

### Lochaber club lotteries

This week's Fort William Golf Club lotto numbers were 12, 17 and 20. There were no winners this week. The jackpot for the draw today (Thursday October 18) will be £400.

Numbers drawn in the Caol Regeneration lotto were 3, 7 and 15. There were two winners this week, Martin Graham and Sandra Leslie, who shared the £400 jackpot. The prize for next week will be £100.

Ballachulish Shinty Club's lottery numbers for this week were 5, 7 and 8. There was one lucky winner collecting the £2,000 jackpot. Next week's draw will have a prize of £200.

The Caol Community Centre bingo club lotto numbers this week were 4, 6 and 9. There were no winners this week and so next week's jackpot is £600.

## LOTTERY NUMBERS

### Results from the Isle of Skye

Gents Section: Saturday September 29: Stableford - 1 David Maclean 32pts; 2 Ian Marr 29pts bih; 3 John Allan Macleod 29pts.

Monday October 1: Seniors Stableford - Storr Cup - 1 George Neill 31pts bih; 2 Dave Watson 31pts.

Ladies Section: Tuesday October 2: 9-Hole Stableford - 1 Ann Jagger; 2 Sandra Dew.

# Vale fire in eight as Fort toil in the pouring rain

Fort William	0
Deveronvale	8
Highland League	

Four goals either side of half time secured a comfortable win for Deveronvale, who punished Fort William for missing a first-minute penalty at a sodden Claggan Park on Saturday.

With the remnants of Storm Callum still persisting, the rain lashed down at Claggan Park. Few could have predicted this game to go ahead and it is credit to the ground staff and management at the club for ensuring this fixture went ahead.

### Changes

Fort manager Kris Andersen made a number of changes to the side, with David McGurk absent and John Treasurer deployed in a deeper centre back role.

Fort William could not have asked for a better start after being awarded a penalty in the first minute following a handball in the area from a Deveronvale defender. However, Andrew Reid's low penalty was saved by the Vale



Fort William's Scott Hunter makes a break past Aaron Hamilton. Photos: Iain Ferguson, alba. photos

keeper's legs. In the following five minutes the Fort notched up three corners in quick

succession, even hitting the bar with one effort.

Their early dominance would be short-lived, however, as Matthew Wallace's deflected goal skipped past Fort keeper Callum Ligertwood to open the scoring after 16 minutes. The visitors got another one eight minutes later after a slick passing move down the right flank left Leszek Nowosielki free at the back post to tap in.

### Dipped

Harry Noble got Vale's third soon after with a left-footed effort from 30 yards which just dipped under the bar into the top corner.

Vale continued to carve the Fort open down the right wing and made it 4-0 through another quick passing move which allowed Robert Scott to finish at the back post.

The Fort did have a chance to score before the half-time break as Majewski latched on to a clearance and dribbled up the park before Scott Hunter fired over the bar.

Eight minutes after the break Vale got their fifth as Noble made the most of a

## FOOTBALL

melee in the box after a corner to tap in this second of the game.

It was at this point that Fort began to come into the game a bit more and began to create some nice passing moves and were unfortunate not to get break in front of goal.

The pressure didn't amount to much, however, and Vale took advantage of a scuffed Ligertwood clearance to score another, before Sam Robertson made it seven.

With less than 10 minutes to go, the Fort's Scott Hunter saw red after a kick out at Vale's Jody Munro, who was also given his marching orders.

The Fort were dissected once more by a diagonal ball from the Vale left back which was controlled instantly by Lewis Dunbar who deftly chipped Ligertwood from the edge of the box.

The Fort are in action again this Saturday (October 20) against Inverurie Locos at Claggan Park.



Josh Knowles skips over a sliding challenge.



The new Fort William FC board (Sam Lees was unavailable for the photograph): (l-r) Colin Wood, Russell MacMorran, Peter Murphy, Willie Edwards and Mikey MacKinnon.

# 'We want teams to fear coming to Claggan Park'

**Continued from page 72**  
The Fort's youth teams have been enjoying great success in their respective competitions this year and, in complete contrast to the first team, have been handing out bruising defeats to rival Highland League youth teams. Murphy said: 'Danny Conlon, head of youth development, has done a great job and ensures it is professionally run. We need to try and bridge the gap between those

players that finish at under 17 to go into the first team.' The board are currently considering the possibility of entering a team into the under 20s North of Scotland league to help ease young players into the Highland League, although the financial input required makes that prospect difficult. 'There's plenty of young talent in the local area, it's just about giving them a place to go next,' added Mr Wood.

Off the pitch, the club completed the renovation of the clubhouse in the summer after months of hard work and support from local businesses and are already reaping the rewards. 'The next step is to make Claggan Park a place to come on match days,' said Wood. 'If people can see we are making changes, then that'll change people's perceptions. We want to see fans back at the club.'

## FOOTBALL

In the crowd at Claggan Park on Saturday there were spectators from Glasgow, the north of England and even visitors from Europe – all of whom have been following the club's fortunes through social media. There was even a film crew in attendance interviewing fans and club officials, one of several media companies interested in the Fort's story.

