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BACK ONE HOUR
this weekend**

Fear voiced over A828

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A crumbling wall 'holding up' a scenic cycle route next to a busy main road at Benderloch road needs to be investigated before it collapses, a community councillor has warned.

The retaining wall to the left of Benderloch's viewpoint supports a former railway banking that is now topped by a Sustrans cycle path and runs close to the A828.

If the road ever collapsed it would cause havoc, forcing a 93-mile detour via Tyndrum, Glencoe and Ballachulish.

The wall's foundations appear to be crumbling away at beach-level and a huge crack has appeared. High tide lines mean water is getting in behind it and eroding the soil at the back of it, leaving hollow gaps and filling up with weeds.

The stretch of beach next to the wall is privately-owned but the question of who owns the wall itself is frustrating those who want reassurance it will be repaired if it needs to be made safe, says Ardchattan commu-

nity councillor Willie Barnett. He said: 'There's not much holding it up. At the moment we are trying to determine who owns the wall on the title deeds. If that wall goes, then so will the cycle track and the A828.'

'It's a grey area as to who is responsible for it. It needs proper investigation. If it turns out to be nothing, then we can walk away from it but if it is something, just imagine the catastrophe if it collapsed.'

'Until it's looked at we really don't know how bad it is. It might last a couple of years yet but those responsible for it need to be aware of it now.'

'To have to re-route all the way round by Bridge of Orchy to get to Fort William would be horrendous. Think of the chaos for hauliers, buses and schoolchildren.'

Oban North and Lorn councillor Elaine Robertson joined calls for the wall to be checked, saying: 'It's essential the wall is assessed with urgency to ascertain if it is a facing wall on rock or whether it is just holding up loose soil. If there's

any danger to the main road, it's a major issue. It's also a big issue for Sustrans but it's not as threatening for them as it is to the whole economy and the residents on the A828 route.'

Although the wall does not show up on Argyll and Bute Council's assets map, a spokesman told The Oban Times it would still be carrying out an inspection of the wall as soon as possible.

Responsibility for the wall is a question also being faced by BEAR Scotland, which told The Oban Times it is aware of its condition but it is not its responsibility.

'On checking the Transport Scotland inventory, it would appear this wall does not come under our remit. We have advised Transport Scotland and are awaiting further instruction as to the ownership of the wall,' said a BEAR spokesman.

A Sustrans spokesperson said it did not own land in the area but was aware of the problem, adding 'as custodians of the National Cycle Network we will continue to closely monitor the situation on Route 78'.



Oban sing heart out for silverware

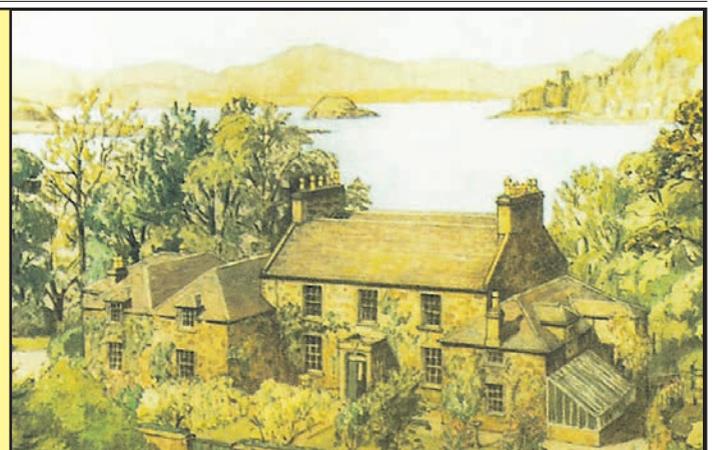
An 'overwhelmed' Sileas Sinclair celebrates winning the coveted Lovat and Tullibardine Shield with Oban Gaelic Choir. Còisir Ghàidhlig an Òbain beat eight choirs to win the prestigious prize, having finished second at the previous two Royal National Mòds. Sileas said: 'We never expect, and always hope, and always do our best.' For unrivalled coverage, photographs and results, turn inside for our 16-page Mòd special.

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OT

Families' lost babies remembered with Oban wave of light

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Candles representing bereaved Argyll families have been lit in Oban as part of a global wave of light remembering lost babies.

The Wave of Light and Love is an international event where families in every time zone around the world on October 15 at 7pm lit a candle to honour the memory of their babies.

As a member of Baby Loss Awareness UK Alliance, Appin-based child loss charity Anam Cara Fasgadh's founder Susan Simpson said it was an honour to organise the ceremony attended by parents, grandparents and siblings.

Candles on the night at Oban Commercial Lodge in Albany Street were lit to represent 15 families from Argyll and a special heart shaped candle was lit on behalf of the those who had lost babies years and decades ago from an era when babies were taken away immediately and families would not know where they were buried.



One of Anam Cara Fasgadh's Youth Champions, Mrs Simpson's daughter Charis, 14, lit candles at the ceremony in memory of her sisters Alex and Eilidh Beth.

Mrs Simpson said: 'We have been organising Wave of Light events since 2011, when we lived in Inverness, but the first Wave of Light we took part in was a mere eight days after Eilidh Beth's funeral in October 2010. We were all staying in a cottage in Craignure, on the Isle of Mull, with my mum and dad, still very raw and trying to come to terms with her death. I can still see that single candle, lit on the windowsill of

the cottage, overlooking the bay at Craignure - as the light shone out into the darkness we all drew such comfort knowing that at that very moment, around the world in this very time zone, countless other families were doing the very same thing - sending out waves of love and light for the babies they so wished they were reading a bedtime story to.'

It was two bereaved mums in America who originally started the Wave of Light and in 2002 it was introduced in the UK when British mum Marion Currie, and others she had met through the death of her daughter and

Candles were lit in a global wave of light last week.

son, decided to join the American families they had met online.

Mrs Currie was invited to Anam Cara Fasgadh's welcome event at the Scottish Parliament last month where she invited the charity to join the alliance of 60 charities for Baby Loss Awareness UK. As part of that alliance, campaigners are calling for parents who experience pregnancy or baby loss to get specialist psychological support at a time and place that is right for them when they need it, free of charge, wherever they live.

To give families in this area a chance to enjoy the outdoors and be with others who understand the grief of losing a baby, child or young person, regular 'Walk and Talk' get-togethers are in the pipeline.

Anyone interested can either call Mrs Simpson on 07771 358382 or email her at susan.simpson@anamcara-fasgadh.org



Andrew Spence (BID4Oban), left, at the switch-on with Elaine Robertson (OCGF), Drew Kirkland (ARK Production Consultancy), Colin MacNivan and Christine Roberts (MacNivan Electrics).

Stevenson Street shines

State-of-the-art lighting transformed a dreich and drizzly Tuesday evening into a sparkling spectacle with the Shine a Light on Oban project casting its colours over the Black Lynn.

Permanent illumination of the tree outside the Rockfield Centre was also included in this stage of the project.

Councillor Elaine Robertson, chairwoman of Oban Community Good Fund (OCGF), performed the switch-on duties in front of a large crowd who had turned out despite the weather.

Mrs Robertson said: 'It was a pleasure to switch on the first phase of the Light up Oban project. The OCGF was delighted to work in partnership with BID4Oban in a project benefiting both our community and our visitors. My thanks to all involved.'

Funded by OCGF and BID4Oban, the new illuminations use eco-friendly low energy lighting, and will be switched on between dusk and

11.30pm each evening, flooding the water and foliage of the Black Lynn from Combie Street Bridge to Oban Dove Centre with coloured light.

Shine a light on Oban is a series of projects funded by BID4Oban to illuminate various locations within the town.

Andrew Spence on behalf of BID4Oban said: 'This project is one of eight locations in Oban we have identified to illuminate. In future years, we want to work with other areas of the town to improve the ambience and attractiveness.'

'BID4Oban is entering its eighth year and this project is another example of the business community of Oban investing and improving the towns infrastructure.'

The Lorne Bar and the Ranald Hotel took advantage of BID4Oban business improvement grants to illuminate the outside of their premises.

Oban FM was on hand on the night, and volunteers from the Dove Centre served hot soup at their charity stall.

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Ardchattan community hub bid is a step closer

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A project seeking community ownership of Ardchattan's disused school is celebrating more funding.

This week the ambitious Ardchattan Centre project at Bonawe announced receiving £6,360 from the Scottish Land Fund, hailing it another 'milestone' in its quest to turn the school building into a hub-for-all.

'Getting this funding is another milestone for us. It's yet another endorsement of the project and is a great focus for us,' said Breege Smyth, one of the directors.

The money will be used to fund feasibility work from surveyors, valuers, structural engineers and an architect, making sure the building would be an asset for the community for years to come and not a burden.



Kirsten Logue from Highlands and Islands Enterprise, centre, met with Ardchattan Centre directors Breege Smyth, left, and Sian Griffiths this week.

Two years since the project started, Ardchattan Centre directors are now finalising a detailed asset transfer request.

In September, councillors agreed that the mothballed school should shut for good and it was passed to Scottish ministers for final approval. The proposal was that education at Ardchattan School would be permanently discontinued from October 31.

Mrs Smyth said the council was aware of their plans for a centre and the project had so far received support from councillors and elected representatives, adding: 'This could become Argyll and Bute Council's first asset transfer to

In May this year, the project was also awarded £10,000 funding from the Scottish Government's Launch Me fund to help progress its five-year business plan if an asset transfer from Argyll and Bute Council for community ownership goes ahead.

To celebrate the latest funding, the project will be hosting another of its popular pop-up tearooms at the school on Sunday November 17

from 1pm to 3pm, this time inviting the public to come and meet its architect, Shauna Cameron, from Benderloch, to bring along ideas on how the centre should look.

Plans for the community hub include a cafe with its own bakery, a garden to serve the cafe, a performance space, a small industrial unit and rooms to hire for meetings events, evening classes and other occasions.

give community ownership.'

To match the council's requirements for a transfer, the project – a company limited by guarantee – has to show figures and how it fits in with the authority's targets such as social inclusion, health and wellbeing, combating loneliness and creating jobs.

Profit made from the centre would be used to run community services. An electric bus, with a charging point at the centre, was requested by 66 per cent of respondents to a recent wish-list survey.

This week, some of Ardchattan directors met with Kirsten Logue, development manager with Highlands and Islands Enterprise, to talk over the Scottish Land Fund award and plan a funding bid to buy the school.

On Saturday November 23, the centre will hold a Christmas craft fair from noon to 3pm.

POLICE FILES

■ About 11.50pm on October 19, in McCaig Road, Oban, a 17-year-old man was arrested for allegedly behaving in an abusive manner and assaulting a woman in Lochavullin Drive, Oban, earlier that night. The man was charged and a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

■ About 1.15pm on October 14, on Main Street, Tobermory, police stopped a car as the driver, a man, 39, was allegedly using the vehicle's horn improperly and driving while not having a full view ahead due to windscreen condensation. A report is being sent to the fiscal.

■ On October 10, on the A849 near Bunessan, Mull, a man, 26, was allegedly driving an unlicensed quad bike. Subsequently, on October 16 the man was charged and a report sent to the procurator fiscal.

■ If anyone has information in relation to the above, or to any incident, they can call their local police station on 101, or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



Phil Hamerton and Alison Rennie with more Betty's Pots ready for filling.

Pots of money coin in £1,000 for Oban lifeboat

After just six months of collecting 5ps in mini jam jars as part of the RNLI's popular Betty's Pots initiative, the town's fundraisers have so far hit £1,000 with help from the community and its seven collection points at Atlantis Leisure, CGL Printers, Poppies Garden Centre, The Little Potting Shed, M&S, Costa Coffee, The Perle Hotel and Inveraray Castle, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Phil Hamerton, Oban lifeboat fundraiser, said the town's 'tremendous achieve-

ment' was only possible because of customers visiting those collecting points 'and as a consequence, we are able to continue supporting the invaluable life-saving work of Oban lifeboat'.

Betty's Pots is now a popular fundraising initiative with lifeboat stations around the coast as a way of boosting much-needed funds to save lives at sea.

The idea first came from Betty Frith, who was honorary treasurer for more than 20 years at the Hertford

branch of the RNLI before she passed away.

Oban's all-weather lifeboat station can cost in the region of £215,000 to run per year.

With Christmas and the New Year looming, festive cards and 2020 calendars will go on sale next month and in December at the lifeboat station and at McCaig's Warehouse.

The charity will also be having a pop-up shop inside McCaig's Warehouse every Saturday from November 16 in the run up to December 25.

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GORDONS CHEMISTS

OT

Oban's heritage story given major lottery funding boost

Oban Communities Trust (OCT) volunteers announced the exciting news this week that they have been awarded £74,600 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, enabling the trust to progress its project, An t-Oban – The People and The Place.

The project, made possible by money raised by National Lottery players, is a community co-curated project which will offer a unique experience to engage with heritage.

Evolved and driven from the work of OCT heritage volunteers and the wider community's desire to see history and heritage as core themes in the cultural community hub, the project will be delivered in the Rockfield Centre, the B-listed building that is deep-rooted within the history of Oban.

The project will offer families and young people a welcoming, interactive play



OCT encourages anyone who wishes to become involved as a participant, volunteer or a contributor to get in touch by emailing: mhairi@therockfieldcentre.org.uk.

and skills development learning space, that tells Oban's social and natural heritage story through visuals, audio, hands-on interpretation and a full activity/learning programme.

In addition, the money will

secure a staff post to support the project to deliver a much wider reach to the community, enabling OCT to establish not just the children's area but also create a bespoke Look/Listen and Research space. This quieter space on

the second floor of the main building will offer rich access to research Oban's social heritage, family connections, school records, important local collections, photographs and heritage collections gifted to OCT.

'This is fantastic ... we can now see the ideas all come together'

The two fully-accessible spaces form the building blocks, but it will be the activities taking place within them which will inspire involvement of young and old in heritage.

Mhairi Ross, trustee with OCT, said: 'This is fantastic news for our wee group. We can now really see the ideas all come together with young people engaging with siblings and younger children in a heritage space where they can discover and learn about the social history of Oban.'

'The Rockfield Centre has already unearthed many interesting stories and we are positive there are many more to uncover. The development

of the dedicated spaces will not just offer opportunities to share and engage all ages at the centre, but will also enable us to collaborate and act as a natural hub to signpost people to all the other rich local heritage we have in the area.'

Caroline Clark, head of the National Lottery Heritage Fund Scotland, said: 'An t-Oban – The People and The Place is a great project as it shows clearly how local heritage can be a catalyst for lots of different activities and bring people together behind a common purpose.'

'The National Lottery Heritage Fund is pleased to support Oban Communities Trust in its plans to enable people to enjoy the history on their own doorstep.'

The doors may not be open yet on the main building but in the meantime the huts are open and everyone is welcome.

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Flora MacDonald receives the prize from Sir Ian Macdonald.

Flora shares Macdonald of Sleat poetry prize

This year's Macdonald of Sleat poetry prize is being shared by two winners, Flora MacDonald who wrote 'The Leaf and Martin MacIntyre with Healing'.

The competition, which is run by Sabhal Mòr Ostaig in collaboration with Clan Donald Lands Trust, was instituted by Sir Ian Macdonald of Sleat in memory of his daughter, Deborah, who died at an early age.

Flora was born and raised in Benbecula, with historical links to Clanranald. She has a home in North Uist, where she also has links to Macdonald of Sleat, but her

permanent residence is in Glasgow. Flora worked at the college on summer short courses for several years and it was there she was inspired to write her poems.

Martin, whose father hails from South Uist, was raised in Lenzie but has lived in Edinburgh for more than 25 years. He was a student at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig from 1990 to 1992 and returned there to work on the Tobar an Dualchais project between 1998 and 2003.

The theme of the competition each year relates to trees and this year an invitation was extended to anyone who

writes poetry, or has an interest in doing so, to compose a poem on the subject, Craobh nan Ubhal (the apple tree). Martin's and Flora's poems were selected as joint first place by the judges, Professor Meg Bateman and Mark Wringe, both lecturers at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

Flora was presented with her prize at a gathering at the Museum of the Isles in Armadale Castle on Saturday September 28 by Sir Ian Macdonald, chairman of the board of trustees of Clan Donald Lands Trust. Martin was unable to attend the ceremony.

Loch Awe man avoids ban after nearly causing crash

A driver has been fined £600 for careless driving after almost causing a crash on the A85 between Oban and Dunbeg.

Andreas Wolff of 25 St Conan's Road, Loch Awe, pleaded guilty to causing another vehicle to take evasive action when he attempted an overtaking manoeuvre near Pennyfuir.

The 45-year-old was sentenced at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday October 21, when he received eight points on his licence on top of the fine.

Procurator fiscal Kevin Docherty told the court that at about 4pm on June 2, 2018, a witness was travelling along the A85 between Oban and Dunbeg, with a dashcam fitted to his vehicle: 'He was aware Mr Wolff appeared to be travelling close to the vehicle in front of him with a view to potentially overtaking that vehicle.'

After turning one of the bends, and where the road markings changed from unbroken to broken white lines on his side, Wolff was attempting the overtaking manoeuvre.

As he pulled out onto the opposing carriageway, another vehicle is seen travelling towards him in which, 'fortunately for all parties', the 22-year-old driver was alert to the danger and avoided a collision by swerving onto the

roadside verge. 'His vehicle collided with warning posts, damaging those and the vehicle before he brought his vehicle to a halt,' the procurator fiscal added.

The police were phoned and made their way to the scene, where the accused confirmed he was the driver.

In his defence, solicitor Kevin McGinness said: 'At its heart, it is his position that it was down to a misjudgement. He made what he believed to be a diligent assessment and he believed the road was clear – clearly he erred reaching that conclusion.'

'He was concerned about the circumstances and faced up to his responsibilities immediately. He is employed as a BBC journalist and travels the length and breadth of the country in the course of his employment. It is his position he would not be able to continue his employment if he was to lose his licence.'

'He was immediately profusely apologetic to the victim. It is a warning to him about his future driving conduct.'

Sheriff Patrick Hughes said in all the circumstances he was satisfied it could be dealt with without disqualification and endorsed his licence with eight penalty points and fined Wolff £600, down from £750, given his guilty plea.

Pledge for free social care

The SNP has committed to offer free non-residential social care and improved childcare if re-elected in 2021.

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell said: 'Over the next parliament the SNP will scrap non-residential social care charges for all.'

Free primary school childcare will also be offered during school holidays for 'pupils from the poorest backgrounds'.

Mr Russell continued: 'We're determined to help families with the cost of living throughout their lifetimes.'

Island needs help with appeal

The Isle of Ulva is fundraising for a new defibrillator.

Once bought and fitted, it will be part of a network of 23 other defibrillators already across Mull and Iona managed by Mull and Iona Community Trust and the Scottish Ambulance Service.

So far £700 has been donated to buy one for the red phone box by the Ulva slipway, but another £1,300 is still needed.

Quick access to a defibrillator can improve the chances of surviving a heart attack, particularly in such remote locations.

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Shining light on dementia campaign

As part of Alzheimer Scotland's campaign to ensure people with dementia receive the same free healthcare that those with other long-term, progressive illnesses receive, Oban Dementia Resource Centre will host the first screening of a short film, *Dementia: The True Cost*.

The film was created by Mike Edwards and exposes the

inequality faced by people with dementia and their families.

The complexity and lack of transparency of financial assessments for social care charging is a major concern and most people do not understand how the process works, how the charges they are asked to pay are calculated, or why. Unlike other progressive conditions, they are even subject to

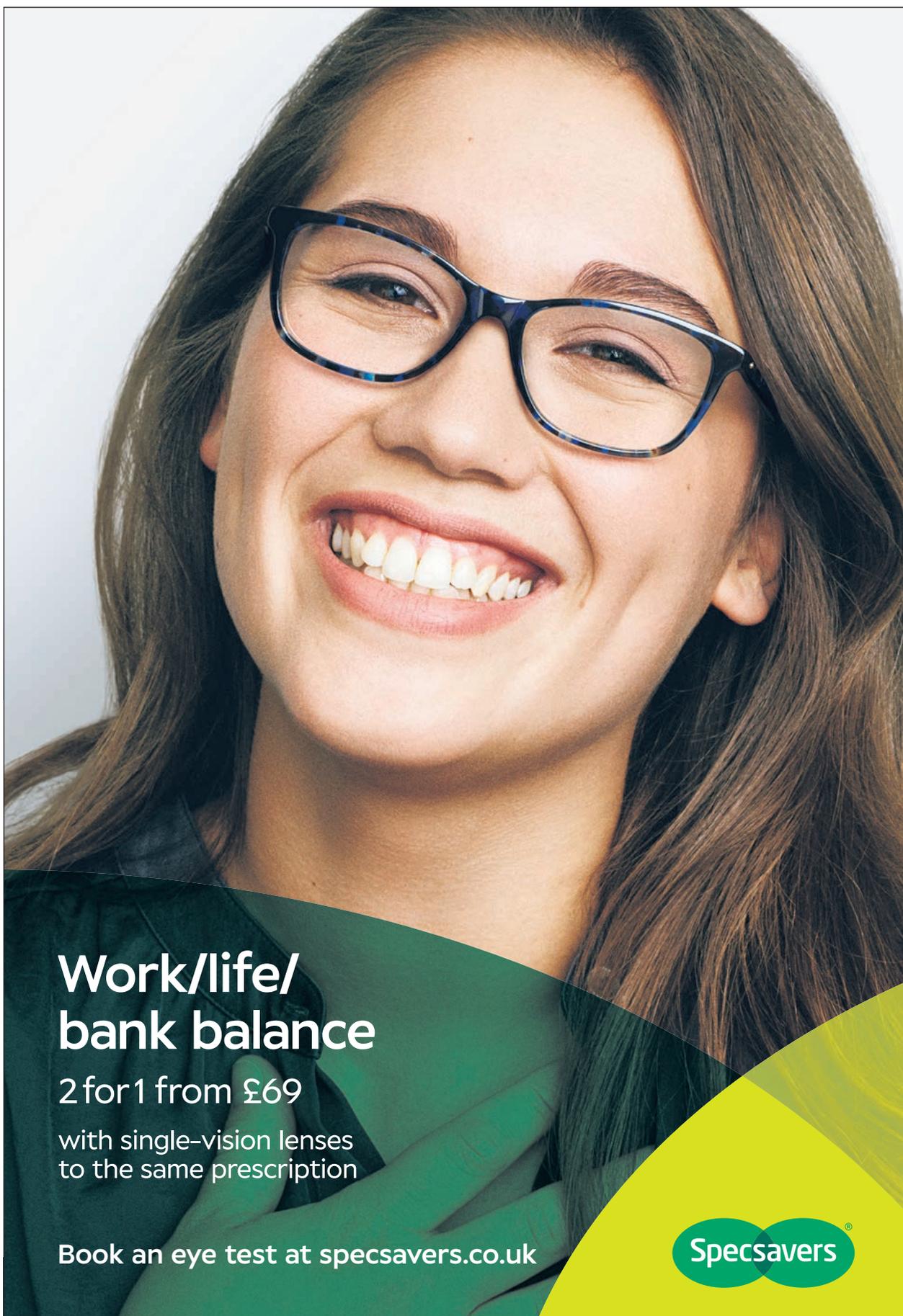
charges for the care they need. Sue Pagan, a dementia adviser in Oban, said: 'This outstanding film looks at complex and changing health needs of people with advanced dementia and why they need free health care and not just social care, and the cost in real terms to families and individuals.'

'Right now, people living with advanced dementia are

facing £50.9 million in care costs instead of the free healthcare they deserve.'

Dementia: The True Cost will be shown at the Oban Dementia Resource Centre, 12 High Street, Oban, today (Thursday October 24) at 11am, with refreshments from 10.30am.

For more information call Sue Pagan on 01631 570614.



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OT

Mull flies the flag at Brexit protest

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



A small contingent from Mull joined the Super Saturday protests in London last weekend as the Brexit debate saw parliament sitting on a Saturday for the first time in almost 40 years.

The group brandished a banner stating: 'Mull says no to no deal', which had been signed by islanders who wished to express their opinion at Westminster and had expressed a wish to have their names added – including Councillor Mary-Jean Devon and other prominent members of the Mull community.

Organised by Claire Bidwell (Tobermory) and Anne Cleave (Ulva Ferry), Claire offered to transport the banner down to the capital after plans to hold a march in Craignure had to be abandoned as there was



The banner containing the signatures of Mull residents.

no time to get the required licence.

Instead, Claire and Anne put Plan B into action and gathered the names using their own contacts and social media.

Although the list of names (67) only represented 2.23 per cent of Mull's population, the objectors to the plan only numbered 0.14 per cent so

Anne and Claire took this to be a fair representation of the views expressed.

What had concerned Anne and Claire was that the fall-out from exiting with no deal may prove disastrous.

'We just have no way of knowing how a no deal Brexit will impact on so many things: medicine, employment, movement of food, goods

and people, the law and many other aspects of everyday life,' said Anne.

On Saturday, Claire was interviewed by television crews and other members of the press and, as promised, Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara left the House to show his solidarity with his constituents.

'Brendan really was genuinely pleased that people from Mull had added their support via the banner and we had taken it all the way down to London.

'He was worried about how the vote would go ... it almost felt like we were supporting him ... he was the only MP out before the vote.'

For those who missed it, MPs attending the Super Saturday Commons session voted 322 to 306 in favour of the Letwin amendment that would withhold support for a new Brexit deal.



Lyndsay Elliott was delighted to see the workmen swing into action.

Work starts at last on community playpark

Repair work to Oban Community Playpark has finally started, with Lochgilphead-based civil engineers George McNaughton and Son moving in on Tuesday to dig into the initial groundwork.

The new flooring is scheduled to be laid on the week commencing November 11 although the dates are very much weather dependent.

Lyndsay Elliott, chairperson of the Friends of Oban Community Playpark group, said: 'It is a great relief to all involved that the diggers are now on site.'

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

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Matheson appointed Deputy Lord-Lieutenant

Neil Matheson, owner of Mathesons Furnishings, has been selected as a Deputy Lord-Lieutenant of Oban and the surrounding area.

Lord-Lieutenant Patrick

Stewart appointed Mr Matheson last week at the AGM of the Lieutenancy of Argyll and Bute in Inveraray.

Mr Matheson said: 'It is a great honour to be nominated

and selected. It is quite a responsibility. I have absolutely no expectations going into the role and am looking forward to being involved and finding out what it all entails.'

Project is shining a light on Oban

Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

editor@obantimes.co.uk

WHERE IS THIS?



Thank you to everyone who came along on Tuesday for the switching on of the Shine a Light on Oban project and to everyone who made it happen.

Special thanks to Drew and his team from Ark, McNiven Electrics, Oban FM, Councillor Elaine Robertson, the Common Good Fund, Iain Darling and Declan from The Lorne for providing the food, and the Dove Centre for handling the distribution of it.

Hopefully, this will only be the start of efforts to highlight our wee forgotten corners and show off the hidden treasures lurking in the dark.

I'm going to have a wee rant now, well maybe just blow off some steam on a personal level.

Elvis isn't coming on Saturday any more because not enough tickets were sold. It seems to be an Oban thing to put off buying tickets until the very last minute, and I am as guilty as the next person, but it means lots of really good shows don't make it as far as Oban in case they don't cover their costs.

So a plea from someone who's missed quite a few events because they've been cancelled due to lack of ticket sales. Please, please don't leave it too late. If you want to go, get your tickets as soon as you

can.

On a cheerier note, if you enjoy a good tabletop sale – and who doesn't? – then this Saturday is your lucky day as Oban and Lorn Lions are holding a sale in the Guide Hall on Soroba Road between 11am and 3pm, with tea, coffee and homebaking available. It's on most of the bus routes and nice and near the Lochavullin car park for taking all your purchases home.

In the evening, the Columba Hotel has a murder mystery evening with dinner included, The Lost Soul of the Lingering Laird, so if you think you can solve the mystery get your tickets now.

I've done it again, I can't remember where I took last week's photograph, so if you've spotted it can you please let me know – I really need to start writing them down. This week's is a nice easy one.

Public asked for views on 'at risk' ferry services

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Vital ferry services run by Argyll and Bute Council could be at risk if the latest proposals on budget cuts are approved in February next year.

At its meeting last Wednesday, the council agreed to seek the views of local people on how best to bridge an estimated funding gap of £9.2 million in 2020/21.

One of several questions to be asked in the consultation on budget priorities is whether the council should increase funding for local services through the potential transfer of four council-run ferries to Transport Scotland which could release £1 million a year.

Saving on the ferry services was included on a list of more than 60 operational and policy savings options proposed – and agreed to take forward

– at last week's meeting, the only option on outwith the council's control as the national transport agency, which is accountable to the Scottish Government, still has to agree to the transfer.

However, the saving option was issued with the warning: 'If this is not achieved by March 31, 2020, there will be a risk to the ongoing delivery of these services.'

The ferry services under consideration for transfer are Easdale/Seil, Lismore/Port Appin, Luing/Seil and Jura/Islay, two of which require replacement boats within the next five years.

Councillor Gary Mulvaney, depute leader of the council, added: 'It's simple – the more funding the council has, the more we can do for local people. We are looking at all options for increasing funding for Argyll and Bute.'

'Transport Scotland delivers ferry services for other islands – it's been running Western Isles' ferries for a number of years, and has provided £20 million-plus for ferries in Orkney and Shetland.

'We obviously need to look at Transport Scotland's role in supporting Argyll and Bute, the area with the highest number of inhabited islands of all of Scotland's councils.'

Kieron Green, councillor for Oban North and Lorn, said: 'We cannot continue to run those services. We make a £1m loss on them each year and, unlike Orkney and Shetland, we are not receiving money from the government to cover that. People on these islands depend on ferries to access services and employment, and they enable people to visit the islands which is important to local economies and I recognise these are lifeline services.'

Work up an appetite for this year's Winter Festival

Food and drink are very much a focus in this year's Winter Festival and, to celebrate the Year of the Haggis, butchers from across the country will be hot-footing it to Oban on Sunday November 24.

'Haggis of distinction' from across the nation will be entered for the coveted Golden Haggis Award when members of the public will have the opportunity to taste each one and cast their vote for the People's Choice Award.

The event will take place in Oban Distillery cask room from 12.30-3pm. Entry is £2 with all proceeds going to Oban High School Pipe Band.

The Great Haggis Hunt will take place the same day, from noon to 5pm, when hunters are invited to find hidden haggis pets around the town and then swap it for a free light stick/gift to take to the Sunday Light Show at 6pm and join in the Parade of Haggis Hunters.

Prizes for the best dressed hunters (children only) will be decided in the distillery courtyard at around 5.30pm.



As the Winter Festival has grown, so has the reputation of its markets for showcasing the best produce in Argyll and the West Highlands – and that reputation is now growing nationwide.

This year's George Street Christmas market will take place on Saturday November 16 and will include foraged cooking and local coffee roasting demos, and a huge range of stalls selling jams, cheeses, chocolates, organic breads, local meats, candles, coffee, willow decorations, wood craft to glitter tattoos, face painting and art and crafts.

Oban Winter Festival runs from Friday to Sunday, November 15 to 24, with events also taking place on St Andrew's Day, Saturday November 30.

Visit obanwinterfestival.com for more mouthwatering details of this year's event.

Firefighters clean up for charity close to home

It was all hands to the pumps on Saturday as Oban firefighters and friends held their annual charity car wash.

A 'steady flow' of vehicles drew into Oban Community Fire Station to support the Firefighters' Charity, which rehabilitates those suffering from either a physical or mental condition.

Firefighter David MacInnes, who organised the event, said: 'The charity has facilities it can use to rehabilitate people with physical and mental problems.'

'There are guys in this station who have been there with a variety of issues, so it's quite an important charity to us as we have had to use them personally.'

'Everyone has put in a good shift, the weather has been



Firefighters and their little helpers gave up their time on Saturday to work at the charity car wash.

great and I think that has led to more vehicles coming through. It's good to see the community coming out and supporting the local firefighters.'

Joining the squad of cham- ois shakers this year were six-year-old twin sisters Emma and Hollie MacGregor, who made sure no mark was left unwashed.



The newly-formed Taynuilt Pier Watch group has had a productive first weekend when carrying out litter picks at Kelly's Pier and Inverawe. Broken glass, polystyrene chips, dog mess and general litter was retrieved, bagged and binned from the sites. Safer Scotland provided the group with hi-vis jackets, while Dawnfresh Seafood Ltd donated money for the group to buy litter-picking equipment. Photographed from left are: John Macfarlane, Alistair Bell, Rosie Robinson, Libby Bryce, John Robinson and Paul Robinson.


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OT

Monument could be put in danger

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Underground cables for a new hydro substation could put an ancient burial cairn near Appin at risk.

Historic Environment Scotland says proposals for the new sub-station position at land north of Elleric House, Fasnaclloch, and its revised grid connection route for Allt Eilidh Hydro scheme has the potential to affect Salachail cairn.

The round burial cairn, likely to be from the Bronze Age with a kerb of 16 stones and 12.5m in diameter, is a nationally recognised ancient monument.

Experts raised concerns that putting in underground cables close to it could disturb the ground so have advised that the council's archaeological unit is consulted and an exclusion zone is marked



Water power in full force at Fasnaclloch, Appin.

around the monument's area before and during any work.

Historic Environment Scotland also said all staff and contractors should be told about the cairn and its importance, if the plan goes ahead, to help save it from any accidental damage.

And West of Scotland

Archaeology Service has also called for an archaeological watching brief to be approved between planners and itself before any development or groundbreaking work for Glen Creran Hydro Ltd starts, so it can be sure any items of interest or finds uncovered in the area are recorded.

Meanwhile, near Dalavich, plans have been submitted by superfast 5G and 4G provider EE for a 35m high lattice tower as part of a new telecommunications equipment compound at forestry land west of Barnaline Lodge.

Proposed access would be by a private track of the 60mph limit Lochavich Road. Over on Mull, Dervaig's Bellachroy Hotel is hoping planners will approve a scheme for a new accommodation building and a replacement laundry. Changes to car parking, new fencing and a bridge access as well as other ground work are also going before the planning authority.

Back on the mainland, a retrospective bid for a replacement jetty at Amulree, Kilchrenan, is also among this month's planning applications.

CalMac to widen access to its community fund

Demand from West Coast youth groups for CalMac's new Community Fund has been so strong the company is expanding it.

The ferry operator is looking for a further round of applications from non-profit organisations seeking support for a project or activity that will benefit young people aged 26 and under.

Organisations based in a mainland port or island the company serves can apply for £500 to £2,000.

So far the fund has supported 39 projects, from women's football in the Outer Hebrides, to the Campbeltown Sea Cadets and a Gaelic youth club on Skye.

CalMac's director of community and stakeholder engagement, Brian Fulton, said: 'We have been bowled over by the demand from groups up and down the West Coast. There is clearly a need for this type of support within the communities we serve, so I'm delighted to announce the extension of the fund for another round this year.'

Organisations who have applied unsuccessfully are welcome to submit a new application, but successful applicants cannot apply again.

For an application form and full terms and conditions, go to www.calmac.co.uk/communityfund.



Young people on Jura will now have a wider range of activities to take part in thanks to CalMac's Community Fund.

ADVERTORIAL

LOCAL HAIRDRESSER RECOGNISED AS ONE OF SCOTLANDS TOP HAIR STYLISTS/ COLOURISTS



Allan Mckechnie, from leading hair salon, Rutherfords, in Oban has been recognised as one of the country's top professional hair stylists/colourists following his success at reaching the Scottish finals in two of the hairdressing industry's most prestigious competitions, the Wella Professionals TrendVision Award and L'Oréal Colour Trophy 2019.

This year's competitions had over 1000 entries at the initial photographic stage, with regional heats taking place in Glasgow.

Created to discover and acknowledge the industry's most skilled hair stylists and colourists, the competition focuses on all aspects of hair styling and colouring, and the photographic and regional heats are judged by some of the UK's leading hair icons and multi award-winning hairdressers.

The annual competitions kicked off earlier this year with a photographic entry and Allan made it through to the Scottish regional finals where he showcased his chosen look on a live model in a dazzling evening show.

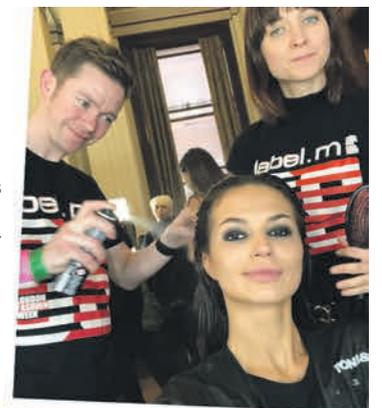
Allan also worked backstage for a sixth season running at the prestigious London Fashion Week after which he was given the chance to join the teams at Paris and LA fashion weeks.



Most recently Allan took to the mainstage of Creative Exposure in Glasgow to showcase his skills to a live audience which included him giving his six-year-old daughter her first taste of model life.

GO TO THE BEST

So whether you fancy a totally new style, brand new colour, the latest celeb look, or just want advice from the hairdressing elite, book your appointment now with Allan, Gerard or Vivian at Rutherfords on 01631 565 411.



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Mental health survey shows highs and lows

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Hundreds of people have responded to a survey identifying the highs and lows of Argyll and Bute's mental health services.

Worryingly, almost 68 per cent of those questioned said finding how to access help was not easy.

Out of 349 people who got involved, an overwhelming 280 of them were women and 182 who took part were aged between 41 and 65.

Most people, 101 of them, were service users, with 83 staff members, 44 parents or guardians and 27 carers having their say.

Responses were collected using SurveyMonkey and a report on the findings has now been handed over to Scottish health minister Jeane Freeman in the hope of helping improve the services that care for some of the area's most vulnerable people.



MSP Michael Russell was moved to start up the survey after seeing an increase in cases brought to him linked to mental health services. He wanted to hear experiences of clients, their friends, family, staff and anyone in the area about what was being done well and where improvements could be made.

Concerns highlighted included lack of out of hours

care, inadequate provision for children and that long waiting times to see mental health professionals are adding to people's feelings of 'worthlessness'.

Many users felt there were too many staff changes making it difficult to strike up any relationship and several service users said if alcohol or drug use is mentioned any help for mental health is

Worryingly, almost 68 per cent of those who responded to Michael Russell's survey said finding how to access help was not easy.

dismissed. Being sent to New Craigs Psychiatric Hospital in Inverness also makes it hard for family or friends to visit, making service users feel isolated, said the report.

However, 'quick and helpful' consultants got praise, with one user saying: 'I couldn't function without the NHS', and the service's online Beating the Blues CBT course was identified as one of its best points.

Suggestions to make the service better included improving dementia and autism care, increasing counselling services and hiring more staff.

Educating children about mental health and getting more suicide prevention training in communities were among suggestions offered.

Nominations now open for council youth awards

Do you know a young person in Argyll and Bute aged between 11 and 25 who is truly inspirational?

Well, now is your chance to let them know how great they are by nominating them for an Argyll and Bute Youth Award.

These awards celebrate the achievements of the area's young people and nominating someone is easy. All you have to do is visit <https://form.jotformeu.com/RoannaC/ab-award-nomination-form>.

If you require help completing the form, or would like a paper copy, please call 01700 501368 or 01369 707161.

The award categories are as follows:

- Unsung Hero Award
- Youth Entrepreneur Award
- Youth Volunteering Award
- Health and Wellbeing
- Youth Environment Award
- Citizenship Award
- Youth Arts Award
- Sporting Award

Argyll and Bute Council's policy lead for education, Councillor Yvonne McNeilly, said: 'There are so many young people across Argyll



Councillor Yvonne McNeilly.

and Bute who deserve recognition for the valuable contributions they make to their local communities.

'We have talented, often award-winning, young people who are doing great things day in, day out, and these awards are a fantastic opportunity for their hard work to be celebrated. I would urge everyone to get nominating today.'

Nominations close at midnight on Sunday November 17.

Rebels call on Argyll and Bute Council to declare a climate emergency

Extinction Rebellion Oban is calling on Argyll and Bute Council to declare a climate emergency, writes Kathie Griffiths.

The call comes from the group's latest meeting and after a number of its members joined a mass protest in London.

XR Oban wants Argyll and Bute Council to follow in the footsteps of other councils, including the Highland Region and the Scottish Government.

A group spokesperson said: 'We plan to make the request by letter initially, followed by protesting if they refuse. We need them to act now.'

Next year a major United Nations climate change summit, COP26, will be happening in Glasgow.

'Our council could show leadership in this area, demonstrating to the people and other areas of government that they are taking the climate emergency seriously in not only declaring an emergency but then acting as if it is real, because it is,' added the XR Oban spokesperson.

Among XR Oban members who travelled to London to protest against the lack of action to tackle the climate



XR Oban members were among protesters at the mass autumn rebellion in London.

crisis, was Annie Loughlin, who has already taken part in XR Climate action in Edinburgh.

She said: 'It was an easy decision to go to the London XR protest as I felt a strong urge that I wanted to take part in something bigger and something that might have an impact on the government, to tell them enough is enough.'

Oban's Yorick Paine also went to London, providing drumming support to protesters, which included them singing improvised nursery rhymes to the 100-plus mothers and babies who staged a breast-feeding sit-in outside Downing Street.

And XR Oban campaigner Ashley Stones spent 10 out of the 14 days of Extinction Rebellion's autumn protest in the capital, blocking streets and demonstrating as well as being a legal observer for some of the time.

He said: 'Sadly, the ruling elite, whether in politics, business or mainstream media, still ignore us and the state of the planet and would rather talk about Brexit, the royal family's travels or what's on TV. I hope that in 10 years they are proved right that those are the vital topics of the day, but sadly I fear they are just fiddling while Rome burns.'

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VE Day stories wanted for 75

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



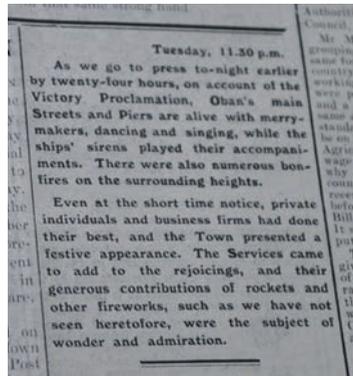
VE Day stories are being collected as part of plans to celebrate 75 years since the guns of the Second World War fell silent.

In time for the 2020 occasion, the Easdale branch of the Royal British Legion (RBL) wants to create a legacy of recollections to be kept in the islands' archives and to be used by schoolchildren and others as a learning resource.

Ron Hetherington would like to hear from anyone in The Oban Times circulation area so their stories of how they first discovered the war was over, or memories they heard from other family members and friends, can be saved forever.

He said: 'It would be a nice way to remember how people learned the war was over. We'd like to hear how they got the information and how they celebrated.'

'We've already made a start collecting stories. One Seil woman remembers being sent off on her bike to tell her dad the news - he was working in the fields at the time.'



Above: merry-makers were reported filling the streets of Oban on May 8, 1945, after hearing the war against Nazi Germany was over and, right, some of the Homeguards on Seil.



Sandy Sharp of Luing has also offered his father's description of VE night in Brest harbour where he was berthed on the tug he was serving aboard.

'Anyone with these personal recollections of VE Day will be 75 or over so it's important we hear them now or they'll be gone. This is information we need to

keep,' added Mr Hetherington. Seil had an active Homeguard at the time and the Observer Corps had a base on the island with a turret above Ellenabeich, while several women also worked as Land Army girls.

Unfortunately, the British Legion's minute books for that time are missing, leaving Mr Hetherington

puzzled as to what celebrations went on. 'I really am appealing for people to get in touch and tell me what they know,' he said.

Other plans for next year include a dance in Seil Island Hall on May 8 with a swing band, when people will be invited to dress from the 1945 era to recreate the jubilation of the war ending.

Last year, the Easdale RBL branch raised £2,500 to help veterans' charities and £1,599 was collected for PoppyScotland.

In the VE Day edition of The Oban Times was printed King George VI's message to the people.

In its Latest News box it read: 'As we go to press tonight earlier by 24 hours on account of the Victory Proclamation, Oban's main streets and piers are alive with merry-makers, dancing and singing, while the ships' sirens played their accompaniments. There were also numerous bonfires on surrounding heights. Even at the short time notice, private individuals and business firms had done their best, and the town presented a festive appearance. The services came to add to the rejoicings and their generous contributions of rockets and other fireworks, such as we have not seen heretofore, were the subject of wonder and admiration.'

If you have VE Day stories to share from Seil, Easdale and Luing, send them to Ron Hetherington, c/o The Slate Islands Heritage Trust Museum, 13A Ellenabeich, Oban, PA34 4RQ.

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Councillors discuss climate change at Oban High School

By Oban High School pupils
Anna and Maisie

A Question Time-style debate was held at Oban High School to give pupils the opportunity to discuss climate change and ask what Argyll and Bute Council is doing to combat the ever-pressing issue.

George Baxter from Green Power, chairing the event, introduced the panel of Jim Lynch, chairman of Oban FM and board member of Oban Phoenix Cinema as well as being a local councillor, along with Councillor Kieron Green. He then highlighted the importance of the gathering, saying: 'I encourage you all to give renewable energy a good look as you think about your future careers.'

Argyll and Bute has great potential for using renewable energy. Some of the advantages spoken of were the masses of spare land, wind power opportunities on the islands, and potential for tidal power off the coast.

The next topic discussed was how Argyll might reduce carbon emissions through transport. The councillors spoke of the bus services already available and encouraged us all to make use of these. Scotland



George Baxter from Greenpower chaired the debate, the panel for which also included councillors Kieron Green and Jim Lynch.

aims to reduce carbon emissions to net-zero by 2045.

The issue of compost bins was also discussed. Argyll and Bute Council advises people to compost in their gardens, but cannot, unfortunately as yet, provide compost bins. Regarding recycling, the councillors reassured the pupils of their personal investment and admitted the council is lagging behind others in Scotland.

The general point, which has been emphasised by many involved in action for the climate emergency, that we need to stop blaming the consumer and put pressure on governments, was well understood by the panel.

It was fabulous to see councillors come to discuss climate change in our school, with the younger generation within Argyll and Bute engaging many listeners.

5th anniversary Sea Cadets save Remembrance Day parade from being forgotten



Ron Hetherington looking at how The Oban Times reported VE Day news in 1945.

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Oban Remembrance Day parade and poppy appeal have been saved thanks to Oban Sea Cadets (OSC) and a local councillor.

Previously organised by the Oban branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland (RBL), the traditional Armistice Day events, held to remember members of the armed forces who died in the line of duty, were put in jeopardy after the local RBL officially closed its doors in February this year.

At the time a spokesperson said that an Armistice Day committee was being formed to organise this year's event but, with the November 11 date drawing ever closer, nothing seemed to be happening.

Taking up the story, the Reverend Peter Park, chaplain of Oban Sea Cadets, said: 'We were waiting to hear

what was happening for this year's parade and nothing was forthcoming so I got in touch with Councillor Jim Lynch and we decided to organise it between us.

'We all feel that it's dreadfully important to keep the Remembrance Day parade going and Oban Sea Cadets

'It is so important that we come together to remember.'

are honoured to be leading this year's commemorative event.

'OSC have expertise in ceremonial events such as this and it will offer our young ladies and gentlemen a chance to show what they can do as well as pay tribute to the many young people who have lost their lives in the line of duty.'

This year's parade will take

place on Sunday November 10, mustering at the Corran Halls at 10am with the parade starting at 10.30am. A service will be held at the war memorial from 10.50am-11.20am approximately. The parade commander is Frank McKenna.

Councillor Lynch added: 'I am delighted that Peter and the Sea Cadets are taking this on. It is so important that we, as a community, come together to remember and pay tribute to the sacrifices that our own servicemen and women made and continue to make.'

Petty Officer Rab Neil, of Oban Sea Cadets, has also come on board and will take on the role of poppy day coordinator, organising collection tins.

Contact Rev Park (01631 565849) for more information on the parade or PO Neil on 07876 697415 to arrange to have a collection tin for the poppy appeal.



Chair of the Board of Management Cathraiche a' Bhùird Stiùiridh

West Highland College UHI is seeking a new Chair for its Board of Management.

West Highland College UHI is a growing, dynamic and successful provider of higher and further education in the West Highlands, supported by a Board that collectively helps guide the strategic direction of the College and fosters an environment which maximises the potential of learners.

As Chair of the Board, you will bring your expertise and skills used in locally business or in the community to play a key role in ensuring that the governing body works effectively. You will have particular responsibility for providing strategic leadership to the Board and for ensuring it successfully discharges its overall responsibility for the activities of the College. You will also play a leading role in the College's relationship with the University of the Highlands and Islands and other key stakeholders.

The commitment is an average of 2-3 days a month. Expenses and a small honorarium is paid to the Chair, but the chief rewards are the ability to 'make a difference' for students, employers and local communities, and the personal satisfaction that will be gained from a leading role at a highly regarded College.

Closing date: Friday 8 November 2019

For further information please contact the secretary to the Board:
Email: claire.wylie.whc@uhi.ac.uk Tel: 01397 874525 (Monday to Thursday)

In line with our Equality and Diversity policy, West Highland College UHI is committed to ensuring that all candidates are treated on the basis of their merits and abilities, and that unfair and unlawful discrimination is eliminated. We positively welcome applications from all sections of the community.

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An advertisement for the Oban Bay Fireworks Display. It features a night view of Oban Bay with fireworks exploding in the sky. The text includes: 'OBAN BAY FIREWORKS DISPLAY', '7pm for 7.30pm', 'Tuesday 5th November 2019', 'Remember OBANG? This display could be even bigger!', 'Oban's biggest ever fireworks display across the bay.', 'Fireworks set off from Northern Lighthouse Board Pier', 'Best viewed from Oban Town Centre, North Pier and Esplanade.', 'Funded by Oban Business Improvement District and Scottish Sea Farms Heart of the Community', 'Charity Stalls in Station Square from 6.30pm', and logos for Scottish Sea Farms, Heart of the Community, Argyll & Bute Council, OBAN FM, and the University of the Highlands and Islands. At the bottom, it says 'Oban Business Improvement District' and 'www.bid4oban.co.uk'.

OT

Remember, remember ... the impact of fireworks

With Bonfire Night approaching rapidly, people are being urged to celebrate at an organised display, rather than using fireworks at home.

Alongside the fun and enjoyment, the evening can bring significant safety risks and have a damaging impact on others.

While fireworks are spectacular, they can raise background noise levels by several dozen decibels, affecting the wellbeing of those with noise sensitivity, including autistic people.

The loud bangs, lights and strong smells of fireworks can be challenging for armed forces veterans, and pet owners know only too well the distress it can cause to animals.

More often than not, it is children rather than adults who are injured by fireworks, with more than 350 pre-school children in the UK treated in hospital over the past five years.

Assistant Chief Officer Ross Haggart, Scottish Fire and



Rescue Service's director of prevention and protection, said: 'While we want people to enjoy and celebrate Bonfire Night, we'd encourage everyone to leave the fireworks to the experts and find an organised display nearby.'

'If you're not attending a public display, it's imperative that you follow the fireworks code.'

'The fifth of November is our

busiest night of the year by up to four times. By attending an official display, you can help ensure our resources aren't delayed for someone who really needs our assistance.'

Enjoy fireworks safely at an organised public display - visit Firescotland.gov.uk

To report the misuse of fireworks anonymously, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



Dublin is a city on my list of desired destinations since my late teens.

Among the many attributes of the Irish capital that have attracted me is the city's association with the band who took their name from it.

The Dubliners were formed and grew from the pubs and streets of the band members' home city and, from their conception in O'Donoghue's Pub in 1962, they went on to take traditional Irish music across Europe and the world.

My two favourite singers of all time - outwith Gaelic singing - are Luke Kelly and Ronnie Drew, who were both lead vocalists with the Dubliners.

I was first introduced to the music of the Dubliners through my friends in the band Crooked Reel, who played frequently in MacGochan's Bar in Tobermory. Crooked Reel's many superb versions of Dubliners' songs led me to the originals and over the past 22 years these songs have been a constant soundtrack to much of my life.

Last week, my wife, Ania, was attending a conference of the Federation of European Nutrition Societies at the Dublin Convention Centre, so I decided to go with her and fulfil my long-held desire to experience the city.

We arrived late on Tuesday morning and Ania headed straight to the nutrition conference. I had nutrition of a different kind in mind and, as planned, after checking into a hotel on the banks of the Liffey, I headed straight for O'Donoghue's Pub to drink Guinness and soak in the history of music and mirth held in the atmosphere of this famous Dublin bar.

There is something I find very therapeutic about spending time alone in a place where one is completely anonymous. Accompanied by two books - Dubliners, James Joyce's collection of short stories, and the other a collection of poems by Patrick Cavanagh, (another O'Donoghue's regular) - I sat at the corner of the bar in a peaceful daze of musical thoughts and memories, and

sipped on smooth black pints of Guinness all afternoon.

Surrounded by pictures of the band, with their music playing in the pub where they started their musical journey and are so strongly associated with was a magical experience.

I had never heard the Dubliners perform live, but on many occasions over the years I was lucky to hear Crooked Reel perform their songs.

By sad coincidence, it was when I was in Dublin that I received the news of the passing of 'Big' Frank Breen, the lead singer of Crooked Reel.

Whenever I would be at a festival, in a pub or when they played in the Ceilidh House, I was constantly pestering Frank with requests for my favourite Dubliners' songs.

Over the years he got to know which ones I would like to hear and, in the end, I didn't even have to ask. If he saw me in the audience, always with a wink and a warm comment over the microphone, he would fire straight in.

I will miss Big Frank and his music very much.



BRIDGING THE RETIREMENT GAP

Ever-increasing life expectancy means larger retirement pots are now needed. This means the age-old practice of stopping work at 65 is being replaced by phased retirement; many are reducing hours or responsibility, but extending their working lives by several more years, bringing with it a host of new financial considerations.

So, for the generation now contemplating retirement, the trick is to plan ahead so that pension provision meets both your financial needs and wider hopes for personal fulfilment. Contact us for further information.

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HM Government

BREXIT

31 OCTOBER



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BUSINESS NEWS

CMAL buys ferry MV Loch Seaforth

Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL) has purchased MV Loch Seaforth after completing a deal with Lloyds Banking Group.

The vessel has been purchased for an undisclosed amount as part of a commercial agreement.

MV Loch Seaforth, which operates the route between Ullapool and Stornoway, was financed by Lloyds Banking Group and has been leased to CMAL for the past five years through an operational lease agreement.

Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands Paul Wheelhouse said: 'Our ferry services are iconic transport links that play a vital role for our island economies, so it's very important we secure the MV Loch Seaforth for the future of the Clyde and Hebrides network.'

'This vessel is the fastest major vessel in our fleet and has proved itself both highly reliable and a real workhorse, in carrying a very substantial number of passengers and a tremendous volume of freight annually since it entered service.'

'Purchasing the Loch Seaforth outright will also bring considerable financial benefits by delivering savings to the public purse over the longer term when compared with a more expensive leasing arrangement.'

'Making sure these lifeline transport links continue to support the communities and businesses they serve, such as for the Outer Hebrides, remains at the very heart of our ferry operations. Therefore, I am very pleased this transaction secures this crucial vessel for the future and in a way that will deliver best value for taxpayer's money.'

When plans for a vessel were approved by the Scottish Government in 2011, CMAL sought proposals for funding in the form of lease options from banks and financial institutions to fund procurement of the vessel. Following a tender process governed by EU procurement rules, Lloyds Banking Group was appointed.

Comedian Jim to host Scottish Rural Awards

Oban Times sister title Scottish Field magazine has announced that its favourite farmer comedian will take to the stage to host its Scottish Rural Awards 2020.

The black-tie glittering awards ceremony will be held on April 2, 2020 at the Glasgow Hilton.

Richard Bath, editor of Scottish Field: 'With diversification now often less a lifestyle choice than a necessity, this year's Scottish Rural Awards will be hosted by Perthshire farmer Jim Smith, whose new sideline as a phenomenally successful stand-up comic has seen him break new ground.'

Brian Cameron, commercial director of Scottish Field, continued: 'We are huge fans

'We are huge fans of Jim Smith and we decided he was just the man to host prestigious awards.'

of Jim Smith at Scottish Field and, after Rosie Morton interviewed him for the July issue of the magazine, we decided he was just the man for the job of hosting our prestigious rural awards.

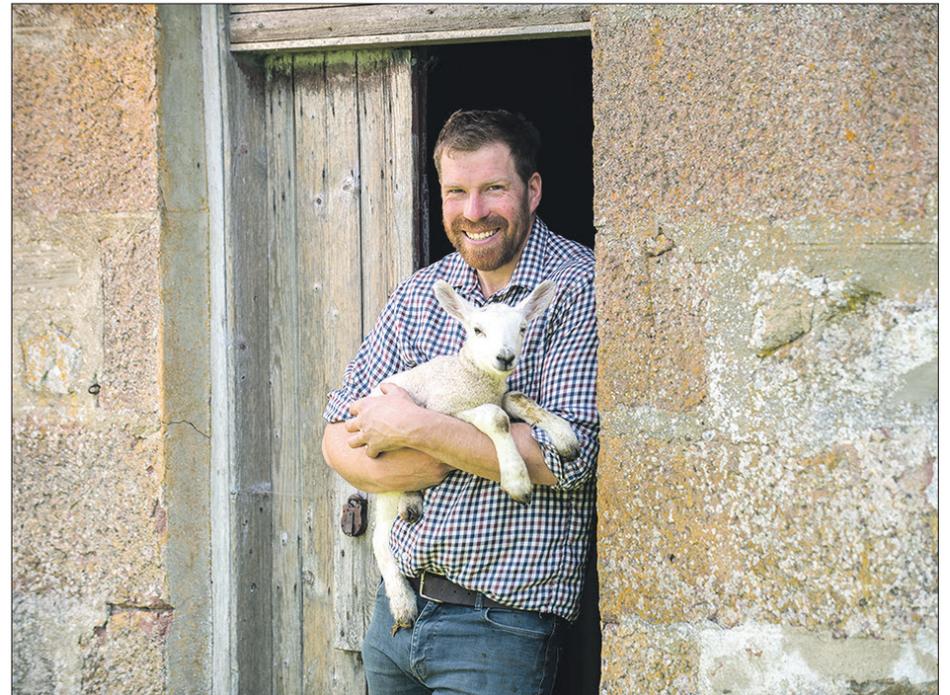
'Nominations close on November 4, so businesses will have to get their nominations in fast if they want to be in with a chance of being shortlisted.'

The comedian will follow in the footsteps of other Scottish Rural Award hosts who include Dougie Vipond and Fred MacAulay.

After catching the comedy bug writing sketches for the Young Farmers panto and making his comedy debut five years ago, Jim Smith is now one of Scotland's fastest rising comedy stars.

Still a working farmer in Perthshire, Jim's unique insight into rural living coupled with his sharp observational humour has allowed him to create hilarious shows from his day to day life.

With two sell-out Fringe runs and a sell-out



Farmer turned stand-up comic Jim Smith will host the Scottish Rural Awards in Glasgow next April. Photograph: Angus Blackburn

40-date Scottish tour under his belt, when he's not on the farm Jim is in demand as a performer all over Scotland. TV and radio credits include BBC Radio Scotland's Breaking The News, BBC Scotland's Scot Squad and BBC Short Stuff The Farm Diaries.

Now in their sixth year, the Scottish Rural Awards are the ultimate benchmark of success in Scotland's countryside and are partnered by Scottish Field magazine and the Scottish Countryside Alliance.

There are 14 awards, 12 of which are open for nominations, which will be awarded to the winners at the awards ceremony hosted by Jim in April at the Glasgow Hilton. The finalists will be announced in December.

It couldn't be easier to enter the awards.

Businesses and individuals can nominate themselves or a friend on our website. It only takes five minutes to fill in our online form to register your nomination. Enter at www.scottishruralawards.org.

Businesses have until Monday November 4 to put forward their nominations. Businesses can either self-nominate or be nominated by a friend, family member, customer or member of the public.

The full criteria for each award, along with nomination forms, are available on the Scottish Rural Awards website, www.scottishruralawards.org. It is free to enter a nomination.

As an added bonus, every nominee will receive a free copy of Scottish Field magazine.



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Awards ahoy for west coast cruise operator

Mini cruise operator The Majestic Line is looking to sail off with some silverware after being shortlisted for a brace of industry awards.

In the Highlands and Islands Tourism Awards 2019, the Dunoon-based west coast travel operator has been nominated in the Innovation in Tourism category, and it is up for the Favourite Special Cruise Line title at the prestigious Wave Awards.

Marie McGhee, from Majestic Line (Scotland) Ltd marketing team, said: 'The Innovation in Tourism category was a great achievement for us after the recent launch of our fourth small ship, Glen Shiel earlier this year.'

'The Innovation category includes expansion, especially when it benefits local communities. In our case providing employment during the build of the ship at Ardmaleish plus additional crew.'

'Our fourth ship has also helped increase tourism spending in the west coast of Scotland.'



The four Majestic Line boats leave Oban back in June.

The Highlands and Islands Awards, now in their 15th year, identify, highlight and reward excellence throughout the hospitality and tourism industries within the area.

For 2019, there are 15 awards up for grabs covering the various facets of the customer/visitor experience of our tourism industry.

The winners will be announced

at a prestigious awards ceremony and dinner which will take place on Friday November 1, in Inverness.

Highlands and Islands Tourism Awards are working with the Scottish Thistle Awards again this year and each category winner, with the exception of Our Highland Rising Star and Highland Ambassador, will

automatically become a finalist at the Scottish Thistle Awards final in March 2020.

The Wave Awards celebrate the best of the UK's cruise industry. The Oscars of cruising, they recognise excellence and innovation in an industry continuously evolving to deliver exceptional experience, both on board and ashore.

'We were so pleased to be a finalist in 2019 in the Best Specialist Cruise Line category, and you can imagine how delighted we were to find out we had been shortlisted again in the Favourite Specialist Cruise Line section,' said Marie.

Voting for the Wave Awards is now open and closes on December 31. Anyone who wishes to vote can do so at <https://www.worldofcruising.co.uk/vote>

The Majestic Line was also a finalist in two categories, Best Use of Scottish Produce and Your Hidden Gem, of the Scotsman Food and Drink Awards 2019 earlier this year.

More film crews head for stunning Argyll and Bute

Argyll and Bute's popularity as a filming location is well established – and the council is working alongside residents and partner organisations to ensure the trend continues.

A number of productions have come to the area so far in 2019, including BBC drama The Nest – starring Martin Compston and Sophie Rundle. Documentaries, adverts and other productions have also filmed in Argyll and Bute in 2019. The area's stunning landscape continues to attract fashion photoshoots, too, with Urban Outfitters recently having visited the area.

The council recently implemented a plan to further enhance the area's accessibility and appeal as a film location, introducing a Film Location Charging Schedule for filming on council-owned locations. The new charging schedule streamlines the process of providing the film industry a flexible range of options for film productions using council assets.

Additionally, there has also been an increase in the number of members of the public and community groups coming forward to register their property for filming, which enables the council to offer a fantastic range of unique locations for projects.



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Iolaire Working Group wins award

At the COSLA Excellence Awards Ceremony this month, at the Fairmont Hotel, St Andrews, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's Iolaire Working Group secured the President's Award.

As part of the project, a new access path to the Iolaire memorial was constructed, a wide range of events took place, including a commemorative evening on December 31, 2018, a vigil at 2am coinciding with the timing of the sinking of the Iolaire and a service on New Year's Day 2019 attended by the Lord of the Isles and Scotland's First Minister.

Comhairle convener Norman A Macdonald said: 'The award recognises the collaborative work which was achieved with the community and partner agencies in marking the centenary of the loss of HMY Iolaire, in which 201 men lost their lives just metres from shore.'

'In a parallel development, Dileab is an ambitious inter-generational and bilingual education project which encompasses all schools in the Western Isles, which in 2018/19 covered topics such as emigration, protest and politics, the war experience and the Iolaire tragedy.'

'As the island most impacted by the tragedy, pupils in Lewis examined the loss of HMY Iolaire.'

'Ultimately, it is our view that the most significant impact of the project was the liberation from the self-imposed censorship of families and communities throughout the islands as a result of the disaster on January 1, 1919.'



At the awards were, left to right, CNES's Peigi Ann Scott, Colin George Morrison, Roddie Mackay, Doileag Macleod, Alison Evison (COSLA president), Norman A Macdonald, Malcolm Macdonald (Stornoway Historical Society) and Hannah Macleod (Nicolson Institute).

Sea monsters and

Morvern Lines

IAIN THORNER

ian.thorner@btinternet.com



A few weeks ago I wrote about monsters and gigantic eels which, judging by the number of emails I received, seemed to have caught many readers' imagination – so much so that it appears the mysteries of the deep are still as interesting as ever.

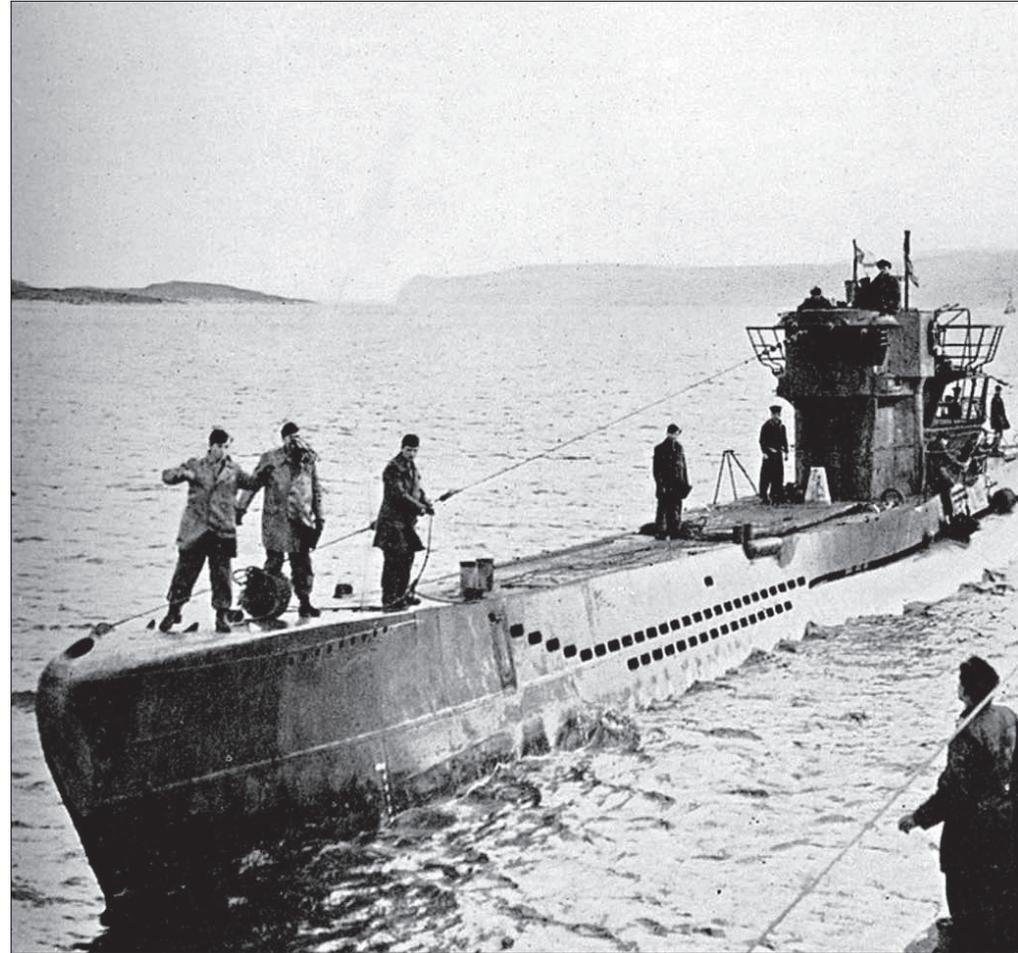
First in was a message from an old crofter on Loch Eil-side who remembered what her aunt told her about the Loch Ness Monster. Before she, the aunt, married, she had been a legal secretary and knew an elderly gentleman, Finlay Beaton, who was an Inverness historian. As a boy, he used to go and stay with his grandparents at Fort Augustus, where his grandfather might have been one of the lock keepers who opened and closed the locks.

One day Finlay and some others were trying to close the lock that led into Loch Ness. They didn't know what was blocking gates, so out came the boathooks and goodness knows what else. Before long they discovered that there was a giant eel preventing the lock gates from shutting. Her aunt asked what did they do with the eel, and was told they dragged it back into the loch and returned to work!

Tales of huge numbers of large eels in Loch Ness surfaced again when, in 1933, experienced professional divers employed by a well-known insurance company, went down into the stygian depths in search of a yacht in which there was a string of priceless antique pearls belonging to the owner's wife.

The late Mrs Cameron-Head of Inverailort, whose family lived at Culachy above Fort Augustus and knew the yacht owner, told me the divers talked about underwater horizontal shelves covered in thousands of eels, some so huge that they feared for their lives and refused to go down to where the yacht was thought to lie with the result that the pearls were never recovered and are presumably there to this day.

In October 2016, Scottish Power crews discovered the wreckage of a First World War German U-boat when surveying the seabed to lay a new power cable in the North Channel that connects the Irish Sea with the Atlantic Ocean. Incredible sonar images show the 100-year-old wreck to be mostly intact, and the find has led to the resurfacing of nautical



folklore. Experts say the wreckage may be the infamous UB-85, which, legend has it, was attacked by a sea beast during the war.

According to the old tale, the U-boat commander – Captain Gunther Krech – said the submarine had been cruising on the surface of the water to recharge its batteries when a 'strange beast' rose from the sea with large eyes, set in a horny sort of skull. According to Krech the animal had a small head, but with 'teeth that could be seen glistening in the moonlight'.

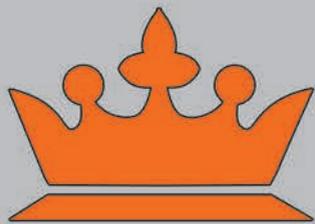
The story goes that the sheer size of the beast was so great that it forced the U-boat to list and the crew began shooting at the monster until it dropped back into the sea. The captain said that during the course of the fight the forward deck plating had been so badly damaged, however, that it could no longer submerge.

The British military had a slightly different take on the incident. Official reports suggested that when the UB-85 surfaced on April 30, 1918, it was spotted and destroyed by a British patrol boat – HMS Coreopsis – not by a mysterious sea monster.

German navy logs revealed that the submarine sank after issues with the captain's heater.

For the previous two weeks, UB-85 had been patrolling the Irish Sea, looking to unleash its 10 torpedoes on merchant ships bringing vital supplies to Britain from the US and Brazil. But before Krech was able to engage with the enemy, he told his superiors that UB-85 was rocked by an huge surge on the starboard side, followed by a terrific thud as something landed on the deck.

Krech, apparently looked down, and to his bewilderment and horror saw a huge sea mon-



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old curses



A First World War German U-Boat similar to the one lying in the North Channel reported having been attacked by a huge sea-monster.

of the British ship's crew, the Germans were standing on the deck with their hands up, and were willing to surrender without a fight.

It was only when the trembling seamen were on board, and Krech told his tale, that it became apparent quite why the Germans seemed so grateful to be taken prisoner. Even if the crew members of the Coreopsis were not sure whether to believe their captives, the story of the sea monster and UB-85 got out.

Despite the apparent absurdity of the German commander's claims, plenty of locals have maintained that UB-85 could well have been set upon by a savage sea serpent.

Among them is Gary Campbell, the keeper of the Official Sightings Record for the Loch Ness Monster, who said: 'The area of sea where the attack took place has a history of sea-monster sightings. What the captain said could well be true. It's great to see how Nessie's saltwater cousin clearly got involved in helping with the war effort - she even managed to do the damage without anyone being killed.'

Peter Roper, of Scottish Power, said: 'I am probably on the side of the historians who believe the capture of the vessel was more straightforward than a sea monster attack.'

Returning to the curse of the rowans, a correspondent on Mull wrote: 'Regarding the legend of bad luck attending anyone cutting down a rowan tree. As you know, from time to time it is necessary, and in my own time, when the "County" roadmen had to take a rowan tree down, every man in the squad would be expected to have a hand on the saw. This was considered sufficient to dilute the effect of any malefaction that might result.'

'Several years ago, maybe 10, I observed the largest flocks of redwing and fieldfare I have ever seen, gorging themselves on a very heavy crop of berries which were on the trees beside the road on Liddesdale (a steep hill above Loch Sunart in Morvern).

'As I approached, there was what I can only describe as a cloud of birds flying from the rowans, into the spruce for sanctuary until I passed. There must have been tens of thousands of birds and, even at that, the feast lasted more than a week. I have not seen the like before or since.'

ster emerging from the water and climbing on to the side of the submarine. Krech claimed he was standing with his crew on deck when the creature attacked.

The weight of the monster, he maintained, was so great that it began forcing the 730-ton submarine down. Eventually, with its mighty body stung by one too many bullets, it let go and slipped back into the depths. Although the crew were safe from immediate peril, it soon became apparent that the creature had severely damaged the forward deck, leaving the U-boat incapable of diving.

As dawn came, UB-85 became a sitting duck for the many ships of the Royal Navy patrolling the channel. Among them was an armed drifter called the Coreopsis, which cautiously approached the damaged submarine as it bobbed up and down. To the astonishment

DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



We are taking the opportunity this week to focus on the Mòds of yesteryear, with a couple of great photographs from our archives. Unfortunately, we have no information as to who is caught on camera, though it is clearly the 100th Mòd in Oban in 2003.



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LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to editor@obantimes.co.uk
or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HBSea Cadets deserve
praise for saving
Remembrance

There has been a significant focus in the past year or so over the importance of Remembrance Day, especially given the centenary of the end of the First World War.

In addition, next year marks the 75th anniversary of the armistice that brought a conclusion to the Second World War.

Never has the need to pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice been more crucial. So it is gratifying to be able to report this week that Oban's annual Remembrance Day parade will go ahead after all following fears that it might have been cancelled owing to the closure of the town's branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland.

That the parade will take place is down to the efforts of a number of people, principal among them Oban Sea Cadets, Councillor Jim Lynch and the Reverend Peter Park, OSC's chaplain.

The parade will take place on Sunday November 10 and we would urge everyone to turn out for it. We owe the organisers that at the very least.

Tough decisions ahead
over council's budget

There is no doubting the dilemma facing Argyll and Bute Council when it comes to setting its budget next year.

Years of austerity and enforced cuts have meant services being reduced, with more difficult decisions still to be taken, hence the consultation with the public on which areas should be targeted. People are to be asked for their views.

Wrestling with the budget is a thankless task for the councillors and officials, so it is important that as many people as possible respond to the consultation.

George Street noise is like
being in a war zone

Regarding Martin Laing's comments about a noise nuisance from a loose manhole cover in George Street (At random, October 17), I have reported this terrible noise and so have local shops, to BEAR Scotland and the local council.

The answer I got from BEAR Scotland is that it could not carry out repairs until the first week of November. Argyll and Bute Council never bothered to reply to my complaint.

I have a friend who is up from Glasgow working in the flats above Cuan Mor who cannot sleep because of this noise.

I also feel sorry for the staff who work in the shops all day serving tourists who bring money to the town and are constantly hearing this noise. They would as well have been in Afghanistan listening to two rounds being fired every two seconds.

Brian McMahon, by email.

Chopping down of trees was
act of wanton destruction

Regarding your front page news 'Appeal to save trees as council defends plans', Lochaber Times, October 10), I was part of the group in the photograph.

We made a cry for nature and what did the Highland Council do? The trees were chopped down the very next day.

It is very easy for the council to dismiss trees as 'poor quality' or 'low condition'. This just seems to me to be an excuse to wantonly destroy mature trees that should have been incorporated in the site.

The trees were part of an ecosystem and part of a natural life cycle of growth, maturing and dying and putting goodness back into the earth. Many of the trees would be around 40 years old and had many years ahead of them.

The comment by the council is so dismissive – just a lot of old, useless trees but these trees were a habitat for many insects, birds and mammals.

Any new trees that are put in by the developers will take years to mature and form an ecosystem and I am afraid if we keep on destroying nature we will not see them mature.

Highland Council, you did declare a climate emergency: when are you going to do the right thing and stop the destruction?

Janet Hickman, Fort William.

YOUR PICTURES

Much enjoyment from
family's fascinating history

I much enjoyed the recent excellent Morvern Lines article about my great-great-granduncle John Sinclair, whose sister married my great-great-grandfather, John Macfarlane, who was a fulling Miller and Dyer at Bunlusragan, Connel.

According to family and other folklore, John was, indeed, a benevolent, kindly man who used his wealth liberally on behalf of others. He did, however, have a great sense of family and was prepared to be ruthless on their behalf, if required.