## South Lochaber Thistle secure semi-final spot

South Lochaber Thistle	2
Newshot	1
President's Cup	

South Lochaber Thistle fought their way into the semi-finals of the President's League Cup with a hard fought win over reigning Division 3 champions, Newshot. In a round of fixtures expected to be disrupted by the weather, the teams took the field in a steady downpour of rain. From kick off, the Jags looked composed and in control as the visitors failed to get hold of the ball and veteran midfielder David Forbes, skipper Martin Munro - playing as a striker - impish winger Sean Noble and towering Andrew MacLean began moving the ball in tight triangles, at a pace which made the Erskine outfit look leaden footed and bereft of ideas.

As the half progressed, Noble in particular, in tandem with full back Keir Kennedy, began causing havoc in the 'Shot defence, giving their rubenesque left back a torrid time. Thistle had a couple of decent chances, a driven Munro effort was palmed to the side by the keeper and a Forbes free kick being stand out opportunities, but a break through remained elusive. As the half due to a close, the visitors came more into the game as SLT began giving away cheap free kicks from a pernickety referee. At half time, Thistle made a couple of tactical changes to try to exploit the evident deficiencies of the away side's personnel Alan MacLellan moving from wide left to up top and Munro and above swooping flanks. The second half opened in much the same way as

the first had ended with the canary-clad Newshot soaking up pressure, going long early and winning free kicks, as the consistency of the referee's inconsistency ruining the match as a spectacle for the supporters. Typically, it was from a Thistle attack that the opening goal came, but it was for Newshot. As the attack broke down, an aimlessly punted clearance was picked up by their striker, whose shot was well saved by local legend David Dunlop in the home side goal. However, the on-rushing midfielder capitalised on some hesitant defending to drive home a confident finish. Parity was restored less than five minutes later as the Jags won a corner. Noble's ball was swung in to the box on an enticing trajectory and was met by a powerful header from centre half Paul McFtridge

## FOOTBALL

who planted the ball into the top left hand corner of the net. The game now opened up and Darren Duncan, in the heart of the home side midfield, Kieron Lopez and McFtridge began to have more to deal with. Although they rarely looked bothered, they tackled and headed away any ball which came into their zones with authority. The visitors had limited chances but, as the watch ran down, they had a heartfelt penalty shout turned away by the referee. Immediately, the Jags broke up the other end of the park and Noble steadied himself to send into another sumptuous delivery which was met by the on-rushing Munro who sent the ball crashing into the net to make the final score 2-1 and send the home fans home happy.



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## WEATHER

**Thursday**  
Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze from the south  
Temperatures 8°C to 12°C.

**Friday**  
Light rain and a moderate breeze from the south west  
Temperatures 10°C to 12°C.

**Weekend Outlook**  
Light rain on Saturday  
Light rain on Sunday  
Moderate breeze from the west south west  
Temperatures 12°C to 15°C.



## TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday October 18, 2018** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

<b>Thur</b>	06.44	2.0	13.55	3.1
	19.26	2.1	***	**
<b>Fri</b>	02.42	2.8	08.21	1.9
	14.50	3.2	21.04	1.9
<b>Sat</b>	03.18	3.0	09.22	1.7
	15.28	3.5	21.46	1.7
<b>Sun</b>	03.46	3.3	10.02	1.4
	16.01	3.7	22.19	1.4
<b>Mon</b>	04.17	3.5	10.36	1.2
	16.35	3.9	22.50	1.2
<b>Tues</b>	04.50	3.7	11.06	1.1
	17.08	4.1	23.21	1.0
<b>Wed</b>	05.20	3.9	11.35	0.9
	17.40	4.2	23.52	0.8

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:**  
Vale fire in eight as Fort  
toil in the pouring rain

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# New Fort chairman aims to bring stability

## Youth is the future of the Lochaber club

by Neill Bo Finlayson  
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Youth development and community engagement will be key to Fort William FC's success in the future, according to the club's new chairman, Peter Murphy.

Murphy, unveiled as chairman on Saturday before the match against Deveronvale, said he wants to bring some much needed stability to the club and hopes to make Claggan Park a more formidable place for teams to visit.

'The main thing is stability,' Murphy told the Lochaber Times. 'There have been some tough times and tough results but by the time the season ends we want to see some progress, we want to get our house in order.'

A former Fort William player, Murphy played for the club 35 years ago during the club's inaugural season in the Highland League and said he was inspired to join the board after attending a recent family fun day event at Claggan.

As well as Murphy, Russell MacMorran has also been appointed to the board and will take up the role of secretary, joining Willie Edwards, Sam Lees, Mikey MacKinnon and Colin Wood to form a six-man board.

When asked about what progress would mean for the board, Murphy said: 'There's no point looking back all the time. We need to find what we are good at. The new board works unbelievably hard and has been as professional as possible.'

'We want teams to fear coming to Claggan Park again and for them to drive down the A82 and not look forward to coming out onto the park. We want to compete with the likes of Clachnacuddin and Nairn County, our closest rivals, and that doesn't necessarily mean a huge financial input.'

Vice-chairman Wood said that future success at Fort William must come from the community and to climb the Highland League through finances alone would feel like a 'false win'.

'If we just buy in players and a new team then it would be a quick fix,' he said. 'We've seen that before and it's not worked. The progress should come from working with the community. We realise that our best players will eventually get poached by the bigger clubs but as long as we have young players coming through each time, then we'll be all right.'

Continued on page 71



Peter Murphy, new chairman of Fort William FC.



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