His sister, Margaret, had married the Campbell Tacksman of Caolas in Coll. She became pregnant but Campbell accused her of adultery and threatened her with possible



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Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk



We know our readers love to take photographs so we are happy to create this space to showcase these each week. If you have a photograph you would like to see published here, send it to editor@obantimes.co.uk, post it to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB. Alternatively, hand it in to our offices in Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, or to our office in High Street, Fort William. This week's photograph was sent by Neil Lea from Dunoon, who said it shows the famous Clyde puffer The Vital Spark at Inveraray.



The reference to the Free Church established by John is interesting. John's nephew, my great-grandfather Malcolm Macfarlane, was allegedly run out of Morvern by the local established church minister, presumably for disagreements before the Disruption. He did return from exile in Skye where he had been regarded as one of the men who were gifted preachers and theologians. He became a Catechist in the Free Church and lived at Knock, Morvern.

He died of pneumonia at Jarvisfield, Gruline, as a result of a chilly drenching while crossing the Sound in an open boat to a conventicle or other service near Salen, Mull. He is buried in Kiel cemetery Morvern, but in an unmarked grave - unlike his uncle John, who is at rest in an ornate enclosure.

John Macfarlane, Taynuilt.

Imposition of tariff on whisky is tit-for-tat action

Kate Forbes MSP should not try to blur the truth and bring Brexit into why the Americans want to impose a 25 per cent tariff on Scottish malt whisky.

America has an ongoing war of words with the WTO over the subsidies that the EU has been giving to Airbus and the WTO's response to allow the EU to impose tariffs on America because of their subsidies to Boeing. It should be noted that there is an ongoing tit for tat tariff war in which, in 2018, saw the EU impose a 25 per cent tariff on American goods which included American whisky.

Cyril Bonnett,
Maccoll Terrace, Ballachulish.

Cuts are being forced on councils by the SNP

The proposed cuts to Argyll and Bute Council services would see many jobs lost and would have a terrible impact on those who benefit from these services.

No councillor wants to make these cuts but, unless the SNP government changes its policies, these awful cuts will be forced on the Argyll and Bute. The year on year cuts the SNP and its Green Party allies have forced on councils must be stopped.

I call on the SNP government to change course and give councils enough money to avoid further cuts.

Councillor Alan Reid, Liberal Democrat candidate for Argyll and Bute.

B' e seachdain thrang agus mhisneachail a bh' againn aig Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail 2019 ann an Glaschu, agus chrìochnaich cùisean le tional chòiseirean air dorsan Talla Rìoghail Chiùil Ghlaschu gu seinn còmhla agus beannachd fhàgail aig baile aoiagheachd a' Mhòid.

Tha a' chuir seo a' fàs gach bliadhna is muinntir nam bailtean sam bheil am Mòd a' tachairt a' gabhail cothrom tighinn a dh'fhaicinn agus a dh'èisteachd, agus 's e cothrom math eile a th' ann gus a' Ghàidhlig agus a ceòl fhoill-seachadh. Rinneadh sin ann am fianais shluagh mòr a chruinnich air Sràid Bhochanain madainn Dhisathairne seo chaidh, Gàidheil agus caraidean a' coinneachadh air an t-sràid ainmeil sin mar a rinn iad fad linntean bho shean.

Ghabhadh cuideachd cothrom taing a thoirt dha na h-uile a chuir ri deasachadh agus libhrigeadh cuirm a bha soirbheachail agus taitneach, agus chaidh Bratach a' Mhòid a shineadh gu Neach-gairm Chomataidh Eagrachaidh Ionadail Mhòd Nàiseanta 2020 ann an Inbhir Nis.

Gun teagamh tha uallach an cois dleastanas na Comataidh sin, a' cuideachadh

a' Chomuinn Ghàidhealach le bhith a' togail taic airgid gu h-ionadail dhan Mhòd agus a' deasachadh Iomall soirbheachail. Ach tha An Comunn glè mhothachail nach eil an aon ìre ghoireasan neo maoineachaidh aig gach baile aoiagheachd agus nach urrainnear coimeas mionaideach a dhèanamh eatarra. Cuiridh gach coimhearsnachd fa leth an dreach fhèin air Iomall a' Mhòid dam bheil iad a' toirt aoiagheachd, agus bidh An Comunn taingeil airson an cuid taice le sin. Ghabh sinn beannachd le Glaschu le fìor dheagh chuimhneachain air Mòd 2019, agus le taing mhòr airson aoiagheachd agus càird-eas Bhaile Mòr nan Gàidheal! Uair neo dhà tron t-seachdain, mar a bhiodh dùil, chualas an t-òran "Soraidh leibh is oidhche mhath leibh" ga sheinn, agus tha mi cho toilichte gum bheil a-nise a' cluinntinn cheathramhan an òrain uile nas bitheanta. Rugadh bàrd an òrain Iain MacPhàidein ann an 1850 ann am Baile Mhuilinn ann am Muile, ach gu follaiseach tha faireachdainn na sgrìobh e an seo cho làidir an-diugh 's a bha riamh.

A' sealltainn air ais air Mòd Ghlaschu 2019 thug mi taing cuideachd dha na meadhanan,

le aithne air cho beag 's a tha an saoghal air fàs an-diugh agus daoine air chomas am Mòd fhaicinn is a' cluinntinn beò feadh an t-saoghail tron eadar-lìon.

Grian cha laigh a-nochd air miltean

Leis am binn a fuinn 's a rainn,

'S dom bidh 'n sgeul na mhòr-thoil-inntinn,

Dh'innseas dhaibh gun robh sinn cruinn.

Astar cuain cha dèan ar sgaradh,

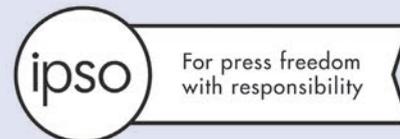
'S dùrachd dàimh am bannai-bh toinnt',

Glèidh an t-àgh na dh'fhàg a bheannachd,

Oidhche mhath leibh, bean-nachd leibh!

Music from stepped Gaelic choirs on the masses of Glasgow Royal Concert Hall brought the very successful Royal National Mòd 2019 to an end last Saturday, with warm thanks to the City of the Gaels for its famed hospitality. Organisers An Comunn Gaidhealach expect this will be replicated by traditional Highland hospitality in Inverness, already two years into preparations to host National Mòd 2020.

Ailean Caimbeul
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



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

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THE HARBOUR GALLERY

DISTRICT NEWS

ARGYLL

Marie Curie is looking for people living in Mull, Oban, Dalmally, Helensburgh and Campbeltown to sign up to its Helper volunteer service.

The terminal illness charity is hoping to hear from people who could benefit from the free service as well as anyone interested in volunteering their time.

The Helper service offers free, regular support in person or on the telephone from a trained volunteer. Volunteers provide companionship and emotional support as well as some practical help.

John Cardno, Marie Curie volunteer coordinator, can be contacted on 07515 134703 or john.cardno@mariecurie.org.uk for more information.

He said: 'The service makes a huge difference to people living with a terminal illness as well as their families.'

'We want to reach more people who need us, and each person's needs are different so it could be something as simple as chatting over a cup of tea or someone being with you when you go to an appointment.'

The Helper service complements existing support offered in Argyll and Bute by Marie Curie nurses who made more than 700 visits last year caring for people in their own homes.

Information and support services are also available for anyone with questions about terminal illness. Contact 0800 090 2309 or visit mariecurie.org.uk/support

ISLAY

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) has announced that it has placed its first economically viable Constraint Managed Zone (CMZ) contracts, for a total of 6MW worth of services on the Isle of Islay.

Services have been secured for network outage support, which will be supplied by hydro power drawn from a reservoir to reduce reliance upon fossil fuel-based energy gen-

Festival scares up £200 donation



Organisers of this year's Seil Scarecrow Festival have received a £200 donation from Dunoon-based Western Ferries.

Two of the company's vessels are named Sound of Seil and Sound of Shuna. The money will go towards the extension of Seil Island Hall.

Hall trustee Ken Jones said: 'A big thank you to Western Ferries for showing us support. The money will help make our hall bigger and better.'

This summer's successful festival raised more than £11,000 towards the upgrading project.

Donations also included £4,000 sent from an American family who visited during this year's festival.

More than 120 scarecrows formed part of the week-long trail that proved so popular with visitors that it is back in the diary for next year.

eration on the island during adverse network conditions.

The support provided through the contracts will also deliver cost effective alternatives to traditional temporary generation services, for the homes, businesses and communities SSEN serves.

CMZ contracts are a central part of the 'flexibility first' commitment, whereby flexible options such as renewables and energy storage are considered when addressing network issues prior to investing in traditional reinforcement.

Since 2015, SSEN has sought to manage this through Constraint Managed Zones (CMZ), which provide opportunities for smart energy technology to compete with traditional forms of network management.

SSEN is identifying opportunities for CMZ contracts across the Western Isles and Skye, with further zones currently under review. SSEN intends to secure 20MW of contracted services before January 2020, with the aim of doubling this to over 40MW by the end of March 2020.

OBAN

As winter draws in, most of us abandon thoughts of outdoor activities. Gardens are tidied up, golf clubs put away and the central heating cranked up. For many, it is the beginning of indoor fun, with clubs and societies swinging into action.

No less so than on the bridge front. Probably the most popular card game on the planet, Oban Bridge Club operates all year round. But winter is when the club becomes most active. And it is when the club's

classes for beginners commence. Starting on Tuesday November 5 at 7pm in St Columba's Cathedral Hall, the classes provide an opportunity for complete beginners to learn the basics or for former player to get a very useful refresher. A game for all ages, bridge provides a great way of keeping mentally alert, improving memory, meeting new friends as well as being great fun in itself.

While it takes some time, often years, to become an expert, beginners can be playing well enough in a few weeks to enjoy playing games with fellow beginners as well as other members of the club.

The classes are informal and relaxed, led by Oban club president David Marshall, assisted by former president Nina Graham.

'Increasingly, there is evidence that bridge players retain their mental faculties and memories more effectively than the population as a whole,' said Mr Marshall.

'We have a number of players in their nineties and they're still sharp as a tack when it comes to remembering what card to play or what has been played.'

For Nina, the main thing is the game's ability to help people form new friendships and enhance social lives.

'While the game itself is great fun, it's also a fantastic way to meet new people and form friendships which often last a lifetime,' she added.

Anyone interested in playing bridge can contact David Marshall at davaldance@gmail.com or Nina Graham at ninarob@btinternet.com

WESTERN ISLES

Out of the 12 Western Isles schools registered for Unicef UK's Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA) since September 2018, eight schools have achieved the Bronze prize: Rights Committed, one school (Daliburgh) achieved Silver prize: Rights Aware and one school (Balivanich) has achieved the Gold prize: Rights Respecting.

Unicef UK's RRSA is based on principles of equality, dignity, respect, non-discrimination and



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At random

MARTIN LAING

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participation. The RRSA supports schools across the UK to embed children's rights in their ethos and culture. The award recognises achievement in putting the UN Convention on the Right of the Child (CRC) at the heart of a school's practice to improve wellbeing and help all children realise their potential.

OBAN

Matthew Ramsay, pictured, says the time has come to hang up his hat ... well, almost.

He is retiring from his post as Fishermen's Mission port officer for Oban and Kintyre.

He said: 'I have served the Mission for many years. I started as an hon-



orary agent, then progressed to auxiliary and eventually ended up as the port officer for Mallaig, Oban and Kintyre. Someone was employed to cover Mallaig and took over that area, so that left me with Oban and Kintyre. It certainly meant a loss less driving for me and the odd ferry journey to Islay.

'I loved my time serving the fishing communities, and doing what they say I do best - visiting people and yarning.

'I am going to continue as a volunteer, so will still be around, but just not in the same capacity.

'In finishing, I have to mention Sheena. Without her keeping me right at times, I couldn't have done what I did and keep doing it without her.

'So I would like to thank everyone who has supported me over all these years. God bless.'

Oban staff win healthcare Oscars



Left: physiotherapist Gemma Bruce receives her award from Linda Currie, lead Alliance Health Professional; above: Oban midwife Katherine Henderson receives her excellence award from Argyll and Bute HSCP lead nurse Elizabeth Higgins; and Oban porter Willie Gemmell receives the Year award from Linda Skrastin who is the local area manager adult services for Helensburgh and Lomond.

Healthcare Oscars have been awarded to three Oban workers, including a midwife, a physiotherapist and a hospital porter.

Star staff were honoured at an excellence awards ceremony earlier this month to recognise the exceptional Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) workers who have performed over and above expectations.

It was the awards' third year after a wide range of nominations were received from fellow colleagues and the public.

Oban senior midwife Katherine Henderson won Nurse/Midwife of the Year sponsored by SGE Argyll Hotel; Therapist of the Year sponsored by KJ Window Cleaning went to Oban physiotherapist Gemma Bruce; and Lorn and Islands Hospital porter Willie Gemmell was named Support Worker of the Year, sponsored by JH Gutter Vacuuming.

Elizabeth Higgins, lead nurse for Argyll and Bute HSCP, said: 'Health and social care staff across Argyll and Bute are providing a first-class service to their communities every day, and we feel it is important they are recognised for their hard work and dedication to our patients and service users.

'The staff excellence awards highlight the care and commitment of HSCP staff across the organisation, and provides an opportunity for colleagues, patients and members of the public to say thank you and show their appreciation by nominating staff.

'I was again really delighted by the high standard, number of nominations and positive comments that our staff received and I would therefore like to congratulate all the winners on their enthusiasm and commitment to the public across Argyll and Bute who are served by the HSCP.'



Well done, Tesco

Two weeks ago, I wrote in this space about the overgrown shrubbery along side the footpath around Tesco's filling station.

I said then: 'Just a thought, but the road which passes between Tesco and Homebase, Lochavullin Drive, has a footpath on only one side for a certain stretch.

'The footpath in question is around the Tesco filling station, and is lined with shrubbery which has become a little overgrown.'

No sooner had The Oban Times come out than Tesco had instructed a member of staff to attack the said shrubbery and trim back the bushes.

How do I know this? Because I was given a right good ear-bashing by Duncan 'Scally' MacMillan, who had been tasked with doing the work.

It was, of course, good-natured banter from Scally, who did an excellent job and has made the footpath accessible to all once more.

Well done to Scally and Tesco for their rapid response to my girning.

Health staff are all stars

We report in this week's OT on the so-called healthcare Oscars which have been awarded to three Oban workers - a midwife, a physiotherapist and a hospital porter.

Star staff were honoured at an excellence awards ceremony earlier this month to recognise the exceptional Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) workers who have performed over and above expectations.

They are exceptionally well deserved awards for Katherine Henderson, Gemma Bruce and Willie Gemmell.

However, I'd just like to say that as a regular user of health services in the Oban area, the entire workforce are outstanding.

And not just the HSCP staff. There are others working through the likes of Oban Hospice's Dove Centre who all go above and beyond to help those with ill health of whatever kind.

Everyone in the local NHS and ancillary services is a star for me and they all deserve our gratitude.

What do you think?

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

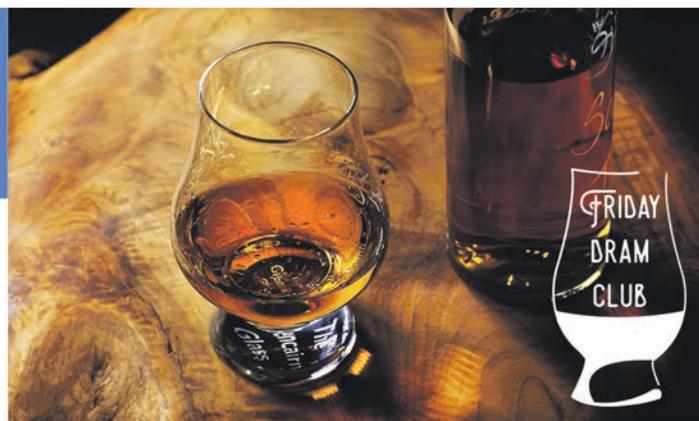
We think Fridays are for dramming...

Mark Watt, Director of Sales for WM Cadenhead is joining us for our tasting this weekend.

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Around the markets: Dalmally, Obana, Fort William and Islay

Islay – United Auctions on Thursday October 17 sold 278 calves. 137 Bullock calves averaged £675.95 (-£15.61) to £1010 for a 398kg Lim cross from Ardnave Farm and averaged 229.58p/kg (+1p) to 304p/kg for two 296kg Lim crosses from Ardnave. 141 heifer calves averaged £595.32 (+£14.94) to £900 for a 340kg Lim cross from Ardnave and averaged 209.67p/kg (n/c) to 287p/kg for a 272kg Lim cross also from Ardnave Farm. A good following of mainland buyers ensured all stock sold at levels above sellers expectations. The entry of calves were mainly spring born and were of superior quality.

Leading prices per head.
Bullocks – AAX - £630, Kilmeny. BAX - £750(2), Ardnave Farm. CHARx - £950, Ardnave Farm; £920, £910(2), £900, Aoradh; £900(5), Ardnave. LIMx - £1010, Ardnave; £945, Octomore; £940, £900(2), Ardnave. SALx - £815, Starchmill. SIMx - £930, £835, £815(2), Corarry.
Heifers – AAX - £710(3), Octomore. BAX - £615, Ardnave. CHARx - £750(2), £740, Ardnave; £700(2), Aoradh; £700, Ardnave. LIMx - £900, £870, Ardnave; £850, Kilchiaran; £840, £830, Ardnave. SIMx - £830, £770, Corarry.

Leading prices per kilo.
Bullocks – AAX - 217p, Kilmeny. BAX - 278p, 213p, Ardnave. CHARx - 293p(2), 291p(2), 284p, 283p(2), 281p(3), Aoradh; 266p, Ardnave; 264p, Aoradh; 255p(8), Kilmeny. LIMx - 304p(2), 286p(2), 281p, 273p, 254p, 242p, 238p, 230p(2), Ardnave. Heifers – AAX - 198p, Mansefield Terr. BAX - 230p, 205p(8), 198p, 196p(3), Ardnave. CHARx



Top price in Saturday's Dalmally tup sale went to Ian Hunter, Dalchirla, which sold for 22,000gns.

– 238p(2), Ardnave; 231p(7), Mansefield Terr; 227p, Ardnave; 224p(10), Kilmeny; 223p(5), Ardnave; 219p(2), Aoradh; 213p(12), Kilmeny; 212p(2), Aoradh; 208p(2), Ardnave. LIMx - 287p, 265p, 249p(2), 245p(2), 234p, 230p(2), 229p, 227p, 222p, Ardnave; 221p, Kilchiaran; 218p(2), Starchmill; 215p(3), Ardnave. SIMx - 193p(2), Corarry.

Oban – United Auctions on Wednesday October 16 held a sale of 215 shearlings and 30 ram lambs of all breeds. Quality rams were keenly bid for resulting in a very good clearance. At the show of Cheviot Rams prior to the sale, the following awards were made. Shearling 1st Bowmont Farming; 2nd A and G Francis, Balure; 3rd A Cameron, Ardochatten. Aged ram 1st F Renwick Inverbroom; 2nd J M Elliot and Partners, Woodside 3rd Bowmont Farming. Champion F Renwick, Inverbroom. Res Champion J M Elliot and Partners, Woodside.

Leading prices.
Shearlings – SUFF - £700, Woodside Farm; £550, Woodside Farm; £550, The Arr; £550, Woodside Farm; £500, The Arr; £500, Newton of Crathie. Bluefaced Leicester - £700, Broadleys; £600, Liddesdale House; £600, Arnicle; £600, Broadleys; £500, Ardchatten; £500, Drimsynie Farm. TEX - £1100 and £700(2), Torrax; £600, Achnaba; £550(2), Crow Wood; £550, Torrax; £500, Torrax; £500, Achnaba; £500, Ardachuple. TEX/ BELT - £700, £500, Dalchirla. CHEV - £900, Woodside; £800, Commonsides; £800, Lochbroom; £600(2), Woodside Farm; £550(2), Bowmont Farming; £550, Maidencoates; £550(3), Commonsides; £500(2), Lochbroom; £500, Commonsides. BF - £600, £550, Saulmore; £450(2), Balliemanoach. Ram Lambs – SUFF - £300 – Ardchatten. TEX - £500, Barcaldine HF; £500, Drimsynie; £480, £450, £400, Barcaldine HF. BF - £250, Balliemanoach.



Messrs Maclean from Largie, Ardferrn, saw their tup lamb off to Ireland for 4,200 gns. Photographs: Kevin McGlynn

Fort William – Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd on October 19 sold 198 weaned calves and store cattle, 20 OTM cattle and five adult head of breeding cattle. Bullocks (116) averaged 197.6p and sold to 252.4p per kg for a pair of 210kg Limousin crosses from Keil Farm, Ardgour, and £800 gross for a 400kg Limousin cross from 8, 9 and 10 Cuilchenna. Onich. Heifers (81) averaged 180.5p and sold to 307.7p per kg for a 195kg Shorthorn cross from Ardtornish Farms, Oban, and £860 gross for a 510kg Limousin cross from 4 Back of Keppoch, Arisaig. Young bulls (one) sold to 154.4p per kg and £400 gross for a 259kg Highland cross from Upper Glenfintaig Estate, Glenfintaig. Breeding cattle (5) sold to £1,100 gross for a Limousin cross cow with a male calf at foot from Dalreoch, Roy Bridge. OTM cattle (20) sold to 123.0p per kg and £830 gross for a 675kg Aberdeen Angus cross cow from Breakachy, Laggan.

Other leading prices per head and per kg
Bullocks up to 200kg – Ardtornish Farms, £380, 205.4p; 201-250kg – Insh Farm, Spean Bridge, £595, 242.9p; 251-300kg – Traigh Farm, Fort William, £645, 243.4p; 301-350kg – Dalreoch, £700, 222.2p; 351-400kg – Dunachton Farm, Kincaig, £790, 8, 9 and 10 Cuilchenna, 200.0p; Over 401kg – 4 Back of Keppoch, Arisaig, £755, 162.4p. Heifers up to 200kg – Ardtornish Farms, £600, 6 Bracara, Morar, 222.2p; 201-250kg – Beinn Seilg, Kilchoan, £600, 255.3p; 251-300kg – Tigh Cluaran, Roy Bridge, £610, Keil Farm, 219.6p; 301-350kg – 8, 9 and 10 Cuilchenna, £655, 190.6p; 351-400kg – National Trust, Isle of Canna, £690, 8, 9 and 10 Cuilchenna, 177.8p; 401- 450kg – 4 Back of Keppoch, £800, 192.8p.
Islay – United Auctions on Thursday October 17 sold 1002 head of all classes of sheep. Lambs averaged £50.00 (+£2.06) per head and 138.42p/kg (n/c). An excellent

entry of Blackface Lambs sold to a keen ringside of buyers. All other classes sold well and above sellers expectations.

Leading prices per head.
Lambs – SUFF - £59.00, Uiskentuie; £57.00, Coull (Jones). TEX - £70.00, £66.00, 19 Gartness Cottages; £65.00, Lower Cragabus (S Smith); £62.00, Blackrock; £62.00, 19 Gartness Cottages. CHA - £56.00, Grulinbeg. CHEV - £51.50, Coull Farm; £46.00, Duich. CHEV MULE - £57.50, Coull Farm. CROSS - £62.00, Lossit; £57.50, Lower Cragabus (S Smith); £56.50, Coull Farm. MULE - £55.00, Coull (Jones); £54.50, Rockside; £53.50, Grulinbeg. BF - £57.50, Lossit; £56.00, Uiskentuie; £55.00, Lower Cragabus (McCuaig); £53.50, Ceannacroic.
Ewes – SUFF - £70.50, Bayview. BFL - £62.00, Ballachlaven. TEX - £83.00, 19 Gartness Cottages; £79.00, Bayview; £78.00, Blackrock; £70.50, Conisby. CHAR - £71.00, Grulinbeg. CHEV - £78.00, £77.00, Cruach (E and J Brown). CROSS - £56.50, Duich. MULE - £55.00, Coull. CHEV MULE - £59.00, 19 Gartness Cottages. BF - £39.50, Conisby; £39.00, Ballachlaven; £39.00, Cruach (E and J Brown); £38.50, Coull Farm (Jones).
Leading prices per kilo.
Lambs – SUFF - 145p, Duich; 145p, Coull Farm (Jones). TEX - 163p, 154p, Blackrock; 152p, Keills. CHAR - 165p, Grulinbeg. CHEV - 140p, Coull Farm. CROSS - 155p, Coull Farm; 151p, Lower Cragabus. MULE - 144p, Coull (Jones). BF - 144p, Ceannacroic; 142p, Ardmenish; 140p, Lossit.

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Oban Gaelic Choir won the 2019 Lovat and Tullibardine Shield at the Royal National Mòd in Glasgow last Friday.

Oban choir rises to occasion to win coveted Mòd shield

by Sandy Neil
sneil@obantimes.co.uk



Oban Gaelic Choir crowned Argyll's triumphant week at the Royal National Mod in Glasgow, lifting the coveted Lovat and Tullibardine Shield on the final night – helped by the Irish songwriter behind the hit song *You Raise Me Up*.

Còisir Ghàidhlig an Òbain beat eight district choirs from Dingwall to Lothian on the prestigious prize, alongside £200 and The Oban Times Silver Salver for achieving the highest marks in music, after coming second to Lothian's Còisir Ghàidhlig Lodainn last year.

The Oban choir's 'over the moon' president, Mary Catherine MacLean, said: 'Every choir puts their heart and soul into it. We are all trying hard, hoping it will be us. We have worked so hard. We thought we could not do any more. We are so proud of our choir and our conductor.'

*Irish songwriter behind hit song **You Raise Me Up** helps on way to victory*

An 'overwhelmed' Sileas Sinclair, who also received the Malcolm G McCallum Silver Baton as the conductor of the winning choir, said: 'We never expect, and always hope, and always do our best. It is an honour because the standard is so high. It's lovely for the choir because they have been working so hard. They really wanted to get the set piece right.'

Each choir performed a set piece, a waulking song titled *Alasdair mhic Cholla Ghasta* (Alasdair, Son Of Gallant Coll) praising the Civil War soldier Sir Alexander MacDonald, and a song of their own choice. 'Our own story was



Sileas Sinclair, left, is presented with the Lovat and Tullibardine Shield by Councillor Eva Bolander, Lord Provost of Glasgow.

written by Brendan Graham from Ireland,' Sileas said. 'It was written about the loss of a child in the potato famine.'

Mr Graham, 74, who was listening in the audience, explained the backstory behind Oban's song *Crucàn Na pBáiste*: 'I live in County Mayo. There is a place near me called *Crucàn Na pBáiste*, The

'We have worked so hard. We felt great coming off stage. We thought we could not do any more.'

Burial Place of the Children. There are boulders marking where the children are buried. I was thinking what it must have been like for the mothers and fathers, seeing the beauty, and having to bury their child. The place kept calling me back, like a claw in the gut, until I finished the song.'

Ms MacLean called it 'the most beautiful, heart-wrenching piece': 'We were delighted he came to listen to us, and came to meet us beforehand. He loved what we were doing with his song.'

The singers, who mostly live in Oban, were tutored by Gaelic reader Christine MacIntyre from South Uist. The song, she said, 'is about the potato famine and a woman

losing her child, but also the guilt the woman feels in losing the child'.

'There is plenty of resonance with food banks, where people are still going hungry today. How many people did we pass on the street today begging?'

'The words convey the story, the music conveys the emotion, and Sileas did that to an absolute tee. The emotion was coming through in the practises, but today there was a tear in my eye. There were lots of people crying.'

Behind Oban, Glasgow's Ceòlraidh Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu finished second, followed by Inverness' Còisir Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis, in Glasgow's packed Royal Concert Hall.

That afternoon area choirs from Portree, Aberfeldy, Dundee, Nairn and London also vied for the Margrat Duncan Memorial Trophy, which was again won by Stirling Gaelic Choir, Còisir Ghàidhlig Shruighlea. Portree finished third, and won the Staffinders Quaich for the highest marks in music.



Mòd Ghlaschu 2019

Friday 11th to Saturday 19th October 2019

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Girls all smiles after overcoming Mòd solo singing nerves

Left to right: Lauren and Shauna MacLeod of Àrd-sgoil an Òbain, Camrie MacInnes of Comunn Gàidhealach Mhuile and Laura Robertson of Àrd-sgoil Loch Aber, competed in the solo singing for girls aged 13-15 years, with the song A fhleasgaich an fhuil chraobhaich chais.

Camrie, a pupil of Tobermory High School, won the bronze medal. 'I am not doing it next year, so I just tried harder,' the 15 year-old said.

'I was nervous, but it went well.'

Shauna, 14, called the experience 'nerve-wracking', but enjoyed it.

'I tried to put feeling and meaning into the song, so even if you are

not a Gaelic speaker you can know what is going on.'

'I tried to get the story across, whether it was angry or sad' her sister Lauren added.

'It's about a woman that is in love with this guy who is not in love with her and treated her badly.'

Even though he betrayed her, Shauna added, the woman still hopes he finds love at the end of the song. Bagpiper Laura, 14, a pupil at Lochaber High School in Fort William, came third in the under-15 Strathspey and Reel on Saturday. Her mum Moira, Pipe Major of Lochaber Pipe Band, in which Laura also plays, said it was a fantastic day for her. 15_SN_ModTue_02

Singing a Mull and Iona song

Competitors ventured from afar to sing a song relating to Mull and Iona, Deoch slainte nan gilleann.

Left to right: Alasdair McLean from Cille Mhartainn, Nigel Burgess from Fionnphort, Hilary Rosado from Springfield in the USA, Ishbel Campbell from Tiriodh, Donna Dugdale from Tobar Mhoire and the judges Martin Wilson and Beathag Mhoireasdan. Donna, a pre-school teacher at Tobermory Primary School, came second, winning £20.

'A few years ago there were no Mull people taking part, which was such a shame, so I have entered every year since. This year there were five that entered from Mull.'

This is Donna's first big prize since winning the silver



pendant, the highest level competition for a learner, in Inverness in 2014.

But all the Mull singers this year were pipped by Ishbel, a Gaelic primary teacher and development officer from Tìree, who took home

the Sarah Weir Memorial Trophy, and £30.

The song, she said, did have a Tìree connection: 'The skipper of the boat that won the Great Tea Race of China was from Tìree.'

Ishbel won the silver

pendant at the Mod in Fort William in 2017 and was getting ready to compete for 'The Oban Times' gold medal on Thursday – which she also went on to win.

The Mull and Iona song drew competitors from Thurso to America. Hilary Rosado, a former teacher in Dundee who grew up in St Andrews, had joined the US Army in military intelligence.

Now retired, she has taken up Gaelic singing.

'I have been learning it first as a poem, so I have to learn the story, the pronunciation, the phrasing, and when I am comfortable, add the music,' she said. 'It is important to get involved in the culture, and singing is a great part of it. I will be back next year in Inverness.' 15_SN_ModWed_06



Janet Campbell from Tobermory won the Mrs Kennedy-Fraser Cup and Johanna Fortune Memorial Trophy in the Songs of the Hebrides competition. 17_t43_dm_ModWednesday02

Skye birthday boy Eoghann's a winner

Right: Skye's Eoghann D Caimbeul celebrated his 12th birthday on Tuesday, then won the Jonathan MacDonald Kilmuir Trophy in presenting a psalm.

15_SN_ModTue_04



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Mòd Bard and top learner



Jessica Hanvidge, of Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir Nis, won the coveted An Comunn Gaidhealach Silver Medal in Tuesday's solo singing competition for girls aged 13 to 15.

Sporting her silver medal at the scene of her triumph in Glasgow College, the 15 year-old said: 'It means a lot because it was so unexpected. I want to start doing Gaelic more. It is important for the culture to keep it alive.' 15_SN_ModWed_02



Allan Campbell, president of An Comunn Gàidhealach, crowns new Bard Sandy Macdonald-Jones on Wednesday, which is also known as literature day. 17_t43_dm_ModWednesday04



Jenny Black, 22, from Brechin, was crowned this year's Gaelic Learner of the Year. 17_t43_dm_ModWednesday09

Established poet and student recognised

Sandy Macdonald-Jones, a long-time active participant in Am Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghal and established poet, was crowned Bàrd a' Chomainn Ghàidhealach last Wednesday.

The appointment this year resumes on an annual basis for the first time since 2004, highlighting the strength and resurgence of Gaelic literature in recent years.

The day also saw Jenny Black from Brechin named Gaelic Learner of the Year. Sponsored by the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society for Scotland, the award acknowledges a Gaelic learner who has made significant steps to becoming fluent.

Jenny is currently studying at Edinburgh University on its Provision of Gaelic medium education course and will be graduating next year. She hopes to go on to teach young children the Gaelic language and to demonstrate to others the importance of being part of the Gaelic world.

John Morrison, chief executive of An Comunn Gàidhealach, said: 'Congratulations to Jenny, who epitomises everything the Gaelic Learner of the Year Award celebrates and who, I am sure, will go on to

do wonderful work inspiring the next generation of Gaels.'

Commonly known as Literature Day, supported by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA), last Wednesday's competitions included drama, poetry and storytelling.

Robert Quinn, head of English, languages, and business at the Scottish Qualifications Authority, said: 'The Royal National Mod showcases the best of Gaelic language, literature and the arts to a global audience and once again we at SQA are delighted and privileged to support An Latha Litreachais. 2019 is International Year of Indigenous Languages and the Royal National Mod gives us the perfect platform to showcase and celebrate all aspects of Gaelic culture. And as Scotland's national awarding and accreditation body, SQA is responsible for developing dynamic courses and qualifications that allow Gaelic speakers – both learners and fluent speakers – to further their skills, and knowledge. We are committed to the growth of Gaelic and are determined to promote the acquisition and learning of the language and encourage the increased use of Gaelic where possible.'



Abbie Morris, Àrd-sgoil Ìle, won the solo singing girls, ages 16-18, open. She shared the Turriff Trophy for highest marks in Gaelic with the winner of the boys' 16-18 years competition Samuel MacAoidh.



Literature day winners. 17_t43_dm_ModWednesday06

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Allan's Mòd

ALLAN CAMPBELL

Gach là na latha-sgoile!

Bliadhnaichean de dheasachadh agus chaidh Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail 2019 seachad mar chlach a' ruith le gleann! Ach bha e soirbheachail, taitneach, agus adhartach dhan Ghàidhlig, agus mo thaing dhùrachdach dha na h-uile a dh'obraich cho cruaidh gus a thoirt gu bith! Bha sgioba beag a' Chomuinn Ghàidhealaich dèanadach agus eifeachdach, agus choisinn a' Chomataidh Eagrachaidh moladh airson a cuid obair-deasachaidh agus bha a cuid bhall agus luchd-taice saor-thoileach eile a thug iad leotha uile dicheallach agus èasgaidh. Tha sluagh-ghairm aig Glaschu gur iad a chuid sluaigh a dh'fhàg am baile gun choimeas, agus 's e mo bheachd gur iad daoine a tha cuideachd a' fàgail Mhòdan cho sònraichte. Mar a tha An Comunn a' comharrachadh tric cha tachradh Mòdan Ionadail neo Nàiseanta idir cho soirbheachail mura b' e taic nam mìltean de dhaoine a tha toirt ùine, agus sgilean, gu saor-thoileach dha na tachartasan agus dhan Ghàidhlig.

Bidh e a' cur tàmailt orm nuair a chluinneas mi cuideigin ag ràdh gun dearbhadh sam bith nach eil Mòdan a' brosnachadh dhaoine gus Gàidhlig ionnsachadh. Bha fianais gu leòr ri chluinntinn aig Mòd Nàiseanta na bliadhna seo nach eil an dìteadh sin idir fìor! Bu mhath gun sguireadh luchd-iomairt, a tha nam beachd fhèin a' seasamh chòraichean na Gàidhlig, de chur sìos air structar a chùim a' canan fa chomhair an t-saoghail fad còrr air sia fichead bliadhna mur eil dad nas fheàrr aca ri mholadh. Mo bheannachd aig neach sam bith a nì iomairt a bhrosnaicheas fàs na Gàidhlig, ach saoilidh mi nach eil e gu feum sam bith cur às do bhunaitean stèidhichte gun dad dearbhte nas fheàrr a thèid na àite. Bhruidhinn mi ri mòran tron t-seachdain a thàinig chun Ghàidhlig tron Mhòd, agus an cuid meas air òrain Ghàidhlig. Adhbhar molaidh, seach adhbhar càinidh, tha fhios!

B' e urram sònraichte a bh' ann dhòmhsa airson a' chiad turas mar Cheann-suidhe, Bàrd a' Chomuinn Ghàidhealaich a chrùnadh. Mar a bhios fios agaibh tha urram a' Bhàird air a bhith a' seasamh fad trì bliadhna bho chionn greise a-nise, ach ri linn neartachadh litreachas Gàidhlig thar nam bliadhnaichean seo chaidh, cho-dhùin An Comunn tilleadh, le taic Chomhairle nan Leabhraichean Gàidhlig, gu taghadh agus crùnadh bliadhnail. Dh'ionnsaich Bàrd 2019, Sandaidh NicDhòmhnaill-Jones, a cuid Gàidhlig gu fileantas ri linn meas air ceòl Gàidhlig, agus abair tosgaire comasach dhan chànan! Bha e cuideachd na thlachd air leth Aigeallan Airgid nam Fear aig a' Chomunn a thoirt seachad dha Calum MacColla às a' Ghearastan a thòisich air Gàidhlig ionnsachadh mar urram dha cuimhne athair Teàrlach nach maireann. Bha e cuideachd na thoileachas Duais Cuimhneachaidh Thòmais agus Raonaid Mitchell, a rinn uimhir dhan Ghàidhlig agus dha Mòdan, fhaicinn ga stèidheachadh leis a' Chomataidh Eagrachaidh Ionadail agus ga bhuileachadh air Luke MacLain bho Sgoil Sir E Scott. Cuimhneachain shònraichte am meas mhòran eile!

Thanks Glasgow, was the message as thousands of visitors headed home from the 2019 Royal National Mod following the massed choir finale on the steps of Glasgow Royal Concert Hall last Saturday. Fond memories.



The under-13 junior choir competitions on Tuesday were all about Sgoil Sir E Scott which won the Aberfoyle and District Branch Trophy, Mrs Schroder Cup and Mrs Ann Grant of Laggan Memorial Trophy for their unison, puirt-a-beul and harmony; also the Susan Paterson CalMac Trophy for highest marks in Gaelic in all three. 17_t43_DM_ModTuesday17



Eóin Cuimeanach from Àrd-sgoil Gheàrrloch won the Neil MacLaine Cameron Memorial Trophy in the fluent 16-18 singing in a traditional manner competition. 17_t43_DM_ModTuesday15



Rhianna Boyle, 15, from Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, won the Traditional Silver Medal in the girls' 13-15 own choice traditional song at the Mòd on Tuesday. 17_t43_DM_ModTuesday20



Finlay Montgomery, Sgoil a' Bhac, eight, who won the storytelling five to eight years, and his little brother Magnus, who won the five years prescribed poetry. Finlay received the Alasdair MacInnes Memorial Cup. 17_t43_DM_ModTuesday16



Màili MacLennan, 11, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis, won the Maybury Gardens Cup in the girls', age 11 fluent, prescribed solo singing competition. 17_t43_DM_ModTuesday03

Choir rise

Còisir Sgoil MhicNeacail swept the boards in the junior choir competitions on Tuesday, winning three competitions, and every trophy going, including The Oban Times' Challenge Trophy for the singing in two-part harmony. The choir also won the unison and puirt-a-beul competitions.

17_t43_DM_ModTuesday04



Members of the junior Còisir Sgoil MhicNeacail with The Oban Times Challenge Trophy. 17_t43_DM_ModTuesday04



Còisir Òg Mhuile (Mull). 17_t43_DM_ModTuesday12



Isla Morrison of Bun-sgoil Bruach a' Mhuilinn won the Sabhal Mòr Ostaig Silver Medal in the eight years fluent conversation. 17_t43_DM_ModTuesday02

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Above: Lilia MacDonald from Sgoil a' Bhac, who won the fluent girls' eight years prescribed singing with her sister Elise, who is six. 17_t43_DM_ModTuesday09

Left: Eilidh MacPhee, Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir Nis, 16, finished first in the girls' 16-18 years, singing in a traditional manner, winning the Iain Morrison Memorial Trophy. Eilidh also received the Charlie MacColl Memorial Trophy for attaining the highest marks in Gaelic. 17_t43_DM_ModTuesday21



Aimee Macleod, 11, from Sgoil nan Loch (Lochs School) on the Isle of Lewis, won the girls' fluent 11 to 12 singing in a traditional manner. 17_t43_DM_ModTuesday19



Rhuaridh MacLean of Comunn Gàidhealach Mhuile (Mull Mod Club) was second out of 25 competitors in the boys' fluent 9-10 years singing competition on Tuesday. 17_t43_DM_ModTuesday06



Maria Monk, centre, of Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, took home the Daisy's Den Trophy in poetry recitation for girls aged 12, reading Seanfhacail. Isabella Sommerville, right, of Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir Nis, came second, followed by Seona Brown, left, of Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu. 15_SN_ModWed_07



Robert's Mòd

ROBERT ROBERTSON

In an unorthodox approach, my Mòd article this week begins in the unlikely setting of sun-kissed Albufeira, Portugal.

As soon as Scotland's premier Gaelic festival finished last Friday night, Ian Smith from Trail West and I jumped on a plane with another friend and headed for the Algarve.

We arrived at the hotel, dumped our bags and rushed out into the 25° C heat to find a bar for a refreshment or two.

As we approached the bar, Ian turned to me and said: 'I've had a wonderful week at the Mòd but, my goodness, I'm glad to get away from it all and have a wee rest out in Portugal for a week.'

I agreed. We grabbed seats at a table next to a couple who were sitting on their own.

They recognised our accents and asked if we were from the Highlands, which we confirmed. 'Did you go to the Mòd?' said the gentleman.

'My daughter, Julie Ann MacFadyen, won the silver pendant last week.'

It turned out Ian and I had travelled thousands of miles from Glasgow, only to sit down next to someone who wanted to talk about the Silver Pendant.

Quite a coincidence and proof, as if it were needed, that Mòd Ghlaschu really has got people talking about the Mòd all over the world.

This year, Ian saw more of the Mòd than I did. Trail West put in a huge shift all week playing in locations throughout the city including a mammoth eight-hour stint in the Park Bar on the Wednesday, which I write more about in my Glasgow Letter this week.

A real highlight appears to have been the 'final fling' in the Barrowlands with Trail West and Skerryvore.

I had a gig in London so, unfortunately, I missed the dance.

Ian told me what a tremendous night it was and I informed him I knew exactly what a good night it was because I spent the night in London jealously watching live footage of it on social media.

The Barrowland's famous ballroom was bouncing for both bands and, by all accounts, it was an amazing way to finish off a historic week in Glasgow.

Congratulations to the Mòd Ghlaschu committee for doing such a great job in raising the awareness of Gaelic in Glasgow. Here's to Inverness 2020.



Left: Millie Bonniwell, eight, from Bun-sgoil Achadh na Creige (Rockfield), finished second in the fluent eight years prescribed solo singing. 17_t43_DM_ModTuesday08



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Results: Monday

Junior choirs:

Unison Under 19 Open (C173): Sing two songs, one prescribed song, one own choice - area, district or town choirs: 1 Còisir Òg Ghàidhlig na h-Eaglaise Brice, Queen Elizabeth Coronation (1937) Trophy; 2 Rionnagan Rois.

Two-part Harmony Under 19 years Open (C174): Sing two songs. One prescribed song, one own choice - area, district or town choirs: 1 Edinburgh Academy Chamber Choir, Tom Crawford Trophy; 2 Còisir Òg Ghàidhlig na h-Eaglaise Brice.

Puirt-a-beul Under 19 years Open (C175): Unison singing of prescribed puirt a beul - area, district or town choirs: 1 Còisir Òg Ghàidhlig na h-Eaglaise Brice, Martin Wilson (North Berwick) Trophy; 2 Rionnagan Rois.

East Kilbride District Council Trophy for the highest aggregate marks in C173, C174 and C175: The Iain Morrison Memorial Trophy; Alistair MacNeill (North Berwick) Trophy for the tutor of the choir gaining the highest aggregate marks in Gaelic in C173, C174 and C175 and Jean Walker Memorial Trophy for the highest marks in Music in competitions C173, C174 or C175: Còisir Òg Ghàidhlig na h-Eaglaise Brice.

Unison, Under 13 Learners (C76): Sing two songs. One prescribed song, one own choice - school or area, district, town choirs: 1 Caraidhean Cùil Ile, Donald and Mamie MacPhail Trophy; 2 Còisir Òg nan Loch; 3 Rionnagan Rois.

Two-part Harmony Under 13 Learners (C77): Sing two songs. One prescribed song, one own choice - school or area, district, town choirs: 1 Caraidhean Cùil Ile, The Sangobeg Investments Ltd Prize.

Darlington Society Silver Jubilee Trophy for the highest marks in Gaelic and Morag Robb Memorial Trophy for the highest marks in Music: Caraidhean Cùil Ile.

Puirt-a-beul, Under 13 Learners (C78): Prescribed puirt a beul - school or Area, district, town choirs: 1 Còisir Òg nan Loch, The Olive Campbell MBE Trophy, Macintyre Cup; 2 Caraidhean Cùil Ile; 3 Rionnagan Rois.

Unison Rural Primary Schools Only (C03): Sing two songs. One prescribed song, one own choice. Confined to primary schools in rural areas excluding towns with a population of 2000 or more: 1 Bun-sgoil Thriodh, Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee Trophy.

Junior singing:

Solo Singing, ages 5 years learners (C27(ii)): Singing of a prescribed song: 1 Mara Hughes, Bun-sgoil Chondobhrait; 2 Magnus Montgomery, Sgoil a' Bhac; 3 Samantha Barnes, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Gheann Dail.

Solo Singing, ages 6 learners (C27(iii)): Singing of a prescribed song: 1 Tess Fleming, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Gheann Dail; 2 Aela Tangy, Comunn Gàidhealach Mhuile; 3 Rosie Scott, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu.

Joan Campbell Memorial Trophy for highest mark in C27(i) and C27(ii): Tess Fleming, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Gheann Dail.

Solo Singing, ages 7 years learners (C27A(i)): Singing of a prescribed song: 1 Kara MacIntyre, Còisir Òg Loch Alainn, Hugh Macintyre Memorial Cup; 2 Sophie



Eóin Cuimeanach from Àrd-sgoil Gheàrrloch who won the 16-18 singing in a traditional manner competition, with his brother Anndra, who won the same competition in the 13-15 age group. 17_t43_DM_ModTuesday18

Phillips, Bun-sgoil Àird Driseig; 3 Rebecca Hagery.

Solo Singing, ages 8 years learners (C27A(ii)): Singing of a prescribed song: 1 Robbie Donald MacLean, Sgoil Eolaigearraidh, Hugh Macintyre Memorial Cup; 2 Finlay Addison, Bun-sgoil Port Ilein; 3 Flora Cumming, Bun-sgoil Achadh na Creige.

Solo Singing Girls, ages 9-10 learners (C51): Singing of a prescribed song: 1 Feorlin Renton, Bun-sgoil Inbhir Aora, Mrs Roderick B Munro Trophy; 2 Cara MacInnes, St Columba's Primary, Oban; 3 Charlet Rose Munro, Bun-sgoil Port Ilein and Emma Catriona Fairbairn, Sgoil nan Loch.

Solo Singing Boys, ages 9-10 learners (C52): Singing of a prescribed song: 1 Innes MacKay, Bun-sgoil an Dùn Beag, Dr Archie MacKinnon (Islay) Memorial Trophy; 2 Callum Semple, Bun-sgoil Bhogha Mòr; 3 Alasdair Gordon, Sgoil a' Mhanachainn.

Donald Macleod Trophy for the highest mark in Gaelic in C51 and C52: Innes MacKay, Bun-sgoil an Dùn Beag.

Solo Singing Boys, ages 11-12 years learners (C52A): Singing of a prescribed song: 1 Andrew Gordon, Acadamaidh Baile Theàrlaich, Dunoon Observer and Argyllshire Standard Medal; 2 Seumas MacRae, Sgoil MhicNeacail; 3 Liam Gray, Àrd-sgoil Ile.

Solo Singing Girls, ages 11-12 learners (C51A): Singing of a prescribed song: 1 Kyla Mackenzie, Sgoil MhicNeacail, Ronald MacEachen Memorial Cup, Dunoon Observer and Argyllshire Standard Medal; 2 Aimee Macleod, Sgoil nan Loch; 3 Iona Simpson, Rionnagan Rois.

Solo Singing Girls, ages 13-15 learners (C102): One prescribed song. James C McPhee Medal: 1 Aimee Georson, Rionnagan Rois, James C. MacPhee Memorial Medal: 2 Talia Graham, Sgoil MhicNeacail; 3 Kirsty Nicolson, Sgoil MhicNeacail and Eve Stewart, Rionnagan Rois.

Solo Singing Boys, ages 13-15 years learners (C103): One prescribed song,

James C McPhee Medal: 1 Archie Kennedy, Còisir Òg Loch Alainn, James C. MacPhee Memorial Medal; 2 Angus McLean, Sgoiltean Ceann Loch Gilp.

Alexander Hamilton Trophy for the highest mark in Gaelic in C102 and C103: Jean Graham Memorial Trophy for the highest marks in music in C102 and C103

Solo Singing, under-19 (C177): One song, own choice. Confined to first prizewinners of solo singing competitions at previous Royal National Mods: 1 Alice Nic a' Mhaoilein, Sgoil MhicNeacail, Skelmorlie and District Highland Association Quaich; 2 Anna NicLeòid, Inbhir Nis and Ruairidh Gray, Uibhist a Deas; 3 Lewis Davey, Ile.

Traditional Singing, open, ages 16-18 learners (C145A): One song sung in traditional style, own choice: 1 Elizabeth MacMillan-Currie, Àrd-sgoil Ile, Provost of Falkirk Medal; 2 Rachel Bolton, Còisir Òg Loch Alainn; 3 Holly MacLean, Àrd-sgoil Thobar Mhoire.

Duet, under-13 learners (C79): Sing one song, own choice: 1 Dearbhla Newman and Charlet Rose Munro, Bun-sgoil Port Ilein, Angus MacTavish Memorial Trophy.

Waulking under-19 (C180): Sing waulking songs of own choice: 1 Sgioba Luadh Bun-sgoil Gheann Dail, The Harris Tweed Authority Award.

Folk Groups, under-19 years (C172): Perform two contrasting songs of own choice with accompaniment of musical instruments: 1 Dual, Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich, The Allan Thomas Mitchell Trophy; 2 Bùrach; 3 Deàrsadh Ceilearadh.

Folk Groups, under-13 years (C172A): Perform two contrasting songs of own choice with accompaniment of musical instruments: 1 Clann le Ceòl, The Murdo MacFarlane Trophy; 2 Na Smeorach; 3 Clann Ghlaschu.

Action Song, under-13 (C87B): Song with actions illustrative of the theme or demonstration of labour action accompanied by song: 1 Còisir Òg Loch Alainn, Margaret Macdougall (Fort William) Memorial Trophy; 2 Comunn Gàidhealach Mhuile.

Drama, under-13 years (C87A): Original play devised and staged by school or group presenting the playlet: 1 Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, Donald Macdonald Memorial Trophy; 2 Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu Ath-thaigh.

Junior oral:

Poetry Recitation, ages 5 learners (C26(i)): Recitation of a prescribed piece of poetry, no actions: 1 Magnus Montgomery, Sgoil a' Bhac; 2 Calvin McInroy, Sgoil na Coille Nuaidh; 3 Samuel Duke, Bun-sgoil Chondobhrait and Shivan Saul, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu.

Poetry Recitation, ages 6 learners (C26(ii)): Recitation of a prescribed piece of poetry, no actions: 1 Tess Fleming, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Gheann Dail; 2 Phoebe Payne, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Innis an Uillt; 3 Lydia Fraser, Bun-sgoil Chondobhrait.

Phemie Wilson Memorial Trophy for highest mark in C26(i) and C26 (ii): Magnus Montgomery, Sgoil a' Bhac.

Poetry Recitation, ages 7-8 learners (C26A): Recitation of a prescribed piece of poetry, no actions: 1 Lucie Spreadbury, Bun-sgoil Achadh na Creige, Rotary Club of Falkirk Trophy; 2 Harris Elliot, Bun-sgoil

Chondobhrait; 3 Orla Grace Gilligan, Our Lady of the Annunciation.

Poetry Recitation, ages 9-10 years learners (C49): Recitation of a prescribed piece of poetry, no actions: 1 Lily McDowall, Sgoil nan Loch, Cowal Trophy; 2 Tiarn Doherty, Bun-sgoil Chnoc a' Chonais; 3 Charlet Rose Munro, Bun-sgoil Port Ilein.

Poetry Recitation, ages 11-12 years learners (C49A): Recitation of a prescribed piece of poetry, no actions: 1 Layla Orr-MacIntyre, Còisir Òg Loch Alainn, John Mackenzie Paterson Memorial Trophy; 2 Cormac Sandison, Sgoil nan Loch; 3 Mary Morrison, Sgoil MhicNeacail.

Poetry Recitation, ages 13-15 learners (C100): Recitation of a prescribed piece of poetry, no actions: 1 Jessica Gordon, Acadamaidh Baile Theàrlaich, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig Silver Medal; 2 Rachel Henderson, Àrd-sgoil Phort Rìgh; 3 Chloe Curtis, Àrd-sgoil Àird nam Murchan.

Poetry Recitation, ages 16-18 open (C150): Recitation of a piece of poetry, own choice, no actions: 1 Rachel Bolton, Còisir Òg Loch Alainn.

Conversation, ages 7 open (C24(i)): Conversation on any subject chosen by the competitor: 1 Jonathan Dòmhnallach, Sgoil Stafainn, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig Silver Medal; 2 Fionnlagh Mac a' Mhaoilein, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis; 3 Aidan Newcott, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis.

Conversation, ages 8 years open (C24(ii)): Conversation on any subject chosen by the competitor: 1 Isla Morrison, Bun-sgoil Bruach a' Mhuilinn, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig Silver Medal; 2 Eilidh Mairead NicAoidh, Bun Sgoil Ath-Tharracail; 3 Seumas MacDonald, Bun-sgoil Bhaile a' Mhanaich.

Tuesday

Junior choirs:

Unison, ages 13-18 open (C110): Sing two songs, one prescribed song, one own choice: 1 Còisir Sgoil MhicNeacail, Mrs Campbell Blair Trophy; 2 Còisir Àrd-sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu; 3 Sgoil Sir E Scott.

Two-part Harmony, ages 13-18 open (C111): Sing two songs, one prescribed song, one own choice: 1 Còisir Sgoil MhicNeacail, Oban Times Challenge Trophy; 2 Còisir Àrd-sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu; 3 Sgoil Sir E Scott.

Puirt-a-beul, ages 13-18 open (C112): Sing prescribed puirt-a-beul: 1 Còisir Sgoil MhicNeacail, Belle Campbell Trophy; 2 Còisir Àrd-sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu; 3 Sgoil Sir E Scott.

Reverend Archie M. Beaton Trophy for the highest aggregate marks in C110, C111 and C112: Heather K Moore Cup for the highest aggregate marks in music in C110, C111 and C112; Janet Kelly Brown (Uist) memorial Trophy to the high school choir from an island community, gaining the highest marks in junior choral competition: Còisir Sgoil MhicNeacail.

Unison, under-13 fluent (C71): Sing two songs, one prescribed, one own choice: 1 Sgoil Sir E Scott, Aberfoyle and District Branch Trophy; 2 Còisir na h-Òige BSGI; 3 Còisir Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu.

Two-part Harmony, under-13 fluent (C72): Sing two songs, one prescribed song, one own choice: 1 Sgoil Sir E Scott, Mrs Ann Grant of Laggan Memorial Trophy.

Puirt-a-beul Under-13 Fluent (C73): Unison singing of prescribed puirt-a-beul: 1 Sgoil Sir E Scott, Mrs Schroder Cup; 2 Còisir na h-Òige BSGI; 3 Còisir Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu.

Susan Paterson Caledonian MacBrayne Trophy for highest aggregate marks in C71, C72, C73: Sgoil Sir E Scott.

Junior singing:

Traditional Singing Girls, under-11 years Fluent (C70A(i)): one song sung in the traditional style, own choice: 1 Frankie Macdonald, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu; 2 Sophie Stewart, Rionnagan Rois; 3 Isobel Craig, Sgoil Sir E Scott.

Traditional Singing Girls, 11-12 years only fluent (C70A(ii)): Traditional singing, one song sung in the traditional style, own choice: 1 Aimee Macleod, Sgoil nan Loch; 2 Muireann Dalton, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu; 3 Maria Monk, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu.

Traditional Singing Boys, under-13 fluent (C70B): One song sung in the traditional style, own choice: 1 Luke Johnson, Sgoil Sir E Scott; 2 Eoghann D Caimbeul, Clann Thràndairnis; 3 Jordan MacIntyre, Sgoil Dhalabraig and Murray MacInnes Begg, Sgoil Lacasdail.

TSB (Scotland) Trophy for the competitor gaining the highest mark in C70A(i), C70A(ii) and C70B: Frankie Macdonald, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu and Aimee Macleod, Sgoil nan Loch.

Solo Singing Girls, ages 16-18 open (C155): Sing one song, own choice: 1 Abbie Morris, Àrd-sgoil Ile, The Highland Society of London Trophy; 2 Holly MacLean, Àrd-sgoil Thobar Mhoire; 3 Brodie Crawford, Sgoiltean Ceann Loch Gilp.

Solo Singing Boys, ages 16-18 open (C156): Sing one song, own choice: 1 Samuel MacAoidh, Sgoil MhicNeacail, The Highland Society of London Trophy; 2 Iain MacCarmach, Àrd-sgoil Phort Rìgh; 3 Eòin Cuimeanach, Àrd-sgoil Gheàrrloch.

Turriff Trophy for the highest marks in Gaelic in C155 and C156: Abbie Morris, Àrd-sgoil Ile and Samuel MacAoidh, Sgoil MhicNeacail.

Meryl Mae Stewart Memorial Trophy for the highest marks in Music in competitions C155 and C156: Samuel MacAoidh, Sgoil MhicNeacail.

Traditional Singing Girls, ages 16-18 fluent (C145): One song sung in traditional style, own choice: 1 Eilidh Morag Nic a' Phi, Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir Nis, The Iain Morrison Memorial Trophy; 2 Catherine Macdonald, Sgoil Sir E Scott; 3 Ealasaid NicCoinnich, Nis.

Traditional Singing Boys, ages 16-18 fluent (C146): One song sung in traditional style, own choice: 1 Eòin Cuimeanach, Àrd-sgoil Gheàrrloch, Neil MacLaine Cameron Memorial Trophy; 2 Innes Scullion, Àrd-sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu; 3 Iain MacCarmach, Àrd-sgoil Phort Rìgh.

Charlie MacColl Memorial Trophy for highest marks in C145 and C146: Eilidh Morag Nic a' Phi, Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir Nis.

Traditional Singing Girls, age 13-15 fluent (C94A): One song sung in traditional style, own choice: 1 Rhianna Boyle, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, Traditional Silver Medal; 2 Kirsty Nicolson, Sgoil MhicNeacail; 3 Anna MacLeod, Sgoil Sir E Scott.

Traditional Singing Boys, ages 13-15 fluent (C94B): One song sung in traditional style, own choice: 1 Anndra Cuimeanach, Àrd-sgoil Gheàrrloch, Traditional Silver Medal; 2 Eosaph Galbraith, Sgoil Bhàgh a' Chaisteil; 3 Alec Macdonald, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu.

Ann Kelly Macdonald Memorial Trophy for the competitor gaining the highest mark in C94A and C94B: Anndra Cuimeanach, Àrd-sgoil Gheàrrloch.

Solo Singing Girls, ages 13-15 fluent (C95): One prescribed song. An Comunn Gàidhealach Silver Medal: 1 Jessica Hanvidge, Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir Nis, An Comunn Gàidhealach Silver Medal; 2 Ellie-Ceit Johnson, Sgoil Sir E Scott; 3 Camrie MacInnes, Comunn Gàidhealach Mhuile.

Solo Singing Boys, ages 13-15 fluent (C96): One prescribed song. An Comunn Gàidhealach Silver Medal: 1 Alec Macdonald, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, An Comunn Gàidhealach Silver Medal; 2 Eosaph Galbraith, Sgoil Bhàgh a' Chaisteil and Innes John Begg, Sgoil MhicNeacail; 3 Conal MacDiarmid, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu.

Solo Singing, ages 5-6 fluent (C23): Singing of a prescribed song: 1 Brodie Fearghasdan, Sgoil Stafainn, Jeff MacLaren Memorial Shield; 2 Seren Johnston, Bun-sgoil Bhun Easain; 3 Eubha NicAonghais, Sgoil Bhaile a' Mhanaich.

Solo Singing, age 7 fluent (Girls) (C23A(i)): Singing of a prescribed song: 1 Catherine Henderson, Bun-sgoil Inbhir Pheofharain; 2 Catriona Stevenson, Bun-sgoil Taobh na h-Aibhne; 3 Holly McGuire, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu.

Solo Singing, age 7 fluent (Boys) (C23A(ii)): Singing of a prescribed song: 1 Calum Michael Morrison, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu; 2 Fionnlagh Mac a' Mhaoilein, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis; 3 Seonaidh MacLean, Sgoil Bhàgh a' Chaisteal.

Solo Singing, age 8 fluent (Girls) (C23A(iii)): Singing of a prescribed song: 1 Lilia Macdonald, Sgoil a' Bhac; 2 Millie Bonniwell, Bun-sgoil Achadh na Creige and Ellie Laurie, Sgoil Sir E Scott; 3 Lucy Kennedy, Bun-sgoil Thriodh.

Solo Singing, age 8 fluent (Boys) (C23A(iv)): Singing of a prescribed song: 1 James Hagery, Bun-sgoil Chondobhrait; 2 Ryan Macdonald, Eilean Leòdhais; 3 Joseph Hamilton, Sgoil Bhaile a' Mhanaich.

Solo Singing Girls, ages 9 fluent (C44(ii)): Singing of a prescribed song: 1 Eilish

Lindsay, Bun-sgoil Chondobhrait; 2 Rachael Swallow, Bun-sgoil Chondobhrait and Sophie Stewart, Rionnagan Rois; 3 Niamh Dalton, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu.

Solo Singing Girls, age 10 fluent (C44(iii)): Singing of a prescribed song: 1 Maeve McKenzie, Bun-sgoil Chondobhrait, Nancy Craik Memorial Trophy; 2 Catriona MacKinnon, Bun Sgoil an Ath-Leathainn and Isobel Craig, Sgoil Sir E Scott; 3 Madelyn MacAskill, Sgoil Sir E Scott.

Solo Singing girls, age 11 fluent (C44A(i)): Singing of a prescribed song: 1 Màiri MacLennan, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis, Maybury Gardens Cup; 2 Isla Duke, Bun-sgoil Chondobhrait; 3 Iona Craig, Bun-sgoil Beinn Chamshroin.

Solo Singing Girls, age 12 fluent (C44A(ii)): Singing of a prescribed song: 1 Isabella Sommerville, Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir Nis, Kenneth Brown Memorial Prize; 2 Rachel Buchan, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu; 3 Seona Brown, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu.

Solo Singing Boys, ages 9-10 fluent (C45): Singing of a prescribed song: 1 Finlay MacLeay Morrison, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu; 2 Ruairidh MacLean, Comunn Gàidhealach Mhuile; 3 Tormod Macleod, Sgoil nan Loch.

Solo Singing Boys, ages 11-12 fluent (C45A): Singing of a prescribed song: 1 Kieran MacDonald, Bun-sgoil Thriodh; 2 Ian Hughes-Hallett, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu; 3 Eoghann D Caimbeul, Clann Thràndairnis.

Presenting a Psalm, under-13 years (C171A): Present, in traditional manner, two verses of an own choice Psalm to a tune chosen from The Scottish Psalmody: 1 Eoghann D Caimbeul, Clann Thràndairnis, Jonathan MacDonald Kilmuir Trophy; 2 Willow NicFhearghais, Sgoil Stafainn; 3 Jonathan Dòmhnallach, Sgoil Stafainn.

Presenting a Psalm, under-19 years (C171B): Present, in traditional manner, two verses of an own choice Psalm to a tune chosen from The Scottish Psalmody: 1 Alice Nic a' Mhaoilein, Sgoil MhicNeacail, Allan C MacLeod Memorial Trophy.

Duet, under-13 fluent (C74): One song, own choice: 1 Isobel Craig and Fiona Langley, Sgoil Sir E Scott, Donald Ross Memorial Trophy; 2 Eilidh NicLeòid and Sophie Stewart, Rionnagan Rois; 3 Maeve Macdonald and Eilidh Thoms, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu.

Duet, ages 13-18 (C144): One song, own choice: 1 Alice Nic a' Mhaoilein and Kirsty Nicolson, Sgoil MhicNeacail, MacTavish's Kitchen Trophy; 2 Rebecca Swallow and Hannah Russell, Àrd-sgoil Greenfauld/Anna NicLeòid and Eve Byrne, Inbhir Nis agus Àrd-sgoil Greenfauld; 3 Elizabeth MacMillan-Currie and Abbie Morris, Àrd-sgoil Ile.

Oral: Storytelling, ages 5-8 open (C21): Telling a story of own choice: 1 Finlay Montgomery, Sgoil a' Bhac, Alasdair MacInnes Memorial Cup; 2 Jonathan Dòmhnallach, Sgoil Stafainn and Lilia Macdonald, Sgoil a' Bhac; 3 Alec Dolinsky-Fraser, Bun-sgoil Gheann Dail.

Storytelling, ages 9-10 open (C41): Tell a story of own choice: 1 Finlay MacLeay Morrison, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu; 2 Haraidh Lang Macdonald, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Gheann Dail; 3 Alasdair Iain MacAoidh, Bun-sgoil Ath-Tharracail.

Storytelling, ages 11-12 open (C41A): Tell a story of own choice: 1 Maria Monk, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu; 2 Isla Scott, Sgoil Sir E Scott; 3 Alasdair Stiùbhart, Àrd-sgoil Phort-Rìgh.

Storytelling, ages 13-18 open (C89): Tell a story of own choice: 1 Anndra Monk, Àrd-sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu.

Bible Reading, ages 9-12 open (C43): Reading at sight from the Bible. Passage to be chosen by the adjudicator: 1 Hannah Robertson, Bun-sgoil Chnoc na Creige; 2 Donald Andrew Fletcher, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu; 3 Isla Duke, Bun-sgoil Chondobhrait.

Bible Reading, ages 13-15 (C106): Reading at sight from the Bible. Passage to be chosen by the adjudicator: 1 Anndra Cuimeanach, Àrd-sgoil Gheàrrloch; 2 Rae MacIver, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu; 3 Ealasaid MacLean, Àrd-sgoil an Obain.



Taynuilt's Scot McPhee photo-bombs Còisir Òg Mhuile (Mull). 17_t43_DM_ModTuesday13



Mòd Ghlaschu 2019

Friday 11th to Saturday 19th October 2019

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Scott's joy at first gold



Scott Mac a' Phi, of Oban's Bun-Sgoil Achadh na Creige (Rockfield), won the Angus Nicol Trophy for his recitation of the poem Glaschu.

Earlier this year the 11-year-old shinty player and off-road motorbiker – who came sixth in the Scottish Motocross Championship - won a clutch of gold and silver medals in the local Oban and Mull mods. 'I just cannot believe it,' he said.

'I have been practising since the beginning of the year. Each time I have had second or third. This is the first time I have won gold.'

Scott also won the literature prize for ages 11-12 and second in art for his age group.

Scott's delighted mum Wilma said his wish for new trainers may come true.

15_SN_ModWed_08



Aela Tangny, who despite having moderate hearing loss for which she is awaiting hearing aids and grommets, won a silver medal in the girls' six years solo singing learners' competition at the Royal National Mod to add to her golds from Mull and Strontian mods. Aela, from Salen, Mull, is an excellent lip reader and is very determined. Her family is incredibly proud of everything she has achieved.

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Sarah MacDonald from Beinn na Faoghla won the 5-6 years' fluent poetry recitation and Eubha NicAonghais from Sgoil Bhaile a' Mhanaich finished third in the 5-6 years' fluent prescribed song. 17_t43_dm_ModWednesday01



Barra boys, left to right, Seonaidh MacLean, Calum Ronald MacNeil, Domhnall Eachann MacLean and Craig MacNeil, from Sgoil Bhagh a' Chaisteil. Seonaidh, seven, was pinned with a gold badge for fluently reciting An t-Uisge, a 'really, really hard poem' judge John Joe MacNeil said, while his brother Domhnall, nine, took gold reciting Tubaist Mara in his age group. Earlier Domhnall won bronze in the chanter competition to the pride of his teacher, his grandfather Donald Patrick Nicholson. 15_SN_ModWed_05



Psalm precentors from Sgoil Stafainn on Skye: left to right, Hamish Atkins, Willow NicFhearghais, Jonathan Domhnallach, Eoghann D Caimbeul, and Willow's brother Brodie MacFhearghais. Jonathan finished third, Willow second, and Eoghann of Clann Throindairnis came first. 15_SN_ModTue_03



Bethan Neil, left, and Alyssa Spreadbury, both aged 10 and pupils at Bun-sgoil Achadh na Creige, charmed the judges in Gaelic conversation. Alyssa, from Oban, was preparing to talk about her hobbies: 'The only hobby I have is dancing and golf, oh and I have another hobby: eating is my favourite thing.' Bethan from Benderloch, fresh from Tuesday's singing contests, planned to talk about how Oban is different from Glasgow. 'It does not smell,' she said. 15_SN_ModWed_04



F Ann MacLean and her children, Ealasaid, Alasdair, and Rhuairidh MacLean-Fleming, did not go home empty handed. Ann received a trophy for writing, Ealasaid picked up some silverware for outstanding success in the literature competitions, and Rhuairidh picked up a third for his poster designing skills. 17_t43_dm_ModWednesday08



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Results: Wednesday

Junior oral:
Conversation, ages 5-6 open (C20): Conversation on any subject chosen by the competitor: 1 Dylan Gibson, Bun-sgoil Thigh a' Chladaich; 2 Macy Spreadbury, Bun-sgoil Achadh na Creige; 3 Carys Rodgers, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar.

Poetry Recitation, ages 5-6 fluent (C22): Recitation of a prescribed piece of poetry, no actions: 1 Sarah MacDonald, Beinn na Faoghla, Reverend Donald Stewart (Duntulm) Memorial Quaich; 2 Alasdair Ruairidh MacAonghais, Sgoil Shiaboist; 3 Ella Lawson.

Poetry Recitation, age 7 fluent (Boys) (C22A(i)B): Recitation of a prescribed piece of poetry, no actions: 1 Seonaidh MacLean, Sgoil Bhàgh a' Chaisteal; 2 Alasdair MacLeòid, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis; 3 Calum Ronald MacNeil, Sgoil Bhàgh a' Chaisteil and Calum Michael Morrison, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu.

Poetry Recitation, age 7 fluent (Girls) (C22A(ii)G): Recitation of a prescribed piece of poetry, no actions: 1 Rachel MacLeod, Bun-sgoil Chondobhrath; 2 Jaime Eve MacIntyre, Bun-sgoil Achadh na Creige; 3 Tamzin Watterott, Bun-sgoil Chnoc a' Chonaig.

Poetry Recitation, age 8 fluent (Boys) (C22A(ii)B): Recitation of a prescribed piece of poetry, no actions: 1 Joseph Hamilton, Sgoil Bhaile a' Mhanaich; 2 Seumas MacDonald, Bun-sgoil Bhaile a' Mhanaich; 3 Finlay Montgomery, Sgoil a' Bhac.

Poetry Recitation, age 8 fluent (Girls) (C22A(ii)G): Recitation of a prescribed piece of poetry, no actions: 1 Esme MacLeod, Bun-sgoil Achadh na Creige; 2 Eva Tearse Murray, Bun-sgoil Steòrnabhagh; 3 Jennifer Carlin, Bun-sgoil Beinn Chamshroin.

Conversation, ages 9-10 fluent (C40): Conversation on any subject chosen by the competitor: 1 Finlay MacLeay Morrison, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, Ewen Dingwall Memorial Trophy; 2 Hannah MacLeod, Bun-sgoil Chondobhrath; 3 Oisín Fuentes, Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce.

Conversation, ages 11-12 fluent (C40A): Conversation on any subject chosen by the competitor: 1 Màiri MacLennan, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis and Amy Darroch, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu; 2 Meabh Mackenzie, Ard-sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu.

Poetry Recitation, ages 9 fluent (Boys) (C42(i)B): Recitation of a prescribed piece of poetry, no actions: 1 Dòmhnall Eachann MacLean, Sgoil Bhàgh a' Chaisteal; 2 Ruairidh MacLean, Comunn Gàidhealach Mhuilhe; 3 Isaac Payne, Bun-sgoil Innis an Uillt.

Poetry Recitation, ages 9 fluent (Girls) (C42(ii)G): Recitation of a prescribed piece of poetry, no actions: 1 Hannah MacLeod, Bun-sgoil Chondobhrath; 2 Hannah Robertson, Bun-sgoil Chnoc na Creige; 3 Niamh Robertson, Bun-sgoil Chnoc na Creige and Emily Fuge, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu.

Poetry Recitation, age 11 fluent (C42A(ii)): Recitation of a prescribed piece of poetry, no actions: 1 Scott Mac a' Phi, Bun-sgoil Achadh na Creige, Angus Nicol Trophy; 2 Màiri MacLennan, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis; 3 Eilidh Thoms, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu.



Poetry Recitation, ages 12 fluent (C42A(ii)): Recitation of a prescribed piece of poetry, no actions: 1 Maria Monk, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, Daisy's Den Trophy; 2 Isabella Sommerville, Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir Nis; 3 Seona Brown, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu.

Poetry Recitation, age 10 fluent (C42(ii)): Recitation of a prescribed piece of poetry, no actions: 1 Tormod MacLeod, Sgoil nan Loch; 2 Shreya Saul, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu; 3 Donald Andrew Fletcher, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu and Sorcha MacDougall, Sgoil Bhàgh a' Chaisteil.

Reading, under-13 fluent (C75): Reading at sight a piece of prose. Passage to be chosen by the adjudicator: 1 Seumas Stiùbhart, Bun-sgoil Shlèite; 2 Hannah Robertson, Bun Sgoil Chnoc na Creige; 3 Niamh Robertson, Bun Sgoil Chnoc na Creige.

Conversation, ages 13-15 fluent (C90): Conversation with an adjudicator on a subject chosen by the competitor: 1 Finlay MacLennan, Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir Nis, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig Silver Medal; 2 Anndra Cuimeanach, Ard-sgoil Gheàrrloch; 3 Rae MacIver, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu.

Poetry Recitation, ages 13-15 fluent (C92): Recitation of a prescribed piece of poetry, no actions: 1 Eilidh Quinn, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu; 2 Anndra Monk, Ard-sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu; 3 Laura Robertson, Ard-sgoil Loch Abar.

Reading, ages 13-15 open (C93): Reading a piece of prose. Passage to be chosen by the adjudicator: 1 Anndra Cuimeanach, Ard-sgoil Gheàrrloch; 2 Jessica Hanvidge, Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir Nis; 3 Eve Byrne, Ard-sgoil Greenfaulds.

Adult singing:
Solo Singing, ladies fluent (A220): Singing of one song of competitor's choice. James Grant Memorial Prize: 1 Claire Nicamhligh, Glaschu, Mary C MacNiven Memorial Salver; 2 Raonaid M J Deans, Comar nan Allt; 3 Saffron Hanvidge, Inbhir Nis.

Oran Mòr, ladies fluent (A222): Solo singing of a prescribed song: 1 Claire Nicamhligh, Glaschu, Mr and Mrs Archibald Macdonald Memorial Trophy and Jessie M MacLachlan Memorial Prize; 2 Raonaid M J Deans, Comar nan Allt; 3

Isabella Sommerville from Inverness cleared up in the clarsach competitions. She won the Grade 5, under 13 duets, as well as singing two songs with self accompaniment.

17_t43_dm_ModWednesday15

Saffron Hanvidge, Inbhir Nis and Marina NicLeòid, Glaschu.

Solo Singing, men fluent (A221): Singing of one song of competitor's choice. Lachlan MacLean Watt Memorial Prize: 1 Rory MacInnes MacDiarmid, Glaschu, Caledonian MacBrayne Trophy; 2 John Boa, Dùn Eideann; 3 Ruairidh Mac an t-Saoir, Glaschu.

John MacArthur Memorial Trophy for highest mark in A220 and A221: Rory MacInnes MacDiarmid, Glaschu.

Oran Mòr, men fluent (A223): Solo singing of a prescribed song: 1 Ruairidh Alastair MacIlFhinnein, Glaschu, F S Cameron-Head Memorial Trophy; 2 Rory MacInnes MacDiarmid, Glaschu; 3 Ruairidh Mac an t-Saoir, Glaschu.

Gold Medal Final (Men) (GSM224): Sing two songs. One prescribed and one competitor's choice. Fluent: 1 Ruairidh Alastair MacIlFhinnein, Glaschu, The Gold Medal Prize in Memory of Innis MacLeod, Shawbost for the highest aggregate marks for Gaelic and Music in competitions A220, A221, A222, A223 and GS224, Donald Thomson First Prize for the highest marks in Gaelic in A221, A223, GS224 (Men), Islander Shield (Men); 2 Rory MacInnes MacDiarmid, Glaschu, Donald Thomson Second Prize for the highest marks in Gaelic in A221, A223, GS224 (Men), The Sangobeg Investments Ltd Prize; 3 John Boa, Dùn Eideann, The Sangobeg Investments Ltd Prize; 4 Ruairidh Mac an t-Saoir, Glaschu, The Sangobeg Investments Ltd Prize.

Gilbert McPhail Highest Music A221, A223, GS224 (Men): John Boa, Dùn Eideann.

Gold Medal Final (Ladies) (GSL224): Sing two songs. One prescribed and one competitor's choice. Fluent: 1 Claire Nicamhligh, Glaschu, Claire Nicamhligh and Raonaid M J Deans, Comar nan Allt, Donald Thomson First Prize for the highest marks in Gaelic in A221, A223, GS224 (Ladies), Islander Shield (Ladies), The Sangobeg Investments Ltd Prize; 2 Claire Nicamhligh, Glaschu and Raonaid M J Deans, Comar nan Allt, The Sangobeg Investments Ltd Prize, Donald Thomson Second Prize for the highest marks in Gaelic in A221, A223, GS224 (Ladies); 3 Marina NicLeòid, Glaschu, The Sangobeg Investments Ltd Prize.

An Comunn Gàidhealach highest music A220, A222, GS224 (Ladies): Raonaid M J Deans, Comar nan Allt; An Comunn Gàidhealach second highest music A220, A222, GS224 (Ladies): Claire Nicamhligh, Glaschu.

Solo Singing, learners (A248): Singing a song in the traditional style: 1 Mairi Mcgillivray, Ile, George Clavey Memorial Quaich; 2 Catriona Ann MacLennan, Glaschu; 3 Davy Macdonald, An t-Oban.

Solo Singing, ladies learners (A250): Singing of a prescribed song: 1 Maya Evan Matyas, Glaschu, Margot Campbell Trophy; 2 Julie-Anne MacFadyen, An t-Oban; 3 Lynn NicDhòmhnaill, Ile.

Solo singing (Ladies) (A252): Singing of one song of competitor's choice. For Mòd 2019, the song must reflect the theme of songs of nature: 1 Julie-Anne MacFadyen, An t-Oban, Catherine M B Dunlop Quaich; 2 Sandie Kennedy, Aberfeldy; 3 Lynn NicDhòmhnaill, Ile.

Solo singing (Men) (A251): Singing of a prescribed song. Alasdair C. Gillies Memorial Prize: 1 Calum MacColla, An Gearasdan, Katie Stewart Memorial Trophy; 2 Colin West, Lunnainn.

Solo singing (Men) (A253): Singing of one song of competitor's choice. For Mòd 2019, the song must reflect the theme of drinking songs: 1 Calum MacColla, An Gearasdan, Bank of Scotland Cup; 2 Colin West, Lunnainn.

Silver Pendant, final (Ladies) (SSL254): Sing two songs. One prescribed and one competitor's choice: 1 Julie-Anne MacFadyen, An t-Oban, Silver Pendant (Ladies), Catherine Gemmill Memorial Trophy; 2 Mary MacKinnon, An t-Oban, 3 Maya Evan Matyas, Glaschu.

Silver Pendant, final (Men) (SSM254): Sing two songs. One prescribed and one competitor's choice: 1 Calum MacColla, An Gearasdan, Silver Pendant (Men), Alasdair MacInnes Memorial Trophy; 2 Colin West, Lunnainn.

Morag Robb Memorial Salver for the highest aggregate marks in Gaelic in A250, A251, A252, A253 and SS254: Calum MacColla, An Gearasdan.

John A MacRae Cuach for the highest aggregate marks in Music in A250, A251, A252, A253 and SS254: Julie-Anne MacFadyen, An t-Oban.

Solo singing (A270): Singing a song from Mrs Kennedy-Fraser's Songs of the Hebrides, competitor's choice: 1 Janet Campbell, Tobar Mhoire, Kennedy-Fraser Cup and Johanna Fortune Memorial Trophy; 2 Alison Wood, Càrdanus, An Comunn Gàidhealach Prize; 3 Gordon McKeeve, Glaschu.

Solo singing (A271): Singing a prescribed song relating to Mull or Iona: 1 Ishbel Campbell, Tìriodh, Sarah Weir Memorial Trophy and Mull and Iona Association Prize; 2 Donna Dugdale, Tobar Mhoire, Mull and Iona Association prize; 3 Anne Bennett, Dùn Dè.

Solo singing (A274): Singing of a Skye or Sutherland song, own choice: 1 Margaret Mackay, a' Mhealbhach, John D Gillies Memorial Trophy; 2 Shona Keith, Ceann Loch Gilb.

Duet singing (A275): Singing in harmony, competitors' choice: 1 Emma A C Deans and Raonaid M J Deans, Comar nan Allt, The Neil MacLean and Jenny M B Currie Trophy and Mull Local Mòd Prize; 2 Kerrie Jane Finlay and Lyle Kennedy, Obar

Dheathain, Mull Local Mòd Prize; 3 Donna Dugdale and Natalie Livingstone, Tobar Mhoire, Mull Local Mòd Prize.

Clarsach:
Clarsach Self Accompaniment (B320): Own choice of two contrasting Gaelic songs with clarsach accompaniment: 1 Isabella Sommerville, Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir Nis, The Glendale Quaich; 2 Maria Monk, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu; 3 Maeve Macdonald, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu.

Clarsach Introductory (Up to Grade 1) (B321): Own choice instrumental piece of Gaelic origin: 1 Eve Thompson, Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce, Helmsdale Trophy; 2 Nuala Slorach, Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce; 3 Oisín Fuentes, Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce.

Clarsach Elementary (Grade 1) (B322): Solo playing of two pieces of music of Gaelic origin: 1 Katie Sutherland, Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce, Florence Wilson Trophy; 2 Martha Bauld, Bun-sgoil Dhòrnach; 3 Amy Spearing, Acadamaidh Dhùglais.

Clarsach Intermediate 1 (Grade 2-3) (B323): Solo playing of two pieces of music of Gaelic origin: 1 Maria Monk, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, K Barry Milner Trophy; 2 Fiona Langley, Sgoil Sir E Scott; 3 Amy Darroch, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu and Grace Scott, Bun-sgoil na Pàirce.

Clarsach Intermediate 2 (Grade 3-4) (B323A): Solo playing of two pieces of music of Gaelic origin: 1 Mairi Anna Binns, Sgoil Sir E Scott, Lawrence MacDuff Cup; 2 Shionka Kamikaji-Inkster, Bun-sgoil Parsons Green; 3 Eilidh Quinn, Sgoil Ghaidhlig Ghlaschu.

Clarsach Advanced (Grade 5) (B324): Solo playing of two pieces of music of Gaelic origin: 1 Isabella Sommerville, Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir Nis, Duncan Chisholm Trophy; 2 Erin Nic'Illosa, Ard-sgoil Thorrigh; 3 Bronwen Stahl, Ard-sgoil Sheumais Ghilleasbuig.

Clarsach Senior Elementary (B325): Solo playing of two pieces of music of Gaelic origin. One own choice (not exceeding 3 minutes) and one prescribed piece: 1 Anne Moar, Dùn Eideann, Jean C Campbell Award.

Clarsach Intermediate / Advanced (B326): Solo playing of two pieces of music of Gaelic origin: 1 Melanie Ronnie, Edinburg, Elspeth A Hyllsted Trophy.

Clarsach Composition (B329): An original composition lasting between three and five mins, for a) solo clarsach in the style of a slow air, pipe march, strathspey, jig, reel or a set of tunes, or b) voice and clarsach: 1 Grace Stewart-Skinner, Am Blàr Dubh, Margaret Balfour Trophy; 2 Meredith Kennedy; 3 Sorcha Thompson, Edinburg.

Clarsach Duets, under-13 (B330): Own choice of a piece or set of pieces of Gaelic origin: 1 Isabella Sommerville and Grace Scott, Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir Nis agus Bun-sgoil na Pàirce, Lord Birsay Trophy; 2 Katie Sutherland and Nàlara Killen Quinn, Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce; 3 Eve Thompson and Laoise Nic an Bheatha, Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce.

Clarsach Duets, ages 13-18 (B330A): Own choice of a piece or set of pieces of Gaelic origin: 1 Seona NicDhòmhnaill and Eimear McShea, Ard-sgoil Sheumais Ghilleasbuig, Comunn na Clarsach Cup; 2 Ròsàidh Mackintosh and Anna Pearson, Ard-sgoil Sheumais Ghilleasbuig; 3 Mairi Anna Binns and Fiona Langley, Sgoil Sir E Scott/Sorcha Thompson and Sandy MacGregor, Ard-sgoil Sheumais Ghilleasbuig.

Clarsach Ensembles (B331): groups of three or more, own choice: 1 Teudan, Pilgrims Harp Trophy.

Recital Class (Grade 6 and above) (B332): Open to any players of gut and / or wire harp: 1 Abigail Cavanagh, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, Sir Philip Christison Trophy; 2 Meredith Kennedy, Glenalmond; 3 Abigail Campbell, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, L410 Writing; 1 Cairistiona Stone, Gallaibh; 2 Lisa Anne Fiona NicDhòmhnaill, Achd Ille Bhuidhe; 3 F. Ann MacLean, Lios Mòr.

L408 Choral Arrangement: 1 Ronald Murray Looker, Edinburg; 2 Angus Tully, Edinburg; 3 Sandaigh NicDhòmhnaill Jones, Uibhist a Deas.

L406 Writing: 1 Ann Gilmore, Armadale; 2 Cairistiona Stone, Gallaibh; 3 Mòrag Anna NicNeill, Isle of Barra.

L405 Poetry: 1 John MacInnes, Fort William; 2 Robbie MacLeod, Edinburg; 3 Lisa NicDhòmhnaill, Achd Ille Bhuidhe.

L404 Writing: 1 F. Ann MacLean, Lios Mòr; 2 Cairistiona Stone, Gallaibh; 3 Mgr Marcas Eòin Mac an Tuairneir, Dùn Eideann.

L402 New Song: 1 Robbie MacLeod, Edinburg; 2 Sandaigh NicDhòmhnaill Jones, Uibhist a Deas; 3 Mgr Marcas Mac an Tuairneir Pàdrùig Moireasdan, Dùn Eideann.

C53A Literary, ages 11-12: 1 Scott Mac a Phi, Bun-sgoil Achadh na Creige.

C53 Literary, ages 9-10: 1 Eve Thompson, Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce; 2 Hannah Robertson, Bun Sgoil Chnoc na Creige; 3 Niamh Robertson, Bun Sgoil Chnoc na Creige and Lily Jane Robertson, Bun Sgoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abar.

C98 Literary, ages 13-15 fluent: 1 Ealasaid MacLean, Ard-sgoil an Obain; 2 Sorcha Thompson, Ard-sgoil Sheumais Ghilleasbuig.

C107 Art, ages 13-15: 1 Finlay MacLennan, Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir Nis; 2 Nuala Iona NicDhòmhnaill, Ard-sgoil Ulapuill; 3 Ealasaid MacLean, Ard-sgoil an Obain.

C54A Art, ages 11-12: 1 Miss Màiri MacLennan, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis; 2 Scott Mac a Phi, Bun-sgoil Achadh na Creige; 3 Isla Macquarie, Dunoon Grammar and Kenna Mackintosh, Bun-sgoil Ghaidhlig Inbhir Nis.

C28A Art, ages 7-8: 1 Niamh O'Donnell, Ashley Road Primary School, Obar Dheathain; 2 Esme Mary MacLeod, Bun-sgoil Achadh na Creige; 3 Ellie-Rose Officer, Sgoil Ghaidhlig Ghlaschu.

C54 Art, ages 9-10: 1 Alyss Macdonald, Bun-sgoil Achadh na Creige; 2 Donald Andrew Fletcher, Sgoil Ghaidhlig Ghlaschu; 3 Finlay MacDonald, Bun-sgoil Ulapuill and Alasdair Campbell, Rockfield Primary GMU Oban.

C28 Art, ages 5-6: 1 Maya Officer, Sgoil Ghaidhlig Ghlaschu; 2 Freja Cavaye, Bun-sgoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abar; 3 Ruairidh MacLean-Fleming, Bun-sgoil Lios Mòr and Miss Ella Threshie, Meadowburn.

C01 Radio Piece / Podcast: 1 Ard-sgoil Mhalaig.

L400A Writer's Award - Children's Book: 1 Cetiadh Hutton.

L401 Writer's Award - Book for Adults: 1 Còig Duilleagan na Seamraig - Le Ruairidh MacIlleathain; 2 Stéisean - Le Aonghas Pàdraig Caimbeul; 3 An Còta Dathach agus Deich Sgeulachdan eile - Le Donnachadh MacGilliosa and Eadar Dà Shaothal - Le Dòmhnall MacLeòid.



Eye to eye with John Wallace

The nights are drawing in

It just seems a few days ago when most conversations I had with my patients were about where they were going for their summer holidays. Now the discussions are about the Christmas adverts already appearing on our TV screens. Only a few weeks ago it was still daylight going to bed. Now it is twilight going home from work.

Shortly the clocks will change and we will have to drive home after work in

darkness. As drivers it is incumbent on us all to ensure our vision is up to scratch for driving. The current legislation says we have to be able to read a number plate at 20.5metres. There is no mention about the quality of our vision. You undoubtedly have struggled to see clearly with the sun being so low in the sky and causing severe dazzle when driving. Likewise, at night, you might be struggling with oncoming car headlights.

The joy of living in Argyll is its natural beauty. The down side is the wet roads and low sun at this time of year. You can minimise the effects of glare during the day by wearing polarised sunglasses. These help reduce unwanted reflections from the wet roads. At night you can minimise glare by wearing glasses with anti-reflection coatings which minimise light scatter from car headlights and street lights.

None of these are much use if you don't

have regular eye examinations and wear up-to-date glasses prescribed by your optometrist. Basic eye examinations are funded by NHS Scotland. Depending on your circumstances you might qualify for help towards the cost of your glasses. Your optometrist will confirm your eligibility for an NHS-funded eye examination and what, if any, financial help is available to you. Eye examinations every two years are the norm for most patients.



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Margaret's trophy delight

Lochaber's Margaret Mackay won the John D Gillies Memorial Trophy, for her performance of a Skye or Sutherland song.

Margaret was born and bred in Caol near Fort William but now lives in A' Mhealbhaich (Melvich) near Thurso. 'This is unbelievable,' said Margaret. 'I am in shock. I was not sure I was going to do it, but my friends encouraged me. It was a last minute choice of song.'

Margaret chose Eilean a' cheo, a song of reflection and change on the Isle of Skye, by Mairi Mhor nam Oran (Mary MacPherson).

'This is the first time I have competed solo in the National Mod in more than 20 years. I had lost my nerve. Joining the [Melvich Gaelic] choir gave me the confidence again.'

Margaret, who helps her husband George on their croft, said her parents



Alistair and Mary MacPherson, who still live in Lochaber, would also be delighted by her win. 15_SN_ModWed_01



Brothers turn on the style singing and storytelling

Taking a break from winning, 'Savage Bob the Builder' Calum Michael Morrison, seven, and 'Ninja Batman' Finlay MacLeay Morrison, 10, found the dressing up box while awaiting results.

In the end, Finlay won the fluent Gaelic conversation competition for ages nine to 10 and the Ewen Dingwall Memorial Trophy.

The brothers, who both attend Sgoil Ghaidhlig Ghlaschu, scooped gold in many contests in Glasgow College: Calum came first singing Crodh Chailein in his age group, while Finlay took top prize singing Ar baile and in storytelling for boys aged nine to 10.

15_SN_ModWed_03

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Cairistona Stone takes a sip of success after winning the John Angus MacLeod Quaich for writing about her new home, Caithness. 17_t43_dm_ModWednesday07



Readers of poetry about emigration, left to right: Jamie Reid and Cailean MacIlfhinnein of Glaschu, Rachel Urquhart of Inbhir Nis, and Seònaid Nic Dhòmhnaill of Tobar Mhoire. Winner Cailean, whose family hails from South Uist and Wester Ross, chose a poem about a village on the island, named Snaoiseabhal or Snishival, once a great storehouse of Gaelic tradition and folklore, but now deserted. 'All the occupants have emigrated, and it has disappeared under the heather,' Cailean said. Seònaid, from Mull, came second, but won the following competition reading prose about emigration. 15_SN_ModThu_02



Lucky sheepdog mascot sees Benbecula's Joseph strike gold at first Mòd

Joseph Hamilton, of Sgoil Bhaile a Mhanaich on Benbecula, holds aloft his lucky mascot Mo Chuilean Beag after winning a gold medal at his first Mod, reciting the poem An Cu Mor Breagha in the fluent competition.

Eight year-old Joseph, who likes working on the family croft, named his sheepdog after the song he sang in Tuesday's solo singing contest, in which he finished third.

To both Joseph and Mo chuilean The Oban Times says: 'Good boy'.

15_SN_ModWed_09

Cosy Cottage Pie

On a cold night, this satisfying FREE beefy pie topped with leek and potato mash is just what the doctor ordered! Serves 4, ready in 45 minutes, Syn FREE!



1kg floury potatoes peeled and chopped



2 leeks thinly sliced



450ml boiling beef stock



500g lean beef mince (5% fat or less)



750g mixed casserole veg or veg pack



Method: Brown the beef for about 5 minutes add the casserole veg along with the stock, simmer for 30 minutes. Cooked the potatoes for 12 minutes and add the leeks. After 5 minutes drain well, mash and season to taste.

Spoon the mash over the mince mixture in a square oven dish, place under the grill for a nice crispy top.

OBAN

Glencruitten Church Hall,
Glencruitten Road
Wednesday 9.30am,
11.30am, 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Tel: Gillian 07796 040 803

FORT WILLIAM

Salvation Army Hall
16 Belford Road, Fort William
Thursday 9.30am, 11.30am,
3pm, 5pm & 7pm
Tel: Gillian 07796 040 803

LOCHGILPHEAD

Lochgilphead
Baptist Church
Union Street/ Argyll Street
Mondays 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Tel: Rhona 07880 878 906

CAMPBELTOWN

Masonic Recreational
Lodge, St John Street
Tuesdays 1pm,
5.30pm & 7.30pm
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Detailed recipes available at:
slimmingworld.co.uk





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Còisir Ghàidhlig An t-Stratha ladies' choir. 17_t43_DM_ModThursday01



Còisir Ghàidhlig nan Loch (Lochs) ladies choir. 17_t43_DM_ModThursday05



Còisir Ghàidhlig An t-Stratha (Strath). 17_t43_DM_ModThursday02



Còisir Ghàidhlig Tairbeart Loch Fin (Tarbert Loch Fyne). 17_t43_DM_ModThursday04



Còisir Ghàidhlig Tairbeart Loch Fin (Tarbert Loch Fyne) ladies choir. 17_t43_DM_ModThursday03



Left: Còisir Ghàidhlig Chomhghall (Cowal). 17_t43_DM_ModThursday14



Còisir Ghàidhlig Thaigh an Uilt (Taynuilt) finished third in the competition for the Sheriff MacMaster Campbell Memorial Quaich. 17_t43_DM_ModThursday17

Right: Bhac's Calum West photo bombs Còisir Sgir' a' Bhac (Back) ladies' choir. 17_t43_DM_ModThursday09



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Mull Gaelic Choir wins it all with a special performance



Donna Dugdale, from Mull, created bespoke pins to wear in memory of their former choir member, Rev Johnny Paton. 17_t43_DM_ModThursday08

by David McPhee
dmcphree@obantimes.co.uk



Thursday was a special day at the Royal National Mod for Mull Gaelic Choir (Còisir Ghàidhlig An Eilein Mhuilich) Ladies.

The island women won everything on offer in the rural choirs two-song competition, including the Grampian Television Trophy, the Rod MacKenzie Sgir' a' Bhac Memorial Baton, as well as the Angus MacTavish Memorial Trophy and the Rotary of Blairgowrie Trophy

for achieving the highest marks in Gaelic and music and the John Lockie Trophy for highest marks in Gaelic out of three competitions.

It was particularly significant, as this is the whole choir's first mod since losing one of their members in a hill climbing accident earlier this year.

Mull Gaelic Choir conductor Elizabeth Jack told The Oban Times the pebble pins the choir were wearing were in memory of Rev Johnny Paton, who was the minister on Mull and a former choir member.

Donna Dugdale created around 40 of the pins, which were made from pebbles taken at the foot of Ben More, with Rev Paton's favourite bird, an Oyster Catcher, painted on them.

'We wanted to have something of him with us,' Elizabeth said. 'We miss him so much. It has been a difficult year. His memory lives on right across Mull.'

'He was very down to earth and contributed so much towards the community. When we finished our last song, there were tears in a lot of people's eyes, including

mine.'

Speaking about winning four out of four trophies, Elizabeth said: 'It is brilliant because there are so many that are not Gaelic speakers. So I am delighted to get the Gaelic trophy.'

Elizabeth paid gratitude to the choir's Gaelic tutor Janet MacDonald, who won the gold medal in 1984.

Elizabeth said it was a special victory. The choir was also missing three ladies, who were not able to make the Mòd for various reasons, but it was noted they were missed very much.



Members of Còisir Ghàidhlig An Eilein Mhuilich celebrate winning everything in last Thursday morning's ladies' own choice and prescribed song rural choir competition. 17_t43_DM_ModThursday11



Left: Còisir Ghàidhlig An Eilein Mhuilich Ladies won the Grampian Television Trophy, the Rod MacKenzie Sgir' a' Bhac Memorial Baton and the John Lockie Trophy as well as the Angus MacTavish Memorial Trophy and the Rotary of Blairgowrie Trophy for achieving the highest marks in Gaelic and music.

17_t43_DM_ModThursday12

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Còisir Ghàidhlig Bharraigh (Barra). 15_SN_ModThu_08



Còisir Ghàidhlig Ìle (Islay). 15_SN_ModThu_07



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Results: Thursday

Solo singing:
Solo Singing, ladies fluent (A230): One song sung in the traditional style, own choice. Traditional Gold Medal Qualifying Competitions: 1 Isabelle Bain, Am Bac, Moray Trophy; 2 Kerrie NicFhionnlaigh, Obar Dheathain; 3 Marie Matheson, Hunnadaidh; 4 Emma NicLeòid, Sgalpaigh.

Solo Singing, men fluent (A231): One song sung in the traditional style, own choice. Traditional Gold Medal Qualifying Competitions: 1 Alasdair Iain MacPhee, Glaschu, Lochaber Rotary Club Trophy; 2 Crisdean MacCoinnich, Glaschu; 3 Micheal MacAoidh, Na Stàitean Aonaichte; 4 Marcas Mac an Tuairneir, Dùn Èideann.

Donnie Murray Trophy for the competitor gaining the highest mark in competitions A230 and A231: Isabelle Bain, Am Bac and Alasdair Iain MacPhee.

Mary Lamont Gold Medal Traditional Final (Ladies) (TSL232): Sing two songs in the traditional manner. Competitor's choice. Fluent: 1 Isabelle Bain, Am Bac, Islander Shield (Ladies), Mary Lamont Gold Medal (Ladies), Wright Johnston and MacKenzie (Ladies); 2 Emma NicLeòid, Sgalpaigh, Wright Johnston and MacKenzie (Ladies), 3 Kerrie NicFhionnlaigh, Obar Dheathain 4 Marie Matheson, Hunnadaidh.

Mary Lamont Gold Medal Traditional Final (Men) (TSM232): Sing two songs in the traditional manner. Competitor's choice. Fluent: 1 Crisdean MacCoinnich, Glaschu, Islander Shield (Men), Mary Lamont Gold Medal (Men), Scotia Trophy for the highest mark: 2 Micheal MacAoidh, Na Stàitean Aonaichte, Wright Johnston and MacKenzie (Men); 3 Alasdair Iain MacPhee, Glaschu and Marcas Mac an Tuairneir, Dùn Èideann.

Puirt-a-beul (A233): Singing puirt-a-beul, competitor's choice: 1 Saffron Hanvidge, Inbhir Nis, Duncan Johnston Memorial Trophy; 2 Iseabail Nic an t-Sagairt, Glaschu agus Ile and Coinneach MacLeod, Glaschu.

Solo Singing Fluent (A234): Singing a prescribed song composed by a Lorn bard. Oban Times Medal: 1 Ishbel Campbell, Tiriodh, Oban Times Gold Medal; 2 Eilidh Davies, Inbhir Nis; 3 Carol Nic'Illeathain, Tobar Mhoire.

Solo singing (A272): Sing one own choice song. Confined to first-prize winners specified solo singing competitions at Provincial Mods during last five years: 1 Shona Keith, Ceann Loch Gilb, Lochewe Branch Cup; 2 Eileen Duncan, Tunga; 3 Ron Goudie, Laphroaig.

Solo Instrumental (A279): Solo self-accompaniment of two Gaelic songs, own choice with any instrument except Clàrsach and Piano: 1 Margaret Mackay, a' Mhealbhaich, The Largs Trophy, An Comunn Gàidhealach Prize; 2 Iain Blair, Kilmuir, An Comunn Gàidhealach Prize.

Senior oral:
Reading Poetry- Open (A204): Reading of a poem based on a specified theme, competitor's own choice: 1 Cailean MacIlFhinnin, Glaschu, An Comunn Gàidhealach Prize; 2 Seònaid Nic Dhòmhnail, Tobar Mhoire; 3 Rachel Urquhart, Inbhir Nis.

Reading Prose, open (A205): Reading of a passage of prose based on a specified theme, competitor's own choice: 1 Seònaid Nic Dhòmhnail, Tobar Mhoire, An Comunn Gàidhealach Prize; 2 Cailean MacIlFhinnin, Glaschu, 3 Jamie Reid, Glaschu.

Rural choirs:
Rural Choirs (A300): Lorn Shield, Singing of two songs, one prescribed, one own choice: 1 Còisir Sgìr 'a' Bhac, Lorn Shield, Mrs C MacDonald Silver Baton to the conductor of winning choir, The Sangobeg Investments Ltd Prize; 2 Còisir Ghàidhlig Chàrlabhaigh, The Sangobeg Investments Ltd Prize; 3 Còisir Ghàidhlig nan Loch, The Sangobeg Investments Ltd Prize.

Hamish Graham (Strath) Trophy for the highest marks in Gaelic in A300, A305 and A306: Còisir Ghàidhlig nan Loch and Còisir Sgìr 'a' Bhac.

Dalriada Cup for highest marks in Gaelic: Còisir Ghàidhlig nan Loch.

Capt Angus Stewart Trophy for highest marks in music: Còisir Sgìr 'a' Bhac.

Rural Choirs (A303): Sheriff MacMaster Campbell Memorial Trophy. Singing of two songs, one prescribed, one own choice: 1 Bàrach, Sheriff MacMaster Campbell Memorial Quaich, An Comunn Gàidhealach Prize; 2 Còisir Ghàidhlig Ile, An Comunn Gàidhealach Prize; 3 Còisir Ghàidhlig Thaigh an Uillt, An Comunn Gàidhealach Prize.

Selma Shield for highest marks in Gaelic: Còisir Ghàidhlig An Eilein Mhuilich.

Rural Choirs Ladies (A305): Grampian Television Trophy. Singing of two songs, one prescribed, one own choice: 1 Còisir Ghàidhlig An Eilein Mhuilich, Grampian TV Trophy, An Comunn Gàidhealach Prize, Rod Mackenzie, Sgìr 'a' Bhac Memorial Baton to the conductor of the winning choir; 2 Còisir Bhan na Hearadh, An Comunn Gàidhealach Prize; 3 Còisir Sgìr 'a' Bhac, An Comunn Gàidhealach Prize.

John Lockie Trophy for the highest marks in Gaelic in A303, A305 and A306, Rotary Club of Blairgowrie Trophy for highest marks in Music; Angus MacTavish Memorial Trophy for highest marks in Gaelic: Còisir Ghàidhlig An Eilein Mhuilich.

Rural Choirs (A306): Singing of prescribed puirt a beul: 1 Còisir Ghàidhlig Chàrlabhaigh, John Young Memorial Baton for the conductor of the winning choir, An Comunn Gàidhealach Prize; 2 Còisir Ghàidhlig Mhealbhaich, An Comunn Gàidhealach Prize; 3 Còisir Ghàidhlig nan Loch, An Comunn Gàidhealach Prize.

Evelyn Huckbody Memorial Trophy for highest marks in Music: Còisir Ghàidhlig Chàrlabhaigh and Còisir Ghàidhlig Mhealbhaich.

Calum Robertson Memorial Trophy for highest marks in Gaelic: Còisir Ghàidhlig Chàrlabhaigh.

Friday

Quartet (A276): Singing, competitors' choice: 1 Na h-àileagan, Stornoway Gaelic Choir Cup, Marshall Stormonth Memorial Trophy for the highest marks in music, Ian Crighton Memorial Trophy for the highest

marks in Gaelic, The Sangobeg Investments Ltd Prize; 2 Largs Gaelic Choir Quartet, The Sangobeg Investments Ltd Prize.

Waulking (A278): Sing waulking songs of own choice: 1 Còmhlán Luadh Bhàideanach, Harris Tweed Authority Trophy, An Comunn Gàidhealach Prize, 2 Clò nam Barrach, An Comunn Gàidhealach Prize; 3 Luadh le mire, An Comunn Gàidhealach Prize.

Area Choirs Ladies (A304): Esme Smythe Trophy. Singing of two songs, one prescribed, one own choice; 1 Atomaig Piseag, Esme Smythe Trophy, The Sangobeg Investments Ltd Prize, Alex MacArthur Memorial Prize; 2 Còisir Ghàidhlig Ile Ghlaschu, The Sangobeg Investments Ltd Prize; 3 Ceòlraidh Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, The Sangobeg Investments Ltd Prize.

Angus Johnston Memorial Quaich for the highest marks in music: Atomaig Piseag.

Donald U Johnston Memorial Quaich for the highest marks in Gaelic: Còisir Ghàidhlig Ile Ghlaschu.

Open Men (A307): Mull and Iona Shield. Singing of two songs, one prescribed, one own choice; 1 Còisir Ceann an Tuire, Mull and Iona Shield, Hector Russell Dirk to the conductor of the winning choir, Martin MacKay Memorial Prize, The Sangobeg Investments Ltd Prize; 2 Ceòlraidh Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu; 3 Còisir Ghàidhlig Ile Ghlaschu.

Glen Ballachullish Trophy for highest marks in Gaelic: Ceòlraidh Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu. Cor Meibion Bro Glyndwr Trophy for highest marks in music: Còisir Ceann an Tuire.

Open (A308): Singing of prescribed puirt a beul: 1 Còisir Ghàidhlig Obar Dheathain, Greenock Gaelic Choir Cup, The John MacLeod Carlway and Edinburgh Memorial Trophy, The Sangobeg Investments Ltd Prize; 2 Còisir Ghàidhlig an Òbain; 3 Ceòlraidh Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu.

Area Choirs (A301): Lovat and Tullibardine Trophy. Singing of two songs, one prescribed, one own choice: 1 Còisir Ghàidhlig an Òbain, Lovat and Tullibardine Trophy, Malcolm G McCallum Silver Baton for conductor of winning choir, The Sangobeg Investments Ltd Prize; 2 Ceòlraidh Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu; 3 Còisir Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis.

Donald J MacAskill Memorial Trophy for the highest marks in Gaelic; Donald Thomson Memorial Cuach for the Gaelic tutor of the choir gaining the highest Gaelic mark; Weekly Scotsman Quaich for the highest marks in Gaelic: Ceòlraidh Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu.

Oban Times Silver Salver for highest marks in music: Còisir Ghàidhlig an Òbain.

Area Choirs (A302): Margart Duncan Memorial Trophy. Singing of two songs, one prescribed, one own choice: 1 Còisir Ghàidhlig Shruighlea, Margart Duncan Memorial Trophy, An Comunn Gàidhealach Silver Baton to the Conductor of the winning choir, The Sangobeg Investments Ltd Prize; 2 Còisir Ghàidhlig Obar Pheallaidh; 3 Còisir Sgìre Phort Rìgh.

Staffinders Quaich for the highest marks in Music: Còisir Sgìre Phort Rìgh.

John McNicol Memorial Trophy for highest marks in Gaelic: Còisir Ghàidhlig Shruighlea.



Còisir Ghàidhlig Shruighlea (Stirling Gaelic Choir), won the Margart Duncan Memorial Trophy and John McNicol Memorial Trophy for highest marks in Gaelic in the area choirs, singing of two songs, one prescribed, one own choice.



Left: Fir an Eilean, The Men of the Island (Skye), sang Am Ministear's am Bailidh alongside eight other competing male choirs.

15_SN_ModFri_02



The waulking women, Mnathan Lacasdail. 15_SN_ModFri_04



Lochs Gaelic Choir, Còisir Ghàidhlig nan Loch from the Isle of Lewis, won the Dalriada Cup for achieving the highest marks in Gaelic in their class. The choir's Gaelic tutor Anna MacLeod received the award from Allan Campbell, president of An Comunn Gàidhealach. 15_SN_ModThu_18



Ceòlraidh Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, winners of the Glen Ballachullish Trophy for the highest marks in Gaelic for men's choral singing, in which they came second. 15_SN_ModFri_08



Skye ladies' choir Còisir Sgìre Phort Rìgh sang three puirt-a-beul songs, Tha bainne chruidh aig Morag Bheag, Mhorag an dean thu tighinn, and Ged thigeadh fear le buaile chruidh, competing against Coisir Ghaidhlig an Obain. 15_SN_ModFri_03



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Prizewinning smiles as top choirs celebrate



Left: Members of Burach and Còisir Sgir a' Bhac with their trophies.

15_SN_ModThu_010



Burach conductor Riona Whyte from Lochaline receives The Sheriff MacMaster Campbell Memorial Quaich from DI Brown, chairperson of the Glasgow Mod's local organising committee.

15_SN_ModThu_15

Right: Burach, a choir with many members from Morvern, also won the Selma Shield for the highest marks in Gaelic. Conductor Riona Whyte receives the shield from Allan Campbell, president of An Comunn Gaidhealach, accompanied by Riona's son Alasdair, who grew up in Salen on Mull, and earlier won Gaelic Ambassador of the Year. 15_SN_ModThu_16



Right: Avril Allen, conductor of Coisir Sgir a' Bhac from Back on the Isle of Lewis, receives The Lorn Shield and The Mrs Catherine C MacDonald Silver Baton from Allan Campbell, president of An Comunn Gaidhealach.

15_SN_ModThu_17



Left: Mull choir, Còisir Ghàidhlig An Eilean Mhuilich, won the John Lockie Trophy for the highest marks in Gaelic in their competitions. Conductor Elizabeth Jack receives the award from David Cannon of Mod sponsor Caledonian MacBrayne. 15_SN_ModThu_06

Two Lewis choirs, Coisir Sgir a' Bhac and Coisir Ghaidhlig nan Loch, shared the Hamish Graham (Strath) Trophy, finishing with the equal highest marks in Gaelic in their competitions.

15_SN_ModThu_14





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Double joy for Argyll choirs

Two Gaelic choirs from Argyll, which both involve Gaelic singer and BBC Alba weatherwoman Joy Dunlop from Connel, triumphed on the last day of the Royal National Mod in Glasgow, following news that the festival will return home to Oban in 2023.

Atomaig Piseag (Atomic Kitten), which draws female singers from across Argyll and beyond, almost achieved a clean sweep of all the silverware against nine listed competitors.

They won the top award for women's area choirs, the giant Esme Smythe Trophy, and the Angus Johnston Trophy for the highest marks in music, but just missed out on the Donald Johnston U Johnston Trophy for the highest marks in Gaelic by one point – losing the cup to Còisir Ghàidhlig Ile Ghlaschu (Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir).

Elsewhere in Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, Argyll male singers Còisir Ceann an Tuirc (The Boar's Head Choir) won the coveted Mull and Iona Shield, the first prize for men's area choirs. They too nearly carried all the silver home, beating six other competitors for the Cor Meibion Bro Glyndwr Trophy for the highest marks in music, and the fearsome Hector Russell Dirk given to the conductor of the victorious choir – Joy Dunlop.

But the men were denied

the Glen Ballachulish Trophy for the highest marks in Gaelic, which was won by a choir from the Mod's host city, Ceòlraidh Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu (Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association). It finished second equal with Còisir Gàidhlig Ile Ghlaschu's men, which secured the same number of points overall for Gaelic and music.

'I feel ecstatic,' Atomaig Piseag's conductor Raymond Bremner from Thrumster in Caithness, told The Oban Times.

'Travelling that distance for 17 years has been tiring but never a chore, and this rewards it. The choir was put together in 2003 to compete in the 100th mod in Oban.

'It was only meant to last a year. I only agreed to conduct the choir for one year. In 2010-14 we won the national competition five times in a row. Since the choir started this is the seventh time we have won it.

'For the past three to four years it has not been at the level I knew we can compete at at the national mod. When we were doing well at the provincial mod on Mull, it was a good indicator. I just had a feeling they had it in them, and this fun song that we had about Glasgow, I thought that that would appeal, and it was a really good contrast to the set piece. It is a song of celebration on the drams in Glasgow, and then the reali-



The triumphant Còisir Ceann an Tuirc. 15_SN_ModFri_09

sation of it the morning after. 'This is a choir that knows how to celebrate. As far as this conductor is concerned, every single member is off their head. Hence they can interpret this song very well. They are a wonderful bunch of girls who have all become my very good friends.'

It was a day of double joy for Joy Dunlop, a singer in Atomaig Piseag, but also the conductor of the winning male choir Còisir Ceann an Tuirc.

It is composed of just 11 singers, who travel from as far as Mull and Campbeltown to monthly practises in Lochgilphead. 'We are a real Argyll choir,' she said. 'It is really lovely. We are a smaller

choir – some are over 20 – and we have worked really hard, and travelled long distances.'



The two winning Argyll choirs' conductors, Joy Dunlop of Còisir Ceann an Tuirc and Raymond Bremner of Atomaig Piseag, with their silverware. 15_SN_ModFri_12



Argyll ladies' choir Atomaig Piseag celebrate coming top in their class with their conductor Raymond Bremner.

15_SN_ModFri_01_Atomaig Piseag



Winners of the prestigious Gold Medal final competitions for men and women, Nicamhlaigh and Ruiraidh Alastair.



Crisdean MacCoinnich, of Glasgow, Am Bac, after respectively winning Gold Medal final competitions for men and women.

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Medal competition, Claire MacIlfhinnein.



Isabelle Bain, from the Traditional Gold and women.

Sought-after Mòd medals remain in Glasgow

The coveted Royal National Mod Gold Medal finals took place on Wednesday night last week, with both the male and female medals staying in Glasgow.

Ruiraidh Alastair MacIlfhinnein and Claire Nicamhlaigh, who both reside in the city, won their respective Gold Medal categories.

The other most sought-after prizes were the Traditional Gold Medals, which went to Isabelle Bain, Am Bac and Crisdean MacCoinnich, Glaschu, while Julie-Anne MacFadyen, Oban and Calum MacColla, Fort William, took home the silver pendants for Gaelic learners.

Glasgow handed over the reigns to Inverness on Saturday, when this year's event officially closed with the massed choirs performing on the Royal Concert Hall steps. Organised by An Comunn Gàidhealach, the event is the biggest and most important festival of the Gaelic language in the world, and this year's event was a bumper year for the festival with more than 3,000 Gaels competing.

John Morrison, chief executive of An Comunn Gàidhealach, said: 'The level of competition has been stellar and it is great to see so many new faces joining the community alongside our regular attendees. We are grateful as ever to everyone involved in running this year's Mòd, especially the local organising committee and all of our volunteers and sponsors.'

'As the 2019 Mod comes to a close, we look forward to next year's event in Inverness, with planning already well under way.'

Julie-Ann and Calum on song in Silver Pendant

by David McPhee
dmcphoe@obantimes.co.uk



This year's Silver Pendants for learners were won by Oban and Fort William competitors.

Julie-Ann MacFadyen, from Oban, won the ladies' Silver Pendant on Wednesday, while Calum MacColla, from Fort William, won the men's.

'It's lovely, I am delighted to win,' Julie-Ann told The Oban Times. 'I did not expect it. I am always so nervous singing.'

Former gold medallist, Oban/Taynuilt man Alisdair Barnett watched Julie-Ann win the pendant, as well as the Catherine Gemmell Memorial Trophy.

Alisdair, who also is the convenor of the Inverness mod in 2020, said: 'I won the Silver Pendant in 1986 and Catherine was there when I won it. We were good pals. I went on to win the Gold Medal 10 years later and I expect Julie to do the same, but not take as long.'

This is Julie-Ann's third year competing as an adult. She now lives in Edinburgh, 'although west is the best', she added.

She was not the only Obanite competing in the ladies' category. Mary MacKinnon finished third in the Silver Pendant.

Julie-Ann said: 'It was especially nice to see Mary singing. She sang so beautifully. It is lovely to see more Oban folk taking part.' Calum MacColla, a meteorologist from Fort William,



Oban's Julie-Anne MacFadyen took home first place in the ladies' Silver Pendant competition, while Fort William's Calum MacColla won the men's category. 17_t43_dm_ModWednesday11

won the men's Silver Pendant. He said: 'It was a big surprise for me. It is a big jump from going from learners.'

For this competition, Calum had to learn four songs, however, he said the songs help him learn the language.

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Tiree teacher wins Oban Times gold



Ishbel's 'shock' at victory

Ishbel Campbell was 'in shock' at winning The Oban Times gold medal.

'I was not expecting that at all,' said the Gaelic teacher at Tìree Primary School, who was supported by her husband Derek and daughter Martha, who has been with her mum at all her competitions. 'It is a song of victory,' she explained. 'I wanted to give it an air of celebration.'



Competitors for The Oban Times gold medal, left to right, Eilidh Davies of Inbhir Nis, Ishbel Campbell of Tìriodh, and Alison Gael NicRath from Sauchie. The medal was awarded to the best performance of a song composed by a Lorn bard – this year Togaibh a' bhratach, Raise the Flag, by Iain Caimbeul, Bard na Leideig. 'It is a call to arms,' explained Alison, 'soldiers going out to war.' In all, the open contest drew five singers, including Mull's Carol Nic 'Illeathain from Tobar Mhoire, who came third. 'I was glad to get through it,' said Eilidh, who came second: 'I was delighted I remembered all the words.' Eilidh, a news and sports reporter for the BBC, won the Mòd Gold Medal in Dunoon in 2012.

Judging The Oban Times gold medal were Maletta NicPhàil and Martin Wilson.

'I was looking at [the song] from a Gaelic point of view,' Maletta explained.

'They had prepared their Gaelic very well. The differentiation came in the presentation.

'Most of them had discerned that it was a rousing cry to get behind the banner, but it was also a song that dealt with parting from loved ones. Some managed to present the different facets of the song more fully than others.

'Both the music adjudicator and I agreed the winner of the prize had accomplished it very satisfactorily.'

Mòd coming home to Oban in 2023

Am Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail is coming home to Oban in 2023.

The festival was last held in the town in 2015. After the announcement at this year's event in Glasgow on Friday morning, Oban Mòd organiser Duncan MacNeil said: 'I am delighted. We have known for a few months that the bid was successful. This will be the 17th time the Mòd has been back to the town of its birth. Oban is the perfect venue host town.'

Duncan said this was down to the ease of getting to Oban, combined with an abundance of accommodation, restaurants and compact venues. He was keen to highlight it was not just about the economic benefit the Mòd brought, but the celebration of Gaelic language and culture.

He plans on speaking to businesses in the town to try and make Gaelic more visible and audible in the lead up to the festival in 2023. He's also keen to ensure Gaelic is not just celebrated for the nine days the Mòd is on, but in the run-up to 2023 and beyond.

John Morrison, chief executive of An Comunn Gàidhealach, said: 'We are delighted we are going back to Oban. We have had some tremendous Mòds in Oban with huge attendances enjoyed by everyone. Oban is a natural home for the Mòd and we look forward to seeing everyone in 2023.'

Next year's Mòd will take place in Inverness. It will be held in Perth in 2021 and it will be Paisley's turn in 2022.

Results

Saturday October 12

Senior Piping:

Ceòl Mòr (B360), Piobaireachd, competitor's choice: 1 John Dew, Am Blàr Dubh, James R. Johnston Memorial Trophy; 2 Angus Finlay MacPhee, Inbhir Nis, 3 Darach Urquhart, Glaschu.

Ceòl Beag (B361): Playing a four-part, 2/4 March, Strathspey and Reel, own choice: 1 Finlay Cameron, Drochaid Ruaidh, John T. MacRae Cup; 2 Steven Leask, Glaschu; 3 Angus Finlay MacPhee, Inbhir Nis.

Hornpipe and Jig (B362): Playing a hornpipe and jig, competitor's choice: Archie Drennan, Druim na Drochaid, Argyllshire Gathering Quaich; 2 Finlay Cameron, Drochaid Ruaidh; 3 Steven Leask, Glaschu.

Junior piping:

Bagpipes, ages 15 years-and-under (C132A): Play the ground of a Piobaireachd, own choice: 1 Aaron Ingram, Sgoil MhicNeacail; 2 Archie Johnston, Bun-sgoil Bhun Easain, 3 James Simpson, Pàislig.

Bagpipes, 16-18 years, Piobaireachd (C132): 1 Eilidh Morag Nic a' Phi, Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir Nis, W.G.G. Wilson Trophy; 2 Luke Kennedy, Acadamaidh Srath Athainn; 3 Milly Fox, Àrd-sgoil Beath.

Bagpipes, 16-18 years (C130): Play a 2/4 March, Strathspey and Reel, own choice, minimum four parts each: 1 Luke Kennedy, Acadamaidh Srath Athainn, Royal Highland Fusiliers Cup; 2 Innes Scullion, Àrd-sgoil

Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu; 3 Milly Fox, Àrd-sgoil Beath.

Dr DS MacLaggan Memorial Trophy for the highest aggregate marks in C130 and C131: Luke Kennedy, Acadamaidh Srath Athainn.

Bagpipes, 16-18 years (C131): Play a Hornpipe and Jig, own choice: 1 Innes Scullion, Àrd-sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, Col Murdoch Mactaggart Bowmore Memorial Trophy; 2 Luke Kennedy, Acadamaidh Srath Athainn; 3 Tómas Young, Sgoil Ghràmar Dhùn Omhain.

Bagpipes, ages 15-years-and-under (C132B): Piobaireachd, own choice: 1 Dugald MacKechnie, Acadamaidh Dholar; 2 Ruairidh Drennan, Acadamaidh Inbhir Pheofharain; 3 Murray O'May, Àrd-sgoil Balfroid.

Novice (for pipers in their first full year of playing the bagpipes) (C86): Play a 2/4 March, own choice, novice: 1 Archie Johnston, Bun-sgoil Bhun Easain, Roderick Ross, Ferintosh, Memorial Trophy; 2 Euan McCartan, Sgoiltean Ceann Loch Gilp; 3 Charles MacLennan, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis.

Bagpipes, ages 15-years-and-under (C109): Play a Strathspey and Reel, own choice, minimum four parts each: 1 Bobby Allen, Sgoil Chryston, Lighting Electrical Cup; 2 Calum MacBarridh, Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir Nis; 3 Laura Robertson, An Gearasdan.

Bagpipes, 15-years-and-under (C108): Play a 2/4 March, own choice, minimum four parts: 1 Bobby Allen, Sgoil Chryston, Roderick Munro Quaich; 2 Eala Niamh McElhinney, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu; 3 Calum

MacBarridh, Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir Nis.

Bagpipes, ages 15-years-and-under (C131A): Play a Jig, own choice, minimum four parts: 1 Bobby Allen, Sgoil Chryston; 2 Eosaph Galbraith, Sgoil Bhàgh a' Chaisteil; 3 Eala Niamh McElhinney, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu.

Chanter:

Chanter, under-13 years (C85): Play a 2/4 March, own choice, two parts only: 1 Màiri MacLennan, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis; 2 Seonaidh Forrest, Bun-sgoil Shlèite; 3 Dòmhnall Eachann MacLean, Sgoil Bhàgh a' Chaisteil.

Chanter, under-13 years (C85A): Play a Gaelic Air, own choice, two parts only: 1 Craig MacNeil, Sgoil Bhàgh a' Chaisteil; 2 Cameron Smith, Acadamaidh an Leargaidh; 3 Dòmhnall Eachann MacLean, Sgoil Bhàgh a' Chaisteil.

Fiddle:

Fiddle, under-13 years (C83): Play a slow Gaelic Air and March, followed by a Strathspey and Reel, own choice: 1 Zoe Drysdale, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu; 2 Alice Reid, Bun-sgoil Steòrnabhagh; 3 Kate McAlaney, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu.

Fiddle Groups - senior (B342): Playing a Slow Air, March, Strathspey and Reel. Scottish traditional tunes, competitor's own choice: 1 Bùth-obrach Fidheall Chean Loch Goibhle, Dr and Mrs Atholl Robertson (Oban) Trophy.

Fiddle, ages 13-18 years (C118): Play a slow Gaelic Air and March and Strathspey and Reel, own choice:

1 Meredith Kennedy, Glenalmond, Robert MacCallum Memorial Trophy; 2 Alasdair Campbell, Glaschu; 3 Anna Robertson, Àrd-sgoil Mhalaidh and Innes Scullion, Àrd-sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu.

Fiddle Groups, Under-19 years (C176): Play a minimum of three tunes in different tempos in traditional Highland style. Performance not to exceed five minutes: 1 Strupag; 2 Village School of Music Fiddle Club; 3 Na Daoine Beaga.

Accordion and piano:

Accordion (Piano or 3/4/5 row button instrument with Stradella bass), under-19 years (C178): Play a March, Strathspey and Reel in the Highland/Gaelic/piping idiom; own choice: 1 Archie MacKechnie, Acadamaidh Dholar, Smith Mearns Trophy; 2 Duncan MacPherson Ritchie, Conservatoire Rìoghail na h-Alba; 3 Kieran MacCormick, Sgoil Chiùil na Gàidhealtachd.

Accordion (Piano or 3/4/5 row button instrument with Stradella bass), under-13 years (C84): Play a March, Strathspey and Reel in the Highland/Gaelic/piping idiom, own choice: 1 Roy Morrison, Taigh Dhonnchaidh, Daniel G R Burt (Chapelhall, Airdie) Memorial Trophy, The Smith Mearns Trophy; 2 Zoe Drysdale, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu; 3 Isla Duke, Bun-sgoil Chondobhrat and Donald Andrew Fletcher, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu.

Accordion (Piano or 3/4/5 row button instrument with Stradella bass), under-19 years (C178A): Play a selection of contemporary tradi-

tional tunes, own choice: 1 Duncan MacPherson Ritchie, Conservatoire Rìoghail na h-Alba; 2 Archie MacKechnie, Acadamaidh Dholar; 3 Darroch Wood, Acadamaidh Wallace Hall.

Piano, under-13 years (C81): Play a slow Gaelic Air and March, own choice: 1 Eilidh Thoms, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, Jenny M.B. Currie Award; 2 Alice MacLennan, George Heriot's; 3 Poppy Letta Mackay, Bun-sgoil Ghoillspidh.

Piano, ages 13-18 years (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 Isla Thoms, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu.

Right: Esme McLeod, a primary four pupil at Bun Sgoil Achadh Na Creige (Rockfield Gaelic Unit) won gold in the Poetry Recitation, age 8 girls fluent competition at the Royal National Mod.

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LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

Skye piper returns as part of trio for exciting concert

Skye piper Malin Lewis returns to the island with trad giants Jarlath Henderson and Ali Hutton for an exciting concert celebrating innovation in the piping world.

Their collaboration, *Two Octaves*, comprises Malin on Lindsay system chanter; Jarlath on Uilleann pipes and vocals; and Ali playing Highland pipes and guitar.

Their debut concert formed a highlight event at this year's PipingLive! Festival in Glasgow, where they received a standing ovation.

Malin, who is a talented piping student of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow, hails from the north of the island and is a former pupil of the National Centre of Excellence in Music, Plockton. At just 19 years



Malin and Jarlath will play Skye on Saturday October 26.

old, Malin is fast becoming nationally renowned for their

excellent musicianship and for being one of Scotland's

youngest chanter makers.

Malin was asked to play

at Celtic Connections with Bogha Frois this year and won the Danny Kyle Open Stage competition with Luc McNally and Sam Mabbet.

Malin has been featured in *Piping Today* and say one of their greatest achievements is making a wooden Lindsay system chanter which they will be featuring at the concert.

Malin said: 'I was asked to feature the chanter that I had worked on with Donald Lindsay and wanted to showcase it at the PipingLive! concert.'

'As it is so new, I wanted to demonstrate how the chanter fitted into our tradition and so the concert draws parallels between the different types of pipe.'

'We also use effects pedals

on the pipes to make unique sounds. The material is mostly self-written and, although the music is quite contemporary, it is still rooted in the Scottish tradition.'

On Saturday October 26 at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, An Talla Mhòr, the trio will perform tunes from the past as well as new music and pieces written for the PipingLive! concert.

Malin added: 'It is very special to be able to come back to Skye and play in a venue that is responsible for much of my inspiration over the years. It is very exciting to share the new music and to also share it with two other incredible musicians.'

The event is part of SEALL's continuing autumn programme and begins at 7.30pm.

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Angus Macleod lecture to be broadcast live

This year's prestigious Angus Macleod memorial lecture, to be given by Kenny Matheson, pictured, on Lord Leverhulme's ill-fated plans to transform Lewis and Harris a century ago, is to be broadcast live over the internet.

The lecture will take place at Paicr School, Gravir, South Lochs, Lewis, at 7.30pm

on Thursday October 24. Admission is free and a warm welcome is extended to everyone who can come along for what is always a wonderful evening. Refreshments will be provided following the lecture.

For those who cannot get to the Lewis venue, the event will be live-streamed to e-Sgoil at 44 Francis Street, Stornoway (contact Mira Byrne at mbyrne1u@gnes.net for details) and Comunn Eachdraidh Nis at the former Cross School in Ness (contact Anne Macleod at office@cenonline.org). You can also access the lecture online via the link www.e-sgoil.com/2019-angus-macleod-lecture/



Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

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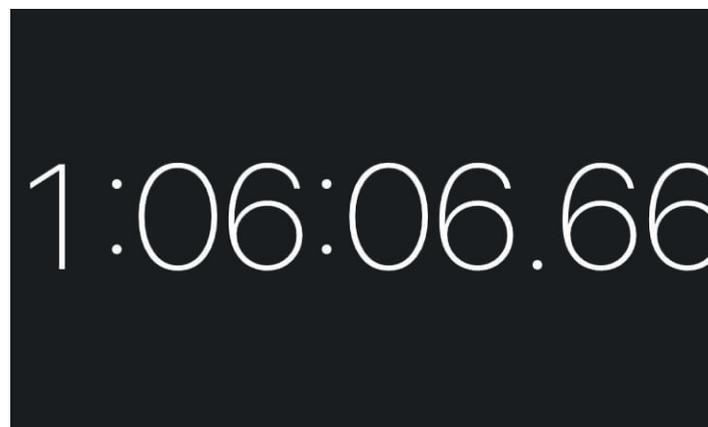
As the final notes of the massed choirs rang out down Buchanan Street on Saturday morning, a historic week in Glasgow came to an end, and plenty of Highlanders began the journey back up north.

Except, of course, for those Highlanders who live in Glasgow who began the journey back to their beds where, I imagine, they will remain for some time due to a wild week having taken its toll.

Congratulations, first and foremost, must go to all the competitors who turned up in their hundreds to make Mòd Ghlaschu 2019 a great year for entries. Particular congratulations must go to the winners – who were all very deserving of their medals.

Rather than linger too long on the subject of the competitions, however, I am going to write about a fringe event which was one of the best days and nights out I have had in Glasgow, where I have been lucky enough to live for the past eight years.

On Wednesday, Seonaidh MacIntyre, from Lochcarnan, South Uist, and friends set out to break the world record for the most amount of Gaelic waltzes sung in succession. Seonaidh put a band



The stopwatch showing the official length of the unofficial Gaelic Waltz world record attempt.

together that included his Trail West compadre Ian Smith on the box, as well as Beinn Lee's Seoras Lewis on the drums, Mánran's Ewen Henderson on the fiddle, and Lochaber's Martainn Skene on the piano.

The boys played for one hour, six minutes, and six seconds accompanying a host of fine Gaelic singers: Seonaidh, Ian and Ewen (from the band), Robert Nairn, Sineag MacIntyre, Iain Beggs, Darren MacLean, Penny Burgess,

Ruaraidh Gray, Alasdair Whyte, and the Kishorn 'craic dealer' himself, Donnie Morrison.

Talk about a massed choir – this was quite something! The difficulty involved was that for it to be continuous, we all had to sing one after the other which required some nimble movements on and off the small stage of the Park Bar.

When I got up to sing Balaich an Iasgaich, I had to begin as soon as Ian had finished Am Falbh Thu Leam. As I was handed

the microphone, I attempted to untangle it slightly from its stand and unintentionally pulled the cable right out, causing a big bang through the speakers both as the cable came out and again when I pushed it in again.

Well done, Robert. My contribution to the world record attempt (which, by the way, was being aired live on the Park Bar Facebook page and watched by hundreds of people) had begun as unprofessionally as it is possible to imagine.

I am glad to report everything then continued without incident and the world record, if such a thing actually exists, was broken successfully.

Unfortunately, there was nobody there from the Guinness book of World Records to clarify that we had indeed broken any existing records (I think the plane from Dublin must not have gone that day), but there was certainly plenty Guinness flowing from the Park Bar taps so perhaps that counts.

What a wonderful day it was – so many great people revelling in Gaelic music and song which, aside from the serious competitions, is exactly what the Royal National Mòd is all about.



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Jim Hunter, right, will be in Tobermory this weekend for this year's book festival, talking about his book, *Insurrection: Scotland's Famine Winter*.

Tobermory book festival serves up feast and famine

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Today sees the start of the 2019 Tobermory Book Festival: West Over Sea, which this year promises a veritable feast of literary offerings.

Our spotlight this week, however, highlights the exact opposite, with Jim Hunter's *Insurrection: Scotland's Famine Winter* exploring the hunger, starvation, protest and riot which gripped the north in the months following the 1846 failure of the area's potato crop.

Jim Hunter will be at the Aros Hall on Saturday October 26 4pm-5.30pm and will have quite a bit to say about how the famine affected Mull and surrounding localities. Jim, who was born and grew up in Duror and went on to Oban High School, said: 'I'm very much looking forward to being in Tobermory, as this is something of a return for me to my own part of the world.'

The 1846 potato blight saw Scotland plunged into crisis. In the Hebrides and the West Highlands, a huge relief effort came too late to prevent starvation and death. Further east, meanwhile, towns and villages rose up in protest at the soaring cost of the oatmeal that replaced potatoes as people's basic foodstuff.

As a bitter winter gripped and families feared a repeat of the calamitous famine then

ravaging Ireland, grain carts were seized, ships boarded, harbours blockaded, a jail forced open and military confronted.

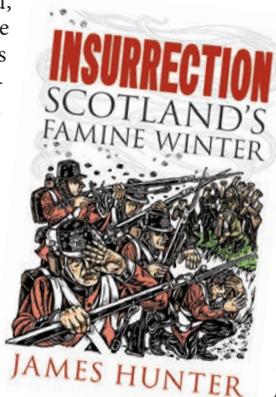
The army fired on one set of rioters while savage sentences were imposed on others. But thousands-strong crowds also gained key concessions. Above all, they won cheaper food.

Those dramatic events have long been ignored or forgotten. Now they have their historian. The story Jim tells is, by turns, moving, anger-making and inspiring.

'I'll be talking about the impact of famine on Mull, other islands and the West Highland mainland,' added Jim, whose talk will also include the protest and riot.

An account from the Greenock Advertiser's correspondent in Tobermory of conditions at the time stated: 'The children may be heard outside crying for food ... Snow aggravates our distress ... Human lives are at stake. They will be perishing about our doors ere long if something is not done.'

Jim, who has carried out a comprehensive study of the event, continued: 'What I'm looking to do is tell the story of the famine winter in a way



that tries to bring out the horrors of that grim time as it was experienced by families and individuals.

'This isn't a book about death rates. It's a book about people, about what they went through, about the tremendous

efforts made by the folk who did so much to bring emergency supplies of food to the starving.'

One such person was Oban doctor and leading layman Andrew Aldcorn, who organised the first large-scale effort to get food onto the islands.

'If ever there were to be a memorial put up to honour people who did their best to bring aid to famine victims, Andrew Aldcorn's name would surely have a prominent place,' said Jim.

The 2019 Tobermory Book Festival, West Over Sea, takes place from Thursday October 24 to Sunday October 27. A full programme of events is shown on the festival website, www.comar.co.uk.

Tickets for the events are available from Comar, the Tobermory and Mull Arts Centre, by following the link on the website to the Comar Box Office or phoning 01688 302211.

M'ALBA

MY ALBA

DIARDAOIN 24 AN AN DÀMHAIR THURSDAY 24th October

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 Gaisgich na Stoirme/Storm Heroes (rpt)
19.30 Speaking our language (rpt)
19.55 Earran Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News
20.30 Bus Ghlaschu (rpt)
20.55 Binneas – Na Trads (dosca) (rpt)
21.00 ÙR/NEW: MOD 2019: Buinn Oiran t-Seann Nois (Part 1)
23.20 Dhan Uisge (rpt)
23.30 Astrid: The Quay Sessions (rpt)
23.55 Faochy Bay (rpt)

DIHAOINE 25 AN AN DÀMHAIR FRIDAY 25th October

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's Programming
18.35 Machair (rpt)
19.00 An Là – News
19.25 Faochy Bay (rpt)
19.30 ÙR/NEW: Scottish Women's Premier League – Stirling University v Forfar Farmington
21.35 Trapped S2 (rpt)
22.25 ÙR/NEW: MOD 2019: Mod nan Coisrean

DISATHAIRNE 26 AN DÀMHAIR SATURDAY 26th October

16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's Programming
17.45 An Là – News
18.00 ÙR/NEW: Scottish Premiership – St Johnstone v Hamilton
20.00 Machair (rpt)
20.25 Faochy Bay (rpt)
20.30 Fuine S6 (rpt)
21.00 Seirm (rpt)
22.00 An Dubhlan – Sanjeev Kohli Does Gaelic (rpt)
22.55 Scottish Premiership – St Johnstone v

Hamilton (rpt)

DIDÒMHAICH 27 AN DÀMHAIR SUNDAY 27th October

16.00 ÙR/NEW: Scottish Women's Premier League – Rangers v Celtic
18.05 Faochy bay (rpt)
18.15 An Là – News
18.30 Seachd Là – News Review
19.30 ÙR/NEW: Alleluia! (rpt)
20.25 Binneas – Na Trads – Ross Ainslie (rpt)
20.30 Gaisgich Oga an Darna Cogaidh (rpt)
20.55 Binneas – Na Trads (rpt)
21.00 Truinnsearan ar Sinnsrean (rpt)
22.00 Seirm (rpt)
23.00 Trapped S2 (rpt)
23.50 Dhan Uisge (rpt)

DILUAIN 28 AN DÀMHAIR MONDAY 28th October

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 An Lot (the croft) (rpt)
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)

19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)

20.00 An Là – News
20.30 ÙR/NEW: Vets: Gach Creutair Beo S6
21.00 ÙR/NEW: Trusadh S11 – Dannsa Gaidhealach – An t-Slighe a Chomhail
22.00 TradFest (rpt)
22.30 An Dubhlan – Sanjeev Kohli Does Gaelic (rpt)
23.30 Trail west aig Barrowland (rpt)

DIMÀIRT 29 AN DÀMHAIR TUESDAY 29th October

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 Gaisgich na Stoirme (rpt)
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News

20.30 ÙR/NEW: Gaisgich Òga an Dàrna Cogaidh
20.55 Binneas – Na Trads – (Phil & Aly) (rpt)
21.00 Truinnsearan ar Sinnsrean (rpt)
22.00 Trusadh S12: Dannsa Gaidhealach – An t-Slighe a Chomhail (rpt)
23.00 Port (rpt)
23.20 Alleuia! (rpt)

DICIADAIN 30 AN DÀMHAIR WEDNESDAY 30th October

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 An Lot (rpt)
19.30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)
19.55 Earran Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News
20.30 ÙR/NEW: Fuine S6
21.00 Luther 500: An t-Strì Spioradail/ The Battle for Souls (rpt)
22.00 ÙR/NEW: Scottish Premiership – Hibernian v Livingston

DIARDAOIN 31 AN AN DÀMHAIR THURSDAY 31st October

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
18.35 Binneas – Na Trads (Duncan Chisolm) (rpt)
18.45 An Là – News
19.15 Earran Eachdraidh (rpt)
19.20 ÙR/NEW: UEFA Women's Champions league 2019 – Glasgow City v Brondby
21.30 Bus Ghlaschu (rpt)
21.55 Binneas – Na Trads (Phil & Aly) (rpt)
22.00 ÙR/NEW: An Sgrudaire
22.15 Luineagan Lannsaireachd (rpt)
23.00 Trail West aig Barrowland (rpt)
23.30 Mach A Seo (rpt)



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Cairnbaan Hotel is ideally situated for guests attending your Christmas Party from all areas of Argyll.

We are hosting two party nights this year, Friday 13th December with "Just John" and Saturday 14th with the Harley-Quins. The cost is £27.50 per person, with a £10.00 per person deposit payable in advance. Party nights at Cairnbaan are always fun and this year's are already beginning to fill up!

For those wishing to stay over we are doing a special rate on party nights of £50.00 per couple, inclusive of breakfast.

On non-party nights/lunchtimes (ie no live music) the cost is £25.00 per person.

Christmas menu is available from 1st to 21st December.



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Email: info@cairnbaan.com
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Don't forget to book mini buses and taxis well in advance too. Or treat yourself to a night in a hotel or B&B in the town.

The best dates, deals and places get booked up quickly so you need to act fast

Get your Christmas off to a cracking start by planning your party nights out well in advance.

The same goes for your Christmas lunches too! Argyll and Bute schools close for Christmas on Friday December 20 and you will not be popular if you book a Christmas lunch or after work drinks party on that day.

This is why getting organised as soon as possible is so important. In the run up to Christmas people's diaries start to fill up very quickly; the best bet is to use the party for work as an event which opens, rather than closes the party season.

So it is a good idea to have a couple of alternative dates to send round in an email or pin up on the notice board. There are lots of school concerts and parties to factor in; Argyll is a very sociable place.

Another idea which is becoming very popular is 'layering' your party, be it for work, a club or a large gathering of friends.

Plan to meet for drinks after work or early in the evening and then go on for a meal with drinks afterwards.

That way people with other commitments that night can come to one or all of the night's fun as and when suits them. This is also a great way to include everyone. Mums and dads can go for the first part of the evening, or go home from work and return later.

This layered approach also helps people who live out of town, or those who might be on a tight budget and would prefer not to go out for the whole evening.

Remember that a Christmas party can also include a trip to the cinema or a concert or dance – and there are plenty on offer this Christmas.

ong!



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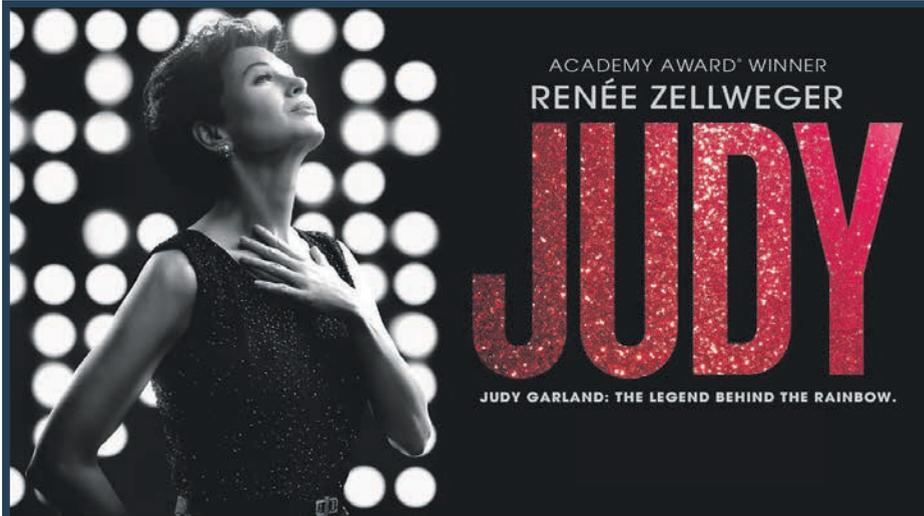
FESTIVE MENU COMING SOON
(Please see website and Facebook page for further details)



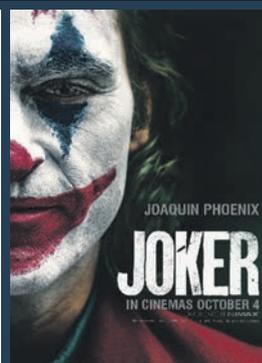
Open throughout the festive period Mon-Sat 12noon-3pm
6pm-9pm and Sunday 12.30pm-7pm.
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01866 833000 info@kilchrenaninn.co.uk

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FRIDAY 25TH OCTOBER	
Maleficent: Mistress of Evil PG	12:00/15:30/17:00/18:00
Judy 12A	19:45
Joker 15	20:30
SATURDAY 26TH OCTOBER	
The Angry Birds Movie 2 U	11:30 ★
Maleficent: Mistress of Evil PG	11:45/14:30/17:15
Abominable U	13:45/16:00
Judy 12A	20:00
Joker 15	20:30
SUNDAY 27TH OCTOBER	
Maleficent: Mistress of Evil PG	11:30/14:15/17:00
Abominable U	12:30/14:45
Monthly Musical:	
The Phantom of the Opera 12A	17:00
Joker 15	19:45
Judy 12A	19:45
MONDAY 28TH OCTOBER	
Maleficent: Mistress of Evil PG	12:00/16:00/17:15
Judy 12A	18:30
Connect 15 With Director Q&A	20:00
Joker 15	21:00
TUESDAY 29TH OCTOBER	
Maleficent: Mistress of Evil PG	12:00 ★/16:15/17:15
Joker 15	19:00
Judy 12A	20:00
WEDNESDAY 30TH OCTOBER	
Judy 12A	12:00 ★/20:00
Maleficent: Mistress of Evil PG	16:15/17:15
Joker 15	19:00
THURSDAY 31ST OCTOBER	
Maleficent: Mistress of Evil PG	12:00/16:15/17:00
Connect 15	14:30 ★
Joker 15	19:00
Judy 12A	19:30



KIDS CLUB ★ EVERY SATURDAY MORNING AT £3 A TICKET
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SILVER SCREEN ★ EVERY THURSDAY AFTERNOON AT £3 A TICKET



MONTHLY MUSICAL
THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
From his hideout beneath a 19th century Paris opera house, the brooding Phantom (Gerard Butler) schemes to get closer to vocalist Christine Daae (Emmy Rossum).
The Phantom, wearing a mask to hide a congenital disfigurement, strong-arms management into giving the budding starlet key roles, but Christine instead falls for arts benefactor Raoul (Patrick Wilson). Terrified at the notion of her absence, the Phantom enacts a plan to keep Christine by his side, while Raoul tries to foil the scheme.

CONNECT
FOLLOWED BY Q&A WITH DIRECTOR MARILYN EDMOND
CONNECT is the directorial debut of Marilyn Edmond and follows the story of Brian (Kevin Guthrie), a young man battling with his mental health. Outwardly, he keeps calm, goes to work and carries on. He never feels that it's possible to share his feelings, until care home owner Jeff (Stephen McCole) becomes a source of support. A flirtation with single mother Sam (Siobhan Reilly) could be a reason to choose life. Moments of optimism clash with dark despair in a strikingly filmed tale shot in North Berwick. Suicide among young men is a major issue in the UK today. Connect is an ambitious attempt to confront the issue in a heartfelt drama.

Please be advised, all films and showtimes are subject to change/availability with little or no notice. Booking is always recommended to avoid disappointment. Please check www.bbfc.co.uk for more information about film certificates.

Lunga-based wildlife artist for solo exhibition

Lunga-based landscape artist Colin Woolf is preparing for a solo exhibition at Resipole Studios in Ardnamurchan.

The exhibition will showcase some of Colin's major works, which are inspired by the scenery and wildlife of the Highlands and islands. Subjects include the mountains of Glen Garry, bathed in autumn light; the lighthouses of Port Ellen and Port Charlotte on Islay; and crashing waves at Eoropie on the Isle of Lewis.

Colin works in oils, water-colour and pencil; he prefers oils to create luminous seas and skies, and majestic, sweeping landscapes that are vibrant with colour.

He told The Oban Times: 'I love working with oils as it offers such freedom - I can create bold effects, such as swirling clouds and mist, that have an almost three-



dimensional feel to them. I want to capture that sense that the light is constantly changing, which is one of the most beautiful things about Scotland's landscape.'

Alongside his larger works, Colin is also known for reviving the 19th-century tradition of painting with a woodcock's pin-feather, a technique which was

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Life artist set at Resipole



Wildlife artist Colin Woolf with one of his oil paintings. His solo exhibition at the Resipole Gallery opens next month.

colour paper before framing. The exhibition will open with a special preview event on Sunday November 3 (3-5pm); it will then run from November 4 until December 20. Over occasional weekends, Colin will be working at his easel during the exhibition, so that visitors can watch a painting in progress. The award-winning gallery is situated between Strontian and Acharacle. Opening times and other information can be found at www.resipolestudios.co.uk.

once used by Victorian miniaturists.

These small-size, charming paintings are created entirely with a single feather, which is then inserted into the water-

For more information about Colin and his work, visit www.wildart.co.uk, email colin@wildart.co.uk or call 01852 500232.

Oban gears up for The Big Quiz

Oban Baptist Church will be again hosting The Big Quiz in the Corran Halls on Saturday November 16.

Last year the local community filled the halls to take part in the biggest multi-venue, nationwide fundraiser, with friends, families, church and businesses all helping to make the event a huge success, raising £1,500 for Tearfund, which helps some of the world's poorest people.

Mary Black, who is again organising the quiz, said: 'We are very much looking forward to this year's event after the wonderful support we received last year. We had 156 people taking part, with everyone thoroughly enjoying themselves.'

Tables will seat up to eight quizzers, and teas, coffee and cake will be served at the event.

Tickets for the quiz are priced £5 each and are available from the Corran Halls on 01631 567333.

WHAT'S ON IN OBAN

In partnership with Oban Town Diary BID4oban.co.uk



THURSDAY 24TH OCTOBER

Slimming World
Salvation Army Hall, Fort William
9:30am, 11:30am, 3:00pm, 5:00pm & 7:00pm
Tel; Gillian 07796 040803

Oban Health Walks
Oban Congregational Church
10:00am - 12:00pm

Recovery Cafe
New Hope Kitchen
12:30pm

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans
FREE JUKEBOX EVERY THURSDAY

FRIDAY 25TH OCTOBER
Hope Kitchen Music Group
Salvation Army Hall
1:00pm - 4:00pm

Parsley's Cat Cafe
New Hope Kitchen
2:00pm

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans
Rolling Drones
Open till 2:00am

SATURDAY 26TH OCTOBER

The Absolute Elvis Show
Corran Halls, Oban
7:30pm - 10:00pm

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans
Crooked Reel
Open till 2:00am

SUNDAY 27TH OCTOBER

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans
QUIZ NIGHT at 9:30pm
£1 per person, max of 6 per team
Win £20 bar voucher

MONDAY 28TH OCTOBER
Fellowship Meeting
New Hope Kitchen
2:00pm

Slimming World
Union Street/Argyll Street,
Lochgilthead
5:30pm & 7:30pm

Tel; Rhona 07880 878906
Drumming and Music Making
Taynuilt Sports Pavilion
6:30pm - 7:30pm

Martyn's Monday Club Mens

New Hope Kitchen
7:00pm - 9:00pm

TUESDAY 29TH OCTOBER

Carers Coffee Morning
North Argyll Carers Centre
10:30am - 12:00pm

Knitting Group
New Hope Kitchen
2:00pm

Martyn's Monday Club Ladies
New Hope Kitchen
7:00pm - 9:00pm

WEDNESDAY 30TH OCTOBER

Slimming World
Glencruitten Church Hall, Oban
9:30am, 11:30am, 5:30pm & 7:30pm
Tel; Gillian 07796 040803

Hope Kitchen Beach Clean
Slip opposite Stafford Street
10:30am - 12:00pm

Open Day
Greenshoots Garden
10:30am - 3:30pm

Events may charge. Please visit www.obanwhatson.co.uk for more details. To list your event, please call **01631 568000**

OFFERS & competitions

WIN

A CJ WILDLIFE GARDEN BIRD FEEDING AND CARE BUNDLE



Attract more birds to your garden and give them the best of care with this fabulous bundle of products from CJ Wildlife. Hanging bird feeders are an excellent way to feed seeds, peanuts and specialist seed mixes to the more agile species such as blue tits, greenfinches and house sparrows whilst bird tables also attract ground feeding birds including the nation's favourite, robins. CJ Wildlife feeders offer the very best in design, suitability and safety for bird feeding. Their range of bird foods have been created by ornithologists to provide nutrition and high energy when birds need it most. Plus adding a nest box will encourage birds to breed near your home and increase the success rate of future populations.

The prize, which is worth over £300, includes an impressive Queens Bird Table at 1.75m tall, innovative Apollo Click & Go Seed Feeder, 10kg of best-selling Hi-Energy No Mess Seed Mix, a selection of stylish feeders and compatible foods, wooden nest boxes and more. Made from high quality materials for you and your birds to enjoy for many years to come.

If you'd like a chance to win this amazing prize, answer the following question.
What species of bird is the nation's favourite?

To enter, send separate entries (in the same envelope) with your name, address, telephone number and email address to **Scottish Field Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL** or enter at www.scottishfield.co.uk. Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is 30 November 2019. **Winners drawn from all competitions also enter a prize to win a bottle of Whitetail Gin.**

Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Scottish Field, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Usual Scottish Field rules apply. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition - your name, address, telephone number and email address. If you wish to receive news and offers from the third party running the competition, then please mark the words "OPT IN" on your postcard entry. If you enter various competitions on one card, you will be opting in for every competition running. Unless you opt in to receive further marketing information we will only contact you if you win a prize in the competition. Scottish Field (Wyvex Media) will retain your information for a maximum of 3 months after the competition closes and then it will be deleted. If you have opted in to receive third party information, the data you have supplied will be passed to the third party company running the competition. This may be used for the purposes of the third party contacting you regarding new products and services for a period of 3 months, unless you agree to an extension with the third party company at a later date.

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31 DECEMBER

5:00PM-9:00PM:

Enjoy a Special Hogmanay Meal

UNTIL 9PM:

"Dance 'Til The Bells" Disco



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GRILLE

5:00PM-9:00PM:

Extraordinary Specials from Chef Gordon

UNTIL 9PM:

Live Music Featuring Matthew McCallister



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email: studio@obanfm.org.uk

MONDAY: 08.00 am on Fm, 08.10 breakfast show, 9.00 Monday morning with Stephen, 11.00 Ian Simmonds Monday Mix, 17.00 Drivetime, 19.00 Rosie's Highland fling with Rosie MacColl, 20.00 John McLuckie's show, 21.00 David Cullen show, 23.00 Through the night with Clyde 2
TUESDAY: 08.00 am on Fm, 08.10 Breakfast show, 10.00 Ken Hunter's Tuesday morning, 13.00 Macky on Fm, 17.00 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 19.00 Highest praise with Stuart Chalmers, 20.00 Clyde 2 through the night with the Greatest Hits.
WEDNESDAY: 08.00 am on Fm, 08.10 breakfast show, 09.00 Sounds Scottish repeat, 10.00 The Comfort Zone with Lesley Blair Simmonds, 13.00 Doug Carmichael in the afternoon. 17.00 Drivetime with Campbell Cameron, 19.00 Country meets Rock & Roll with Len Ford & Kenny MacLachlan alternating. 21.00 Gordon's Grooves with Gordon Macintyre, 12.00 Midnight through the night with Clyde 2.
THURSDAY: 08.00 - 11.00 Breakfast with Andy and Sarah, 11.00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 15.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 19.00

Christine's collection, 21.00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22.00 Margo till midnight then Through the night with Clyde 2.
FRIDAY: 08.00 breakfast show with Laura, 10.00 Teeny and Tiny aka Harry, Janet, and Anna, 17.00 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 18.45 Sports View, 19.00 Country meets Country with Jackie Craig, 21.00 Peter Rainnie 12.00 Midnight through the night with Clyde 2.
SATURDAY: 08.00 The Breakfast show with Stephen MacPhee. 10.00 Saturday Morning live with Linda Crosher, 13.00 Clyde2 Sports and the Greatest hits, 18.00 Sports view - Oban Fm Dream team, 19.00 Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling, 20.00 Dave Lewis, 22.00 Margo till Midnight then Through the night with Clyde 2 and the Greatest Hits.
SUNDAY: 09.00 Sunday Morning with Breege, 11.00 Sunday brunch with Allan MacKechnie, 13.00 Clyde 2 on a lazy Sunday afternoon with the Greatest Hits, 19.00 New Country show - David Entwistle, 21.00 Drum & Bass - Graham Scott, 23.00 Clyde 2 through the night with the Greatest Hits.



Alexander McCall Smith's fourth book in the Tobermory series, *The Secret of the Dark Waterfall*, is out now.
Photograph: Sam Jones

School Ship high jinks sees youngsters enjoy adventure closer to home

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



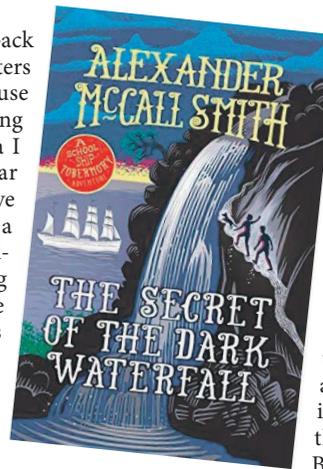
Following recent voyages to Australia and the Carribean, Alexander McCall Smith's School Ship Tobermory and its intrepid young crew are returning to home waters in the latest adventure, *The Secret of the Dark Waterfall*.

This is the fourth book in the series, which follows the swashbuckling exploits of the youngsters, who go to school aboard a sail-powered training ship.

A keen sailor himself, Smith divides his time between his homes in Edinburgh and Morvern, with his love of the sea and the West Coast palpable on every page of his novels. 'I decided to bring the SS

Tobermory back to home waters simply because I enjoy writing about an area I am so familiar with and I love the idea of a group of children going off on these adventurous journeys together around places I enjoy,' said the author, who took up sailing himself as an adult.

On their latest adventure, the children set sail for the remote islands of St Kilda where, in the island museum, they discover a fisherman's journal



written 100 years ago. It tells of a mysterious shipwreck in Loch Sunart, a boat crammed with Viking treasure.

The SS Tobermory returns to the waters around Mull in search of the lost wreck. Before long, however, Ben

and Fee MacTavish and their friends realise they are not the only ones searching for the treasure.

They must face a ruthless and determined adversary

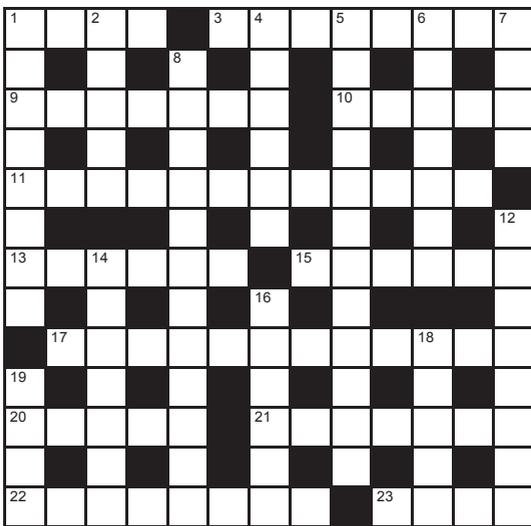
who will stop at nothing to seize the prize.

This latest instalment sees Ben's friendship with Badger hit troubled waters as Badger inexplicably takes up with Flubber, Shark and Hardtack. At the same time, his new cabin mate Rory Quinn may have something to hide.

Alexander McCall Smith is the author of more than 80 books, including the No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series, and 44 Scotland Street. He is one of the world's most prolific and popular authors, and his books have been translated into 46 languages.

The School Ship Tobermory series has sold more than 30,000 copies around the world.

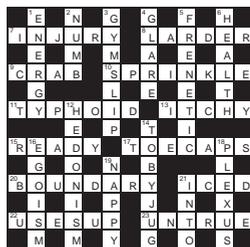
Crossword



Across

- 1 Gloomy (4)
- 3 Outer cover (8)
- 9 Thorough (2-5)
- 10 Warehouse (5)
- 11 Existence everywhere (12)
- 13 Cure (6)
- 15 Oneness (6)
- 17 Cacti fruit (7,5)
- 20 A poplar (5)
- 21 Formerly part of Yugoslavia (7)
- 22 Place for scrap (8)
- 23 Tool building (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



Down

- 1 Rum cocktail (8)
- 2 They meet in the middle (5)
- 4 To formulate old work into a different form (6)
- 5 Water container for tots (8,4)
- 6 Momentum (7)
- 7 Way in (4)
- 8 Operation (12)
- 12 Used before the ballpoint pen (8)
- 14 Disease of cattle (7)
- 16 Mining a mineral deposit (6)
- 18 Eighth letter (5)
- 19 Pilgrimage to Mecca (4)

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

HOLLY TEA

Glencruitten Parish Church Hall
Saturday 2nd November
At 2.00pm
In aid of Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre, Oban
Donations at the door
Tea / Coffee - Hot Mince Pies - Shortbread
Please give us your support today

Annual Curry & Quiz Night

Kilmelford Village Hall
7.30pm
Friday 1st November
Teams of up to 6 people - everyone welcome.
£12.50 a head
book by email to stay@melforhouse.co.uk

ST CONAN'S, LOCHAWE

Closed to Visitors from
23rd Oct-15th Nov
New lighting being installed in Nave and South Aisle
Reopens in plenty of time for the Christmas Tree Festival!
Any questions please contact enquiries@stconanskirk.org.uk

RECRUITMENT

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
HIJOBS

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Advertising Sales Manager

We have a rare and exciting opportunity for the right person to join our team in a senior sales management role.

Based in Oban, the successful candidate will report directly to our MD and will be expected to lead our experienced sales team to achieve realistic revenue targets both in print and online. They will also be expected to use their sales experience to deliver their own individual revenue target.

You will be working with highly recognisable and trusted brands including the Oban Times, Scotland's second highest selling weekly newspaper.

The right person for the job will have considerable sales experience, ideally within a media or digital background. They will have a track record of delivering results both from a personal and team perspective. They will be confident, articulate and target driven and above all they will be able to motivate and inspire their team.

In return, we offer an excellent salary, company car (you will require a full driving licence) and the chance to work in one of the most beautiful locations in Scotland.

If this sounds like you and you are up for the challenge send your CV and current salary to Nicky Murphy, nmurphy@obantimes.co.uk.



The Campbeltown Courier has an opportunity for a bright, passionate and hungry reporter to join our busy team.

The person we are looking for will ideally have passed their NCTJ Prelims, including shorthand, be multi-media literate, and unafraid of hard work.

They will be bursting with ideas on where to look for stories, understand the importance of fostering great contacts and knowing their patch, and be capable of working on their own initiative as well as part of a team.

They should also hold a full driving licence. As well as writing for the newspaper, they will be expected to take occasional pictures on the job, as well as contribute to our social media channels. In return for all this we offer a competitive salary, great experience and training, as well as an enhanced pension.

Please apply by email, sending your CV, plus a covering letter and some examples of your work to Susan Windram: swindram@obantimes.co.uk

Your Career Right Here

Various positions available

Locations covering: Mull and Stronachullin area

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Salmon Company



Why work with us?

- £150 million turnover
- 650 + staff (continually growing)
- We sell to over 26 countries around the world
- We are an internationally recognised pioneer in Aquaculture
- Sustainability is at the core of all our activities

The Scottish Salmon Company produces Scotland's Finest Sea Loch Fresh Salmon with Pride and Passion.

With our head office in Scotland's capital, Edinburgh, we breed, rear and process superior salmon exclusively in the pristine waters of the Scottish Western Highlands and Islands. Our customers appreciate our product quality, service excellence and provenance guarantee. We are also the proud recipients of multiple industry awards recognizing our commitment to Scotland, our industry and staff.

We are always looking for ambitious and motivated individuals to join our passionate team so if you want to test yourself in a challenging workplace, look no further...

Due to significant growth within our company, we are looking to recruit a number of various roles across the Torridon area.

Posts available:

- Marine Operative - Ardgadden, Stronachullin
- Marine Operatives - Mull

Skills/Experience:

- Team player – experience of working co-operatively within a small team
- Interest in Aquaculture & Maintaining the highest levels of fish welfare and animal husbandry
- Able to demonstrate good numeric and IT skills
- Ability to work weekend rotas and flexible hours as workload dictates (Freshwater & Marine Roles)



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In return we offer over 15 employee benefits, including:

- Incentive Bonus
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- Retail discount scheme
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- Relocation support
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- Occupational Health Service
- Professional Development Opportunities

How to Apply:

Please send your CV and Cover Letter to workwithus@scottishsalmon.com

Closing Date:

Tuesday 5th November 2019

You can also check out our current vacancies on our website www.scottishsalmon.com

RECRUITMENT IN ASSOCIATION WITH HIJOBS

Career opportunities 

HEAD OFFICE VACANCY
We have a vacancy in our busy administrative team at Head Office in Lochgilphead. Experience in an office environment is desirable and Training is available. The position has a varied workload and can be tailored to suit applicant's skill sets, as will salary. Duties to include Accounts, Payroll, Telephone Enquiries, Filing, Accounting Software, Excel & other office related tasks. This is a full time, permanent position.
Closing date 30th October 2019. Please send CV to: jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk

PROJECT ASSISTANT – Dunbeg Development
We require a motivated Project Assistant for a large project in Oban area. Duties include supporting Surveyors, stock taking, material ordering and general site administration tasks.
For further information please call 01546 602989 or send CV to jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk.

Career opportunities 

GROUND WORKERS - ISLAY
We have vacancies for Ground Workers for our Islay Projects. Duties will include Kerbing, Monoblock work & Fencing. These are full time Positions and available for immediate start. Positions are also suitable to Sub-Contractors. Accommodation can be arranged.

JOINERS - ISLAY
We require experienced Joiners to join our teams in Islay. These positions are also suitable to Sub-Contractors. Accommodation can be arranged. Full time, permanent positions and available for immediate start.
Send Info/CV to jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk or call 01546602989 for further info.

RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT
HIJOBS HIJOBS

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the

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

7 The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.

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

9 The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs,



Skilled Labourers
Recruiting to work on projects within our Access Development Works division on sites throughout Scotland.

Requirements

- Experience in a labouring environment would be desirable.
- Hold a CSCS card.
- A high level of health and safety awareness in the workplace is essential for this role.
- A driving licence is required.

For more information, please email info@jmsltd.co.uk or contact us on 01655 331464



PMG Engineering Services are looking for a **full time workshop supervisor** for Campbeltown depot.

PMG Engineering Services is a rapidly growing successful local company currently supplying skilled tradesmen, parts and servicing to the local area, Mid Argyll and the West Coast of Scotland.

Must have a minimum qualification level 3 on plant machinery. Very competitive wage, company vehicle and fuel provided.

Hourly rate dependent on experience.

Please send all CVs to **Peter Macgregor**
info@pmg-services.com
Tel : **07766513585**



L.M.S Autoservices require a Time Served Mechanic to work in our busy garage.

A VOSA approved MOT Tester would be preferred but not essential.

The applicant should have a full clean driving licence and be self-motivated.

Competitive wage depending on experience
Please apply with full C.V. to
lsautoservices@gmail.com
or send to 6 Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB

PUBLIC NOTICES

Argyll and Bute Council

DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES
(A85 TRUNK ROAD, OBAN TOWN CENTRE)
(TEMPORARY TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT) ORDER 2019

On Monday 21st October 2019, Argyll and Bute Council made the above named Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, which will make it unlawful for any person to wait, drive or cause or permit to be driven any motor vehicle in a manner that contravenes the restrictions on the lengths of road indicated in the schedules below. Exceptions will apply to a vehicle being used in an emergency for fire brigade, ambulance, police or coastguard purposes; a vehicle being used for carrying out the works; or a vehicle being driven under the direction of a traffic management operative.

Schedule 1 – Prohibition of Waiting – 7pm to 7am

1. Corran Esplanade (A85)	From its junction with George Street to the roundabout at the Corran Halls.
2. Dunoillie Road (A85)	From its junction with the roundabout at the Corran Halls to its junction with George Street.

Schedule 2 – Prohibition of Waiting at any time

1. Airds Place (A85)	From its junction with the A816 Argyll Square to its junction with George Street.
2. George Street (A85)	From its junction with Airds Place to its junction with Breadalbane Street.

Schedule 3 – Prohibition of Entry – 7pm to 7am

Column 1 (From)	Column 2 (To)
1. Stevenson Street	George Street (A85)
2. George Street (A85)	Stevenson Street
3. George Street (A85)	Airds Crescent
4. Queens Park Place	George Street (A85)
5. George Street (A85)	Queens Park Place
6. William Street	George Street (A85)
7. George Street (A85)	Argyll Street

The restrictions imposed by this Order which are required to allow essential works to be carried out will be effective when indicated by signs from Sunday the 3rd of November until Friday the 15th of November 2019 or until the works are complete, whichever is the earlier.

Roads & Infrastructure Services 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead PA31 8RD

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:
www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Comhairle Earra – Ghàidheal agus Bhòid 

Proposed Assignation of a Croft

Iain Graham Martin is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to assign the tenancy of the croft at Lee, Kilfinichen & Kiveckean to Robert Claxton Ingham of 71 Pool Rd, Otley.

If you consider you have a relevant interest in this application, you may submit comments in writing to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or email info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert. Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATIONS

GW MacCorquodale Ardtur, Lismore & Appin 0.095 ha – Site for a dwelling house 101555

GW MacCorquodale Ardtur, Lismore & Appin 0.197 ha – Site for a dwelling house 100557

Written comments from any member of the crofting community within the locality of the croft and any expressions of demand for the croft (which may be made public), may be sent to the Crofting Commission by 22/11/2019. Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW – info@crofting.gov.scot

Our privacy notice is available at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk/privacy-policy or on request.

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010

THE MARINE LICENSING (PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013

Notice is hereby given that The Highland Council, (having its registered office at The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX), plans to hold a pre-application consultation event regarding a proposed licensable marine activity associated with the construction of the new Invercoe Bridge located at OSGR NN09885921. The proposed activity consists of the construction of a new 60m bridge with a central pier in the River Coe on the alignment of the existing bridge. To enable traffic to continue to use the B863 between Glencoe and Kinlochleven during demolition of the existing and construction of the new bridge a temporary bridge will be constructed downstream. The activity of constructing the new and temporary bridge over the tidal reach of the River Coe is an activity that will require a marine license.

Further information can be obtained concerning the licensable marine activities noted above from;
Name: Simon Farrow (Senior Engineer) Tel: 01349 886 759 Email: simon.farrow@highland.gov.uk

The pre-application consultation events will be held as follows;
11am to 3pm, Tuesday 10th December 2019, St Mary's Church Hall, Main Street, Glencoe, PH49 4HS

Persons wishing to provide comments on the proposed licensable marine activities noted above can do so by writing to the prospective applicant at: simon.farrow@highland.gov.uk, not later than the 17th January 2020.

Or by post, not later than the 17th January 2020, to: Structures Section, Development & Infrastructure, The Highland Council, Osprey House, Alness Point Business Park, ALNESS, IV17 0UP

Comments should be dated and should clearly state the name (in block capitals) and full return email or postal address of those making comment. Comments made to the prospective application are not representations to the Scottish Ministers. When an application for a marine licence is submitted to Scottish Ministers, an opportunity will be given for representations to be made to the Scottish Ministers on the application.

During the pre application consultation any person having an interest in the outcome of the application may make a representation to the The Highland Council. The representation may contain personal information, for example a name or address. This representation will only be used for the purpose of the pre application consultation and will be stored securely by The Highland Council. Representations will be shared with the Scottish Government Marine Scotland Marine Licensing Operations Team, 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. If you have any queries or concerns about how your personal information will be handled, contact The Highland Council using the above contact details.

**Oban Times
PUBLIC NOTICES**

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence
Scot Vance t/a Scot Vance Contractors of Morvan, Corpach, Fort William, PH33 7JL is applying for a licence to use Yard 37B, Ben Nevis Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 6PR as an operating centre for 2 goods vehicles and 0 trailers. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

First Registration of a Croft
Steven Turner and Julie Turner have registered their crofts Upper Kinchreckine & Kinchreckine, Glenorchy & Innishail on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registrations may apply to the Scottish Land Court by June 23, 2020. Details of the registrations can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration numbers are C6374 & C6373.

**Oban Times
PUBLIC NOTICES**

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>; electronically at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, CHARLES KENNEDY BUILDING, ACHINTORE ROAD, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6RQ; or electronically at your nearest Council Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z

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

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
19/04570/PIP	Land 35M East Of Mountain View Murlaggan, Roy Bridge	Erection of house (renewal of application 16/04058/PIP)
19/04603/FUL	Glenfinnan House Hotel Glenfinnan	Alterations and extension to hotel (amended design from 18/04256/FUL)
19/04451/FUL	Camus, South Cuil Duror, Appin	Erection of house, yoga studio and extension to house
19/04555/FUL	Ryvoan Achdailieu Road Banavie, Fort William	Alterations to existing garage to form self contained holiday letting unit (amended design to 18/05669/FUL)
19/04538/FUL	Allanbreck Lettermore Ballachulish	Previously planning approved 19/02511/FUL for 2 pod application to be changed to 1 chalet and 1 pod provision in same area of rear garden
19/03743/FUL	Land 700M SW Of Glenspean Lodge Hotel, Roy Bridge	Erection of house and agricultural building
19/04484/FUL	Kingshouse Hotel Glencoe, Ballachulish	Stone entrance walls with signage and flagpoles to the Kingshouse Hotel access
19/04540/FUL	Land 80M North Of Brightwater Lodge Glenmore, Acharacle	Erection of house and garage

Time period for comments is 14 days

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

Argyll and Bute Council

PLANNING

These applications listed below may be inspected between 09:00-12:30 -13.30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, your Local Customer Service Point and by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

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

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
19/02119/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank	Plot 1 Land South East Of Garden Cottages, Glencruitten, Oban, Argyll And Bute
19/02074/PP	Erection of residential unit and installation of septic tank	Garden Ground Of Oir Na Mara, Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA37 1SE
19/02068/PPP	Site for the erection of 3 dwellinghouses	Land West Of Shira Cottage, Benderloch, Argyll And Bute
19/02039/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, detached garage, installation of ground mounted solar panels and formation of vehicular access	Land North West Of The Croft House, Tobermory, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute, PA75 6QA
19/02138/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Spring Tides, Land South East Of Kentallen Farm, Aros, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute
19/02047/PP	Erection of 10 metre high streetworks pole, antenna and associated works	Dervaig Village Hall, Dervaig, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute
19/01839/PP	Change of use from vet business to form extension to existing dwellinghouse	Jarew Fishnish, Craignure, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute, PA65 6BA
19/02073/PP	Demolition of existing extension, alterations and erection of replacement extension and formation of patio	Planetree, Dervaig, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute, PA75 6QJ
19/02120/PP	Amendment to previous position to facilitate change in design.	Shieling Holidays, Craignure, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute, PA65 6AY
19/02139/PP	Renewal of planning permission 14/02362/PP (change of use of pavement to form outdoor seating area)	13-15 George Street, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 5RU
19/01924/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 2 Land East Of Ardeatle Cottage, Dalmally, Argyll And Bute
19/01725/PP	Change of use from post office to hot food takeaway (sui generis), installation of 2 replacement windows and 2 doors, external flue and re-painting of building	Post Office, Main Street, Tobermory, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute, PA75 6NT
19/02146/PP	Erection of 2 dwellinghouses with detached garages and formation of vehicular access	Land South Of Bankhead, McCaig Road, Oban, Argyll And Bute
19/01582/PP	Alterations and change of use of agricultural outbuildings to corporate entertainment (Sui Generis), including re-roofing works to entire building and refurbishment works to adjoining storage building	Lossit Steadings And Lossit Cottage, Ballygrant, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute, PA45 7QL

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
Comhairle Earra - Gàidheal agus Bhòid



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568001

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Office hours: Mon - Thurs 9- 5pm, Fri 9 - 4pm

E-MAIL: adverts@obantimes.co.uk
Please remember to give your name, address, postcode and phone number.

2010 BMW 118D M-SPORT



5 door, Diesel, 1995cc, 105 kW, 65,000 miles, FSH. Last service 64,000 miles, 3 owners, New Tyres all round, 2 keys, MOT to July 2020, Located Tarbert
£4,750 ONO

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Tel 07546 788945

2014 VAUXHALL CORSA VXR



1.6 turbo, petrol, 1 owner from new 31,330 miles Full service history (all Vauxhall stamps) New tyres, discs & pads all round MOT valid until 9/9/2020 No advisories last MOT 2 keys Well looked after car
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Telephone: 07708 741103



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BIRTHS

CAMPBELL - Steven and Isla (McCull) are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their beautiful baby boy Blake McCull Campbell born on Friday, October 18, 2019. Third grandson for Stuart and Moyra Campbell, Oban and third grandchild for Robin and the late Madaline (Mairi) McCull, Benderloch. Special thanks and gratitude to all midwives and staff from Oban Maternity and Royal Alexandra, Paisley.

MACFADYEN - TUCKER - Alison and Nicholas are delighted to announce the birth of their son Peter John on Sunday, October 20, 2019 at Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow. First grandchild for Carole and Neil MacFadyen, Connel and Melanie and the late Stuart Tucker, South Wold, Suffolk.

ENGAGEMENTS

BEATON - KANE - Lachie and Marion Beaton, Oban, are delighted to announce the engagement of their elder daughter, Fiona Margaret to Thomas Allan Kane, Edinburgh on October 13, 2019.

CARMICHAEL - MUNRO - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Neil, son of Neil and June, Nant Drive, Oban to Laura, eldest daughter of Calum and Susan, Ferndene, North Connel.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

MACNEILL - CAMPBELL - On October 24, 1969, by the late Rev. McPhail at Bunessan Parish Church, Angus MacNeill to Ann Campbell. Ardness, Tiraghail, Bunessan. Mull.

Oban Times ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEATHS

BAUGHEN - Margaret (née Harkins) died peacefully at home on Saturday, October 19, 2019 in her 100th year. Much loved mother of Gail, Gordon, Eleanor and Maria, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother. Funeral will take place on November 12 at 12.00pm at The Visitation in Taynuilt. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to Marie Curie.

MACDONALD - Martha Isobel Macdonald, 4 Bogach, Northbay, Isle of Barra. Passed peacefully at home on October 20, 2019, aged 88 years. Much loved mum, nana, sister and friend. Fois agus sith.

MACPHERSON - Fred MacArthur, passed away peacefully at home in Stranraer, on Tuesday, October 22, 2019, aged 84 years. Formerly of Culcharron and Blarreen. Loving husband of Tina and much loved father and grandfather. Funeral arrangements to follow by window intimation notices.

WOOD - Peacefully, at the Mid Argyll Hospital, on October 17, 2019, Robert Alexander Wood, in his 83rd year, of McLullich Buildings, Lorne Street, Lochgilhead, beloved husband of Cathie (MacKay) and much loved father of Flora, Lachlan, Wilma and May. Much respected father-in-law of Lee, Moira, Iain and Angus, adored grandpa of Jamie, Lucy, Mark, David, Holly, Innes, Eleanor, Emily, Evan and Brodie and great grandpa of Jackson. Dear brother of the late David and Alison, and a good neighbour, former work colleague and dear friend to many. Funeral service was held at Cardross Crematorium, on Wednesday, October 23, 2019. Sadly missed by all.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAMERON - Mary Carmichael, peacefully on Tuesday, October 8, 2019 at Eadar Glinn, formerly of Achnamoine, Benderloch. The family would like to thank all of Mary's carers at home, at Lorn and Islands Hospital and Eadar Glinn who all made her later years so comfortable and allowed her wishes to be met. Thanks to D&A Munn for funeral arrangements, Donald MacKinnon for his thoughtful and comforting service and to all friends and family for their kind words and support following Mary's passing. A retiring collection raised the sum of £473.60 for Therapy Ponies Scotland.

MEMORIALS

BLACK - Kirsty, deceased October 21, 2016. Treasured memories of a loving wife, sister, sister-in-law and aunt. - With love from Jim and family.

CRAWFORD - In loving memory of Eddie passed away October 30, 2015. A dear dad and gg. Sadly and badly missed by us all.

FREW - In loving memory of George, a dearly loved husband, dad and grandpa, who died October 28, 2016. Forever in our hearts. - Jessie, Iain, Jimmy and all the family.

GIBSON - In loving memory of our dear dad and grandpa, Jimmy, who died October 23, 2014. Loved and remembered every day. - Iain and family, Dalmally and Margaret and family, Canada.

JOHNSTON - In loving memory of Margaret, our much loved mum, granny and GG, who sadly passed away October 24, 2018. God called your name so gently

That only you could hear No one heard the footsteps of the angel drawing near Softly from the shadows, there came a silent call You closed your eyes and went to sleep You quietly left us all Forever in our hearts.

- Brenda, Margaret and families.

MACCALLUM - In memory of a loving wife and mother Isobel who died October 18, 1982.

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MACEACHEN - In loving memory of Margaret (Ita), dearly beloved wife, mother and grandmother, who passed away on October 29, 2018.

Safe in God's arms. Sorely missed. Remembering you is easy, we do it every day Missing you is the heartache that never goes away. - Ian and family.

MACGILLIVRAY - Very special memories of our dear mum, Mary, (Kilchoan), who died October 29, 2018.

Always in our thoughts. Forever in our hearts. - Love John, Teen and families. x

McCOLL - Treasured memories of Madaline (Mairi), who passed away on October 26, 2004.

I thought of you today but that is nothing new I thought about you yesterday and days before that too Remembering you is easy, I do it every day

But missing you is a heartache that never goes away. - Robin, Morven and Isla.

RODGERS - In loving memory of Ian (Nena), who passed away October 27, 2018. You were a special brother and a pleasure to know and there was pain and sadness when you had to go. - Caca, Roddy and family.

WALKER - In loving memory of Marion, a loving wife and mother who passed away October 26, 2001.

Always in our thoughts. - Allan and family, Islay, Gartmore and Blanehead.

Oban Times ANNOUNCEMENTS

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PERSONAL NOTICE

THE JOHN MACEACHEN MEMORIAL

The grand sum of £6,100 was raised on John's Golf Day on September 7, 2019.

The money was divided between four local charities. Marie Curie, the Dove Centre, the NHS High Endowment Fund and the Pink Ladies.

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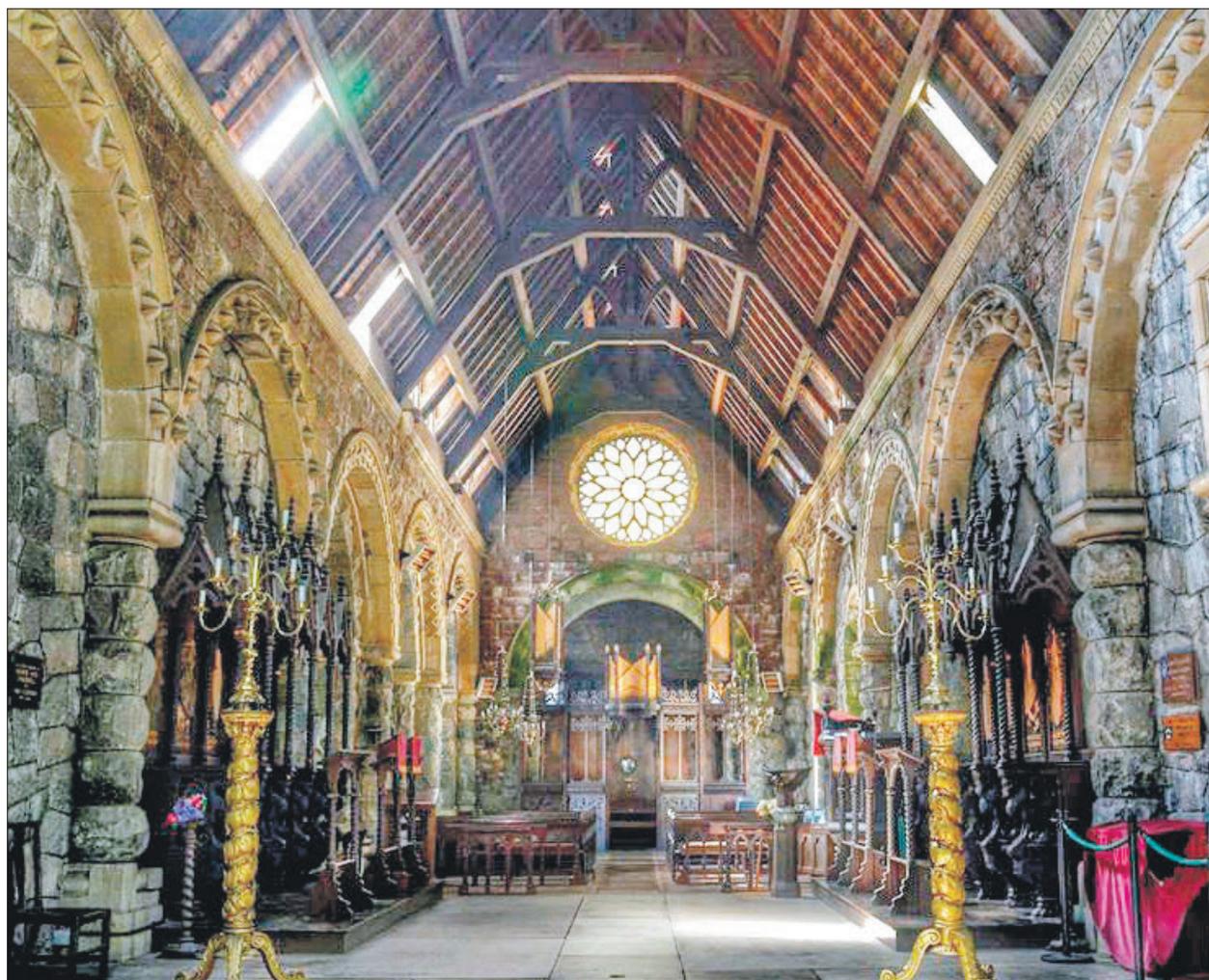
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An overall winner will land cash prize of £5,000



Could a photograph like this one by Neil Lea from Dunoon of St Conan's Kirk at Lochawe be the lucky winner?

Scots church to win £1,500 in competition

Churches in Scotland are missing out on a £1,500 prize in UK-wide photography competition.

One Scottish church will win £1,500 – but just two Scottish churches have entered so far.

Eight prizes of £1,500 will be awarded to six English regions plus Wales and Scotland winners.

A prize of £5,000 will be awarded to the overall winner following a public vote as the competition seeks to showcase the hidden treasures in the UK's churches.

Parish Pixels is a new national photography competition for churches in England, Wales and Scotland, launched by Ecclesiastical Insurance. The insurer is calling on budding photographers to capture the essence of their church in a single snapshot.

Churches will need to

submit a single photograph and a one-sentence caption to accompany it.

The image can be of people, places, features, artefacts or anything that highlights the uniqueness of the church or its importance to its local community.

Ecclesiastical will showcase some of the best entries on its website and social media channels. A panel of judges, which will include representatives from the regions, will select eight winners from across the UK who will each receive a prize of £1,500 for their church.

Following this, the public will be given the chance to vote for their favourite image before Ecclesiastical and church representatives select an overall winner. The overall winner will receive a £5,000 prize for the church.

Michael Angell, church operations director at Ecclesiastical, explained the thinking behind this year's competition. He said: 'There are so many unique and fascinating items, stories and people at our churches and we really wanted to find a way to highlight these.'

'We are all aware of the extraordinary items that can be found in the UK's cathedrals, and places like St Paul's and Westminster Abbey naturally attract tourists. But there are hidden treasures that are much closer to our own homes. We hope that Parish Pixels helps highlight some of these and encourages people to visit their local church.'

The competition closes on October 31 but so far just two Scottish churches have entered. For more, go to www.ecclesiastical.com/parishpixels

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

I lift up my eyes to the mountains — where does my help come from? **Psalm 121:1**

I was thinking the other day, what or who do we put our faith in? It's not easy for most of us to have sustained theological discussions with folk as often that in itself will not convince others of our faith.

What I have found is that explaining what God has done in my life is a more convincing way to demonstrate our faith because then it suddenly becomes real.

Theology can then follow! The verse above was a question posed by the Psalmist. Looking at the majestic mountains surrounding him, he knew his help did not come from them, but from the creator who put them into place.

A few weeks ago, I was out on my wee boat fishing just off Ganavan. It was a beautiful sunny day, sea calm, very peaceful. After an

hour, I packed up as I had to head back under the Connel Bridge and knew the Falls would be flat at this time.

I hit the start button and the engine foundered. I needed to get back before the Falls began to pour back into the loch but the engine wouldn't start.

Fortunately, I had an auxiliary motor which purred into life, eventually, but only moved me at about two knots instead of the 20 knots I was expecting to get me home.

I slowly approached the bridge and I could see the eddies beginning to surface on the water. 'Lord,' I said, 'I need power to get through this.'

I hit the start button on the big engine which then roared into life and I was safely through in a few minutes. Like the Psalmist, knowing where your help comes from is the key to faith. We just have to ask.

Dr Stuart Chalmers,
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SCOTTISH FIELD'S NOVEMBER ISSUE OUT NOW

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Top 4x4s... Rugby hero Stuart Hogg... **The elusive ptarmigan...**
Niall Ferguson's profile... Readers' **Whisky Challenge...** Moray, Speyside and the Cairngorms

Fort William crowned Division champions

Mowi Premiership

**Kinlochshiel 1
Newtonmore 0**

Substitute Duncan 'DA' MacRae scored nine minutes from time to give Kinlochshiel a 1-0 win over Newtonmore in their match at Reraig.

Kinlochshiel defender Mark MacDonald returned, but Jordan Fraser was still unavailable. Promising U14 player Archie MacRae was given a place in attack and Andrew MacKenzie also started. Martin MacRae and Arron Jack joined Duncan 'DA' MacRae and Ali Nixon on the home bench.

Newtonmore's Andy MacKintosh served a one-match ban for passing through the disciplinary points threshold, whilst injury ruled out Steven Macdonald, Iain Robinson and Glen MacKintosh. Ewen Fraser was also missing. Declan Brannan in defence and Andrew Buchan in midfield started for Newtonmore, whilst Fraser MacKintosh was their only substitute.

Referee Alex MacVicar gave the crowd a cheer when he took a tumble on the new Reraig pitch after five minutes, but he recovered well to have a good game.

It was an end-to-end opening 45 minutes, with Newtonmore having the better of the clear-cut chances. But they weren't accurate enough in

front of goal to profit. When they did find the target, they saw Josh Grant equal to their efforts. Kinlochshiel have undoubtedly found a suitable replacement in goals for retired veteran Scott Kennedy.

Kinlochshiel moved John MacRae from full forward to buckshee forward at the interval and he went on to have a more telling influence in the second half.

Duncan 'DA' MacRae replaced Archie MacRae at wing forward on 53 minutes and the youngster can be pleased with his contribution.

Kinlochshiel, with Finlay MacRae looking good in full centre, had the chance to take the lead a couple of minutes later. Kinlochshiel, playing away from the Kyle side of the ground, crossed a ball into the danger area from the right and when the goal judge flagged for a Craig Ritchie 'kick', referee Alex MacVicar pointed to the spot. John MacRae stepped up but his strike, half way up the goal, went past the left post of keeper Kenny Ross.

Fraser MacKintosh took over from David MacLean on 63 minutes and the contest remained scoreless until nine minutes from time when Kinlochshiel broke the deadlock. With sticks raised, a high ball from the left dropped into a crowded goal area and when it fell for Duncan 'DA' MacRae, he hammered a powerful drive over the keeper's head into the



Fort William captain Arran MacPhee receives the Mowi National Division Trophy from Rob Woodward of Mowi. Photographs: Neil Paterson.

net from three yards outside the 'D', slightly to the left of centre.

Kinlochshiel had the ball in the net for a second time on 85 minutes but the referee's whistle had already gone for an infringement.

There was a late chance for the visitors when the ball was played to the right to Evan Menzies. His cross saw Jamie Robinson chase the ball out to the left and, with Josh Grant coming off his line to intervene, the keeper impeded Robinson, earning a yellow card. Evan Menzies had a good chance from close-in from the resultant free-hit but keeper Grant did enough to put him off and the ball went wide.

Kinlochshiel stay sixth in the league. They host Oban Camanachd in their final match of the season, scheduled for Saturday November 2.

Newtonmore play their penultimate match at Mossfield against Oban Camanachd this Saturday at noon. Newtonmore will hope to give some game time to Scottish internationals Steven Macdonald, who hasn't played since suffering a shoulder injury in the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final win over Oban Camanachd, and Iain Robinson, who has had the plaster removed from his hand following a broken finger, also sustained against the Oban side in the abandoned Scottish final.

Another Scottish international, Daniel Cameron, returns from suspension for Oban Camanachd, but Malcolm Clark is out with a broken finger.

Kyles Athletic 4 Caberfeidh 0

Kyles Athletic go third in shinty's top flight after scoring two goals in each half to beat Caberfeidh 4-0 at Tighnabruaich.

Kyles Athletic's Thomas Whyte was still missing, whilst manager Dunky Kerr also had to do without forwards Colin MacDonald and Conor Kennedy. The hosts fielded a forward line of Roddy MacDonald, Robbie MacLeod, Ross Macrae and George Thomson.

Caberfeidh's Scott McLauchlan was banned, whilst Ally MacLennan, Ben MacDonald, Liam Symonds, Callum MacKinnon, Robbie Brindle, Kenneth MacKenzie and James MacLeod were all also missing.

Boss Jodi Gorski played, with Malcolm Morrison helping out at full forward.

Craig Morrison had scored in his last 20 successive matches but, with so many absentees, he started the match at full back.

Kyles had the chance to break the deadlock midway through the first half when referee Graham Fisher awarded them a penalty. Robbie MacLeod's spot-hit came back off the post though and, with Paul MacArthur unable to turn the re-bounce home, Caberfeidh got the ball out for a corner.

Kyles kept the pressure on and when Paul MacArthur played a second corner across on 23 minutes, Ross Macrae scrambled the ball over the line to make it 1-0.

The hosts were awarded a second penalty on 29 minutes when Robbie MacLeod was taken down inside the 'D'. This time Roddy MacDonald hammered the ball home to make it 2-0.

The Kyles midfield of Paul MacArthur, Rupert Williamson and Innes MacDonald were playing plenty good balls forward and Scott MacDonald, who started the game in defence, made it 3-0 on 66 minutes, scoring from inside the

'D' from another Paul MacArthur corner.

Kyles Athletic defender Neil MacVicar was pushed up front and he made it 4-0 on 72 minutes with an effort which took a slight deflection on its way into the net.

Both teams reshuffled for the closing stages. Caberfeidh pushed Craig Morrison up front and Kyles immediately pulled Neil MacVicar back from his cameo appearance in attack to mark the Scotland forward.

Kyles also introduced Cairn Lambert for Innes MacDonald and Murdo MacRae for George Thomson.

Kyles maintained their winning margin though and whilst they now go third in the division, a second placed finish is well within their reach. They welcome Kingussie to Tighnabruaich this Saturday when Kingussie will be presented with the Mowi Premiership trophy.

The game completes Caberfeidh's season. They finish seventh on 12 points, two points better off than last term.

Lochaber P Oban Camanachd P

Lochaber were unable to raise a team for their meeting with Oban Camanachd at Spean Bridge.

Lochaber, who only had ten players available on Friday evening, have been deducted two points as a result of not fulfilling the fixture which confirms their relegation to the Mowi National Division.

Lochaber, who don't have a second team and whose last liaison was a 3-0 defeat to Kyles Athletic five weeks earlier, now drop below already relegated Inveraray to the bottom of the table with their match against Oban Camanachd rescheduled for Saturday November 16.



Fort William's Mark Grant tries to block a swing from Glasgow Mid Argyll's Calum McLay.

Fixtures

Saturday October 26

Mowi Premiership

Oban Camanachd v Newtonmore

Ross Brown

Kyles Athletic v Newtonmore

Des McNulty



Mowi North Division One

Fort William v Newtonmore

John Angus Gillies

Kingussie v Aberdeen University

Neil MacDonald

Kinlochshiel v Caberfeidh

Seven MacLachlan

Lovat v Skye

Callum Duff

Throw-ups 2.30pm unless stated.

National

Results



Mowi National Division
Fort William 4 v 2 Glasgow MA

Mowi North Division One
Lovat P v P Aberdeen University
Aberdeen unable to field a team
Glenurquhart 1 v 1 Kingussie
Caberfeidh 3 v 5 Newtonmore

Mowi South Division One
Lochside Rovers 7 v 1 Col Glen

Saturday October 19

Mowi Premiership

Kinlochshiel 1 v 0 Newtonmore
Lochaber P v P Oban Camanachd
Lochaber unable to field a team
Kyles Athletic 4 v 0 Caberfeidh

This outcome also means Kilmallie stay up in their first season back in the Mowi Premiership, regardless of the outcome of their final match at Kyles Athletic.

Mowi National Division

Fort William 4 Glasgow Mid Argyll 2

Fort William have completed their Mowi National Division season with a 100 per cent record and were presented with the league trophy after defeating Glasgow Mid Argyll 4-2 at An Aird.

There was also plenty for Glasgow Mid Argyll to celebrate as their second placed finish secures a return to Mowi Premiership shinty.

Fort William last played in the Balliemore Cup Final on August 24 when they beat Glasgow Mid Argyll 3-2 and they were along usual lines for this one with Jack Fraser, Victor Smith and Pdraig McNeil making up a strong bench.

Craig Anderson was GMA's main concern after receiving five stitches in a leg wound following the promotion-clinching win over Skye. Anderson was still troubled by the injury and failed to recover in time. The Glasgow side were also without John Sweeney, Oliver MacRae, Andy McGhee and Somhairle Fraser. Ruairaidh MacLeod was their only substitute and player/manager Mark Bain started in defence.

Alexander MacMillan gave Fort William the lead on 14 minutes. There was a melee in the visiting goal area before the ball fell for MacMillan who hit it really well. His strike hit the base of the right

post before going across the goal, then hitting the base of the left post and eventually making its way over the line.

That proved to be the only goal of the first half, although it took a terrific Paul MacKay save to deny John Don MacKenzie a leveller.

Arran MacPhee made it 2-0 five minutes into the second half. MacPhee picked the ball up and played it past Garry Luke, who fell and stayed down injured, whilst MacPhee exchanged passes with Lachie Shaw before shooting from the right, across GMA keeper Robert Dunning, into the far side of the net.

Former Kinlochshiel player Duncan MacRae pulled a goal back on 58 minutes when, on the edge of the 'D', he worked enough space to shoot, with his effort taking a deflection before looping over the keeper.

Arran MacPhee got his second to restore Fort William's two-goal cushion on 67 minutes. GMA full back Ryan Harrison, who had a great game, stopped a long ball from Jack Fraser but, as he tried to clear, Arran MacPhee won possession and blasted the ball into the top left corner of the goal from around 20 yards.

Another ex-Kinlochshiel player John Don MacKenzie, who played the whole game at full forward as he was carrying an injury, made it 3-2 on 68 minutes. MacKenzie got the ball just in front of the 'D' and sent a waist-high shot past Fort keeper Paul MacKay.

The champions had the final say on 73 minutes when substitute Pdraig McNeil added a fourth. There was a battle for possession in front of goal

Continued on page 60



Fort William's Lachie Shaw flies over Mid Argyll's Garry Luke.

new SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

Win!
THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT
£3750

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph below. 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 2pm Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline.

You may hand it into any of our offices - The Oban Times, Lochavullin, Oban; The Lochaber Times, High Street, Fort William; The Campbelltown Courier, Main Street, Campbelltown; The Argyllshire Advertiser, Argyll Street, Lochgilphead or the Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran 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

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.

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company. In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company. The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Winners agree to have their photograph taken for publicity purposes. Winners' names and home towns will appear in the newspaper. Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition. Entry data will be deleted/destroyed within 30 days of the competition entry deadline and in a manner appropriate to GDPR regulations. Entrant's details will not be used for any other activity.



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

Name

Address

Tel No.....

Please tape your £1 coin here (only if posting)

RECENT WINNERS:

- T Campbell** Sept '18 **£2500**
- S Campbell** Sept '18 **£2550**
- L Currie** Nov '18 **£800**
- L Nicolson** Dec '18 **£3900**

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



The two entries who got nearest the ball and each receive £25 are:

- J Hill**
Oban
- F Cameron**
Fort William

Continued from page 59

and when Robert Dunning saved from Alexander MacMillan, Pdraig McNeil timed his run perfectly and poked the ball under the keeper into the corner of the net.

GMA's Calum McLay spurned two late chances so the contest finished 4-2.

It has been an impressive season for Victor Smith and Adam Robertson's young charges and they now look ready to test themselves in shinty's top flight.

After the final whistle, sponsors Mowi presented the National Division trophy to Fort William captain Arran MacPhee. This will be added to the Balliemore Cup which is already in the An Aird trophy cabinet.

This match completes the Mowi National Division programme.

Mowi North Division 1 Caberfeidh 3 Newtonmore 5

The Newtonmore second team won again in their quest to retain the Mowi North Division 1 title, coming from behind twice to beat the Caberfeidh second team 5-3 at Castle Leod.

There was a minute's silence ahead of throw-up following the passing of Caberfeidh stalwart Billy Tulloch.

Newtonmore's Neil Stewart was banned.

Colin MacLennan gave Caberfeidh the lead in the opening minute but Newtonmore player/manager Orsten Gardner levelled on 14 minutes.

Ruaraidh MacLeman put the hosts back in front on 25 minutes, only for Newtonmore to fight back again with Cameron McNiven making it 2-2 on the half-hour mark.

McNiven got his second four minutes later to put Newtonmore ahead for the first time in the match and they stayed 3-2 in front until the break.

Newtonmore sealed the win early in the second half with Craig MacLeod netting five minutes after the re-start, whilst a second from Orsten Gardner made it 5-2 a minute later.

A second from Colin MacLennan with 20 minutes remaining made the final score 5-3.

Caberfeidh's Declan Wilson was sent off by referee John Wood.

The win lifts Newtonmore to second place in the division. They now trail leaders Glengarry by five points, with the sides due to meet in the final match of the season, but have three games in hand

starting with Saturday's tricky trip to An Aird to play their Fort William counterparts.

Inverness 0 Fort William 2

The Fort William second team scored twice in the last half-hour to beat the Inverness first team 2-0 in their noon throw-up at Bught Park.

After a scoreless first half, Scott Knox gave Fort William the lead on 61 minutes.

Greig Kelly sealed the win when he made it 2-0 with five minutes remaining.

The Fort William colts are back in action this Saturday when title hopefuls Newtonmore are the visitors to An Aird.

Glenurquhart 1 Kingussie 1

Jed Stoddart's goal a couple of minutes from time secured the Glenurquhart reserves a 1-1 draw with the Kingussie reserves at Blairbeg.

Ewan Baker put Kingussie ahead, beating Glenurquhart keeper Iain MacLeod to score on 66 minutes.

Good goalkeeping and determined defending looked like it would deny Glenurquhart until Jed Stoddart struck on 88 minutes to make it 1-1, earning the hosts a point.

Lovat P Aberdeen University P

Aberdeen University were unable to field a team for their match against the Lovat colts at Balgiate.

The students will be deducted a point and the match will be re-scheduled.

Mowi South Division 1 Lochside Rovers 7 Col Glen 1

A strong second half performance helped Lochside Rovers beat Col Glen 7-1 in their match at Mossfield.

Lochside's Jordan Kerr was banned but, with Oban Camanachd's match called off, they were able to field Chrissie MacMillan and youngsters Craig Easton, Blair MacFarlane and Ross Campbell. With Dougie MacDonald working and Brian MacCallum carrying an injury, Scott Buchanan stepped in between the sticks.

It was a beautiful day in Oban, with the Mossfield pitch in great condition, and although Lochside had the better of the first half, they only had one goal to show for their efforts. The goal came with six first half minutes remaining when Lewis Buchanan fired home.

It was Lewis Buchanan again a couple of minutes into the second half who doubled Lochside's lead.



Lovat women's team with the Mowi North Division 2 league trophy. Photographs: Neil Paterson.

Ross Campbell added a third on 49 minutes. Callum Kirsop played the ball to Ross Campbell from the wing and Campbell took a touch first time on his left side before sending a 25-yard shot into the top right corner of the net.

Lewis Buchanan completed his hat-trick on 63 minutes to make it 4-0 and there was now only going to be one winner.

Col Glen, who hadn't played since the end of August, were tiring and Lochside, with Blair MacFarlane running the show from full centre, took full advantage, adding three more goals in the final 15 minutes.

Craig Easton stepped forward from his defensive position on 75 minutes, dribbling the ball upfield before being challenged. As he was falling, Easton sent a shot spinning goalwards, with the ball deceiving the keeper and creeping over the line.

There was some consolation for Col Glen with 10 minutes remaining when a low, 30-yard shot took a deflection off the unfortunate Kieran Pearson, who played well in defence. It wrong-footed keeper Scott Buchanan and the ball ended up in the net.

Callum Kirsop made it 6-1 with an effort from distance on 83 minutes, after which he was substituted.

Ross Campbell got his second to round off the scoring on 85 minutes. Good inter-play between Lewis Buchanan and Jamie MacGillivray saw Buchanan slip the ball to Campbell who lashed it into the net.

Lochside finish third in South 1, with Col Glen seventh. This match completed the Mowi South Division 1 programme.

Challenge match

North Skye 1 South Skye 4

South Skye took the Ewen Morrison Memorial Cup with a 4-1 victory over North Skye in their 3pm throw-up at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree.

William MacKinnon scored



Lovat captain Laura Gallacher receives the WCA Mowi North Division 2 Trophy from Sean Anderson of Mowi.

twice for the south, with Ross MacKinnon and Daniel Morrison getting the others.

Ross Gordon countered for North Skye.

WCA round-up

Skye Camanachd and Badenoch will play-off for the Women's Mowi National division title and Lovat were presented with the Mowi North Division 2 trophy following the weekend shinty action.

Mowi National Division

Skye Camanachd 10 Ardnamurchan 0

There will be a play-off between Skye Camanachd and Badenoch to decide the Women's National Division title after Skye defeated Ardnamurchan 10-0 in their final match at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree on Saturday October 19.

Lorna MacRae scored five times in this 12.30pm throw-up, whilst Jenna Beaton grabbed a hat-trick. Megan Campbell and Emma Gordon got the others.

Skye and Badenoch have only lost one match each this season - against each other on their home ground. The result means they both end the season on 26 points and, with goal difference not counting, the sides will play-off for the league title at Craighard this Sunday.

Skye and Ardnamurchan also contested the Cuach a' Chairdeas (Quaich of

Friendship), played in memory of Joy Robson. This is normally awarded to the winner of the selected game but was presented to Ardnamurchan for the determination they have shown in every game and for their willingness to travel to fulfil all their fixtures.

Mowi North Division 2 Lovat 4 Glengarry 7

Lovat were presented with the Mowi North Division 2 title following their 7-4 defeat to Glengarry in their 2pm throw up at Balgiate.

Lovat skipper Laura Gallacher was presented with the league trophy by Sean Anderson from sponsors Mowi. It is added to the Mowi Challenge Cup which they won earlier in the season.

Fort William 8 Skye Camanachd 1

Fort William beat Skye Camanachd's second team 8-1 in their 1pm throw-up at An Aird.

Zoe Smith scored five times for Fort William with Ashleigh Fraser bagging a brace and Katherine Ann Gall getting the other.

Oban Camanachd dinner dance

Oban Camanachd will host its 130th year dinner dance at the Royal Hotel, Oban, on Friday November 29.

It is 6pm for a 6.30pm start, with a three-course meal and music from Gunna Sound on offer.

Tickets, costing £20, are available from committee members.

The club's annual player of the year awards will be presented at the event.

Oban quartet named in Scotland U21 squad

Four of Oban's brightest young shinty players have been included in Alan MacRae's Scotland U21 squad for the Mowi Shinty/Hurling international against Ireland U21 which takes place at the GAA National Games Development Centre in Abbotstown, Dublin, on Saturday November 2.

There are seven new caps in the squad as Oban Camanachd's

Daniel MacCuish, Fort William's Lachie Shaw, Beaulys Andrew Morrison, William MacKinnon from Skye Camanachd and Kingussie trio Kieran MacPherson, Alexander Michie and Ruairidh Anderson are all named, taking the Kingussie contingent to five players as Calum Grant and Roddy Young are selected again.

There is also a recall for Oban Camanachd's Daniel MacVicar who featured in the 2016 international.

Oban Camanachd's Daniel Sloss is picked again meaning he has represented the Scots at U17 and U21 level for the past two seasons.

Scott MacLachlan, Danny Kelly and Calum Grant are all selected for the fourth time at this level.

Scotland U21 from: Scott MacLachlan, Inveraray; Andrew Morrison, Beaulys; Danny Kelly, Lovat; Calum Grant, Kingussie; Daniel Sloss, Oban Camanachd; Iain Richardson, Newtonmore; Lachlan Smith, Glenurquhart; Alexander Michie, Kingussie; William MacKinnon, Skye Camanachd; Daniel MacCuish, Oban Camanachd; Innes Blackhall, Kilmallie; Jonnie MacAskill, Glasgow Mid Argyll; Kieran MacPherson, Kingussie; Lachie Shaw, Fort William; Daniel MacVicar, Oban Camanachd; Iain Robinson, Newtonmore; Findlay MacDonald, Lochaber; Roddy Young, Kingussie; Ruairidh Anderson, Kingussie; Ross Mac-Millan, Oban Celtic.

Scotland U21 head coach Alan MacRae said: 'We are delighted to announce our final squad of 20 players who will travel to Dublin at the beginning of next month to play our Irish counterparts.'

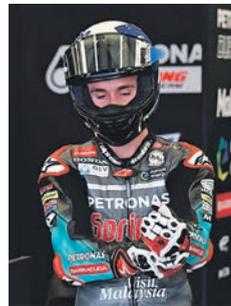
'As always, it has been a difficult decision to select the squad from the cream of Scottish under-21 shinty talent.'

'Congratulations to everyone selected. We are sure you will do your country proud.'



John McPhee in action at the Japanese Grand Prix. Photograph: PETRONAS Sprinta racing.

McPhee digs deep for solid sixth place in Japan



Oban's John McPhee and teammate Ayumu Sasaki had a solid finish to their Japanese Grand Prix weekend for PETRONAS Sprinta Racing.

They finished sixth and 13th respectively at the Twin Ring Motegi to consolidate their positions in the 2019 Moto3 World Championship standings.

John was quick to get stuck into the fight for the win in the opening minutes of the 20-lap race, running as high as fifth as he dived with the leading group. On lap 14, he was unlucky when another rider crashed out in front of him, meaning he dropped off from the

lead pack. Riding alone for the final six laps to finish sixth, 3.648secs behind the winner, he scored ten valuable points to close the gap to third in the championship.

The Moto3 World Championship continues next weekend in Phillip Island, Australia. Action gets underway tomorrow (Friday October 25) ahead of the race on Sunday October 27.

After the race John said: 'I was digging deep trying to catch the front group, but just losing out a little bit on the first part of the lap where I didn't have a slipstream. I would close in on

MOTO3

the pack ahead, then lose out again for the majority of the race. I dug deep after [Aron] Canet crashed in front of me. Looking at my lap times after the race, I was matching the leaders' pace but I just couldn't go one better and catch them. The main thing for me is that a lot of the guys around me in the championship battle were either behind me or didn't finish, so it was a race of damage limitation and the overall top three is still the target for us.'



High gun Andrew MacDonald, left, with runner up Eric MacAllister.

Tarbert trophy shoot-off

Shooters battled it out for coveted trophies at Tarbert Gun Club's annual DTL competition last weekend.

With no wind or rain, the 43 shooters were blessed with ideal shooting conditions on Sunday October 13.

As expected, scoring was high but there were no maximum point scorers in the first match as many had to use their second barrel, thus dropping a point or two.

Brian Baird and Andrew MacDonald both cleaned the second match, resulting in a tie for high gun between Andrew MacDonald and Eric MacAllister.

In a sudden death shoot-off, it took a bit to separate them. On target number 15, Eric had to use his second barrel and it cost him as Andrew broke his to win high gun

SHOOTING

for the day. A lot of visiting shooters on the day were Scottish team members, which demonstrated the high standard required to shoot for your country. The Mid Argyll boys did well though and held their own.

November's winter league will be the next test for shooters.

Results
High gun: Andrew MacDonald; runner up: Eric MacAllister, Killin; 3 Brian Baird; 4 Paul Champers, Cairndow; 5 John Weir.

Ladies cup: Justine Armstrong.

Junior shield: Matthew Peden.

Most improved: Ian Currie.

Pool-trap: 1 John Gilchrist, Campbeltown; 2 John Weir.

Martial arts

IAIN RODGER
editor@obantimes.co.uk



Kyokushinkai Karate

Instructor Iain Rodger attended the prestigious British Open Knockdown tournament at the K2 arena in Crawley on October 5 to oversee the IKKU team that had entered from around the UK. The team came away with a third place in the men's heavyweight section, courtesy of Chris McAllister from the organisation's Melton Mowbray dojo.

Entries have started to come in for the junior tournament in Lochgilphead on November 10.

Preparations have also started for the Scottish Open Adult knockdown karate tournament in Glasgow on February 29 2020. This event, organised by Iain Rodger, attracts fighters from all over Europe. The event will be held in the ARC Health and Fitness centre in Cowcadens Road.

The club's next intake of beginners will be at the start of January to allow those already training to concentrate on their work for the next grading test in December.

For details about Kyokushinkai Karate classes contact Iain on 07584 166542 or email iain@ikku.co.uk

The club can also be found on Facebook under Caledonia Kyokushin.

Kickboxing

Members are preparing for the tournament in Lochgilphead on Sunday November 10.

Classes are on Wednesdays and Sundays and beginners from age five upwards are always welcome.

Find the club on Facebook Senshi Do Kickboxing or email shihanwill@gmail.com

Shukokai Karate

The clubs are preparing students for the tournament in Lochgilphead on November 10.

Anyone looking for information on these clubs can get details from Kenny Gray on 07884 183905 or kenni.gray@btinternet.com

BJJ & MMA

The club is always looking for new members to try out Brazilian Jiu Jitsu (BJJ) and Mixed Martial Arts (MMA).

If you would like to try out BJJ or MMA, Oban BJJ can be found on Facebook or email coach Coogie Potter on coogiepots@gmail.com

Wado Kai Karate

Anyone interested in Wado karate should contact Mike Faulkner for the Park Primary School classes. These sessions are for children aged 7-10 and are at 3.15pm. Mike can be contacted by emailing m.faulkner6@btinternet.com

For the Dunbeg classes, contact Chris Bruce by emailing crb999@btinternet.com

HOCKEY



Oban mixed hockey team.

Good win for Oban

Oban Hockey Club played their first Scottish West Highland Mixed League game of the season against Lochaber on Friday.

Oban faced a strong Lochaber side and at half time it was level at 1-1.

Oban came back with determination in the second half and scored another three goals to see the match end 4-1 in their favour. On the scoresheet for Oban were Cameron Hathaway, 3, and Julie McGlynn.

OT

GOLF

MacIntyre on course to be Rookie of the Year



Bob MacIntyre.

Oban golf ace Robert MacIntyre achieved a top five finish at the recent Italian open, edging him closer to a place in the US Masters in April.

MacIntyre's joint fourth place saw him leap five places, to seventh in the Race to Dubai – the season-long competition to be crowned European number one.

He has also jumped from 99th to 86th in the world rankings, with the top 50 at the end of the year being automatically invited to the Masters in Augusta next spring.

Achieving his highest finish in a Rolex Series event, MacIntyre remains on course for the Sir Henry Cotton Rookie of the Year title, which will be announced in November.

Bob is next in action at the WGC-HSBC Champions event at Sheshan International Golf Club in Shanghai, China, starting on October 31.

The Glencruitten left-hander will do battle for the prize pot of \$10,250,000 with the world's top golfers, the likes of Rory McIlroy, Brooks Koepka, Shane Lowry, Justin Rose and Tommy Fleetwood.

OBAN SAINTS YOUTH TEAMS

Results and fixtures

Last Sunday's results: Rossvale Madrid 6, Under 13s 3. Saints goalscorers were Rhys Millar, Kai MacKechnie and James Muir. Under 14s 5, Park Sports Project 3. Scoring for Saints were Aidan MacDonald; Zander Craik, Duncan MacEwan, Logan Black and an own goal. Southside Star 1, Under 15s 6. Netting for Saints were Kyle Cooper (5) and Cooper MacIntyre. Under 17s no game.

This Sunday's fixtures: Under 13s v Busby; Renton Craigandro v Under 14s; Under 15s v BSC Glasgow; Under 17s v Summerston.

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Good Crieff, Saints win the hard way

Gaffers' goals keep Saints marching on

Vale of Earn	3
Oban Saints	3
Saints win 4-3 on penalties	
Scottish Amateur Cup	

Following the previous week's high scoring draw at Oban High School, Oban Saints and Vale of Earn produced another thriller in last Saturday's Scottish Amateur Cup second round replay at Market Park, Crieff.

Once again 90 minutes of ebb and flow couldn't separate the two evenly matched sides who finished on three goals each and a penalty shoot-out was required to decide who would progress to face Westerlands in round three.

Vale striker Peter Reilly, who had led the line well in both matches, was the unlucky man who missed the target and decided the tie in Saints favour by four successful penalty kicks to three.



Vale of Earn defender central defender Ross Brock heads the ball clear.

Saints made two changes to the previous week's starting line-up giving Willie Gemmell his first start of the season in place of the unavailable Myles McAuley and preferring fit again Ruaridh Horne at right back to utility man Matt Rippon, who dropped to the bench.

Saints kicked off attacking the King Street end of a long grassed and very heavy Market Park which favoured the home side's more direct style and eventually forced the visitors to adapt their own style accordingly.

Slammed

The home side got off to the best possible start with James Webster pulling out wide to meet a second minute ball over the top from Ross Nixon. The pacy striker raced away from Saints skipper Dene Cassells on the right and, cutting inside, slipped the ball wide of the advancing



Gaffers on target: Willie Gemmell congratulates his co-manager Donald Campbell on the equalising goal.

Graham Douglas into the path of strike partner Peter Reilly, who gleefully slammed the ball into the unguarded net.

Worse was to follow for Saints four minutes later

when they failed to deal with a throw-in from the Vale right level with the 18-yard line and left Brian Finlay in acres of room to curl a delicious left foot finish into the top corner to double the home side's advantage.

Agonisingly

Saints were reeling from Vale's blistering start and were inches away from conceding a third when Webster's pace on the counter attack once again left the Saints defence trailing. Fortunately for Saints, Peter Reilly's stretching neck muscles couldn't quite connect his forehead with Webster's cross from the right as the ball flew agonisingly across the face of goal.

The shell-shocked Oban side eventually managed to

Dee Bradbury on her trip to Japan

Continued from page 64

remembered for the devastating Typhoon Hagibis which left a trail of destruction as it battered its way across the country.

'Compared to other areas, we were lucky,' commented Dee.

'Our room was on the 30th floor, and you could feel the building sway and creak in the wind. We also had an earthquake the same night which was an interesting experience.

'The Typhoon was huge in magnitude and whilst there are dozens of reported deaths, people are still missing, which

is terribly tragic. We met with our colleagues from the Japan Rugby Union the other night, where we pledged our solidarity and expressed our sympathy for those affected.'

Dee returned to Scottish soil on Tuesday having stayed to watch the quarter-finals last weekend.

'It has been the trip of a lifetime and I am eternally grateful for the experience,' she concluded.

Dee's son Magnus played in three of Scotland's four group matches, making a huge impact on all of them.



earn Scottish Cup



Donald Campbell, on the ground, equalises in the 90th minute. Match report and photographs: Derek Black

pose a few problems of their own with Donald Campbell heading a Ruaridh Horne right wing cross wide of target from a tight angle at the back post and Vale keeper Daniel Yurdakol doing well to cut out a Lewis Cameron cross ahead of Craig MacEwan.

Saints were the beneficiaries of an uncontested drop ball after referee Race inadvertently broke up a promising attack just inside the Vale box. Donald Campbell picked out management partner Willie Gemmell who marked his first appearance of the season with a low drive from 35 yards which arced away from the despairing dive of Daniel Yurdakol and into the bottom corner of the net to bring Saints right back into the match.

Flowing

Saints pulled themselves level after 33 minutes in a move started by returning right back Ruaridh Horne. Making his first appearance since sustaining concussion in the West of Scotland Cup defeat to Inverclyde, Horne carried the ball out from the back before finding Lewis Cameron midway inside the Vale half. Cameron kept the move flowing, feeding the ball out to Craig MacEwan on the left. MacEwan did well to get away from Kros Brown and, from the bye-line, sent a low cut back to the near post where Donald Campbell got across his marker tuck the ball into the bottom corner for the equaliser.

There was a let-off for the home side when referee Race ruled an Aaron Dawson shove on Craig MacEwan to be outside the box when the offence appeared to have taken place about a foot inside the Vale penalty area.

There was a scrappy start to the second half with neither side able to create any chances of note in the opening exchanges.

Saints had another penalty

kick appeal dismissed by Mr Race when David Beaton was pushed to the ground when attempting to gather in a Willie Gemmell throw-in from the left.

The hosts regained the lead on the hour mark when a deep James Webster corner kick from the left was returned invitingly across the six-yard box by Peter Reilly and poked home at the back post by Kros Brown.

Referee Race turned down yet another Saints penalty appeal when Dene Cassells was pushed in the back trying to connect with a Lewis Cameron free-kick.

Saints sent on teenage striker Cammy Hill for the closing 20 minutes at the expense of David Beaton.

Daniel Yurdakol produced a vital double save in the 79th minute diving full length to his right to push away a Matty Kelly shot before getting quickly to his feet to block Craig MacEwan's follow up effort from a tight angle at his near post.

Graham Douglas kept his side in the tie with an excellent one-handed save low to his right from a curling left foot James Webster shot on the break which, with just three minutes remaining, would have almost certainly guaranteed a home win.

An increasingly desperate Saints threw Dene Cassells



Graham Douglas makes excellent save to deny James Webster and keep Saints in the cup tie.

into attack in an attempt to make some impression on the solid Vale back three who were winning every high ball.

The presence of Cassells was enough to force just about the only error of the afternoon from opposite number Ross Brock whose miscued attempt to head clear a 90th-minute Willie Gemmell long throw from the left could only help the ball across the face of goal.

Half volley

Donald Campbell was first to react and, after peeling off his marker on the corner of the six-yard box, met the ball perfectly on the half volley and sent it beyond Daniel Yurdakol for a last-gasp equaliser.

There was no further scoring as the home defence remained firm sending the tie into the lottery of a penalty shoot-out.

Displaying maturity beyond his tender years, Cammy Hill stepped up to dispatch the first penalty past Daniel Yurdakol to establish an early advantage for Saints.

Further successful strikes followed from Dene Cassells and Vale's Ross Nixon and Euan Carter before the decision to leave Matt Rippon on the bench threatened to prove costly when Yurdakol dropped to his right to beat away Willie Gemmell's spot kick.

FOOTBALL

Vale skipper Ross Brock confidently slammed his kick straight down the middle to edge his side in front, heaping pressure on Lewis Cameron whose response was to calmly send the keeper the wrong way and restore parity.

Having kept his side in the proceedings just a few minutes earlier, Graham Douglas made another vital intervention diving to his left to claw away David Sinclair's effort, effectively sending the shoot-out into sudden death.

Daniel Yurdakol guessed correctly but Craig MacEwan successfully found the bottom corner to heap pressure on Peter Reilly for Vale penalty number five.

The big striker left Graham Douglas rooted to the spot but steered his effort fractionally wide of the keeper's left hand post to hand the tie to Saints by the narrowest of margins.

Saints' reward for digging out a very hard-earned win is a third round away tie at Caledonian League First Division side Westerlands on Saturday November 2.

Home game

Next up for Saints is a home Central Scottish Amateur Football League Division 1B clash with Garrowhill Thistle at Glen 2 on Saturday.

Kick-off is 2pm with referee Tony McCann from Rhu in charge.

If Glen 2 is unplayable the game will be switched to the Oban Community 3G pitch at Oban High School.

Oban Saints Greater Glasgow team were in action and on the Oban Community pitch and turned in a first class performance with a resounding 14-1 home win against North Kelvin.

Scoring for Saints were Dean Smith (5), Gavin Forgrieve (3), Martin Bonar (2), Connor Howe (2), Kenneth Black and Fraser MacFarlane. They have no game this weekend.



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WEATHER

Thursday
Light rain showers and a fresh breeze
Temperatures
7°C to 11°C.

Friday
Light rain showers and a moderate breeze
Temperatures
6°C to 9°C.

Weekend Outlook
Saturday
Heavy rain and a moderate breeze
Sunday
Light rain showers and a moderate breeze
Temperatures
6°C to 11°C.



TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday October 25, 2019** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

	02.57	3.2	08.18	1.4
Thur	15.04	3.6	21.27	1.3
Fri	03.44	3.5	09.19	1.1
	15.48	3.9	22.14	1.0
Sat	04.23	3.8	10.11	0.8
	16.27	4.2	22.56	0.8
Sun	04.57	4.0	10.58	0.5
	17.04	4.3	23.36	0.6
Mon	05.30	4.1	11.42	0.4
	17.41	4.4	** ** *	**
Tues	00.14	0.5	06.05	4.2
	12.25	0.4	18.17	4.3
Wed	00.51	0.6	06.41	4.2
	13.07	0.5	18.53	4.1

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

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Dee Bradbury
on her trip
to Japan

MacIntyre on
course to be
Rookie of the Year

Rugby, being mum and Typhoon Hagibis - Dee tells of RWC experience

'It has been the trip of a lifetime and I am eternally grateful for the experience'

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Dee Bradbury's first visit to a World Cup as president of Scottish Rugby wasn't exactly what she had been hoping for in terms of results for the national side.

However, having had time to reflect on the journey as a whole, the Oban mother and former coach has described her experience in Japan as 'outstanding' and has collected many lasting memories during her time in the Land of the Rising Sun.

'The country is so clean and the people so kind and welcoming and polite,' she told The Oban Times.

Travelling between matches Dee visited Kyoto, Nara and Hiroshima one week and the islands of Ishigaki and Iriomote the next.

Her official schedule over the past month mainly related to match days as well as attending functions at embassies in Tokyo.

'Everyone seems to know where Oban is or has been there,' added Dee. 'We met Martin Sayer and Dr Wilson at the fan base at Scotland House in Yokohama.'

While Mrs Bradbury was busy with her official duties, son Magnus was involved on the playing side, having been called into Gregor Townsend's squad at the last minute as precautionary injury cover for Jamie Ritchie. The 24-year-old back row man found himself in the thick of the action after a knee injury halted Hamish Watson's progress in the tournament during the opening match.

Magnus played in three of Scotland's four group matches, making a huge impact on all of them.

'It was very emotional to see our son play in a World Cup, one of the highlights of my visit,' said Dee.

Despite being a proud mum however, president Bradbury admits that having two roles to play is not always easy.



Dee Bradbury presents Tommy Seymour with his 50th cap following the Rugby World Cup warm-up match between Scotland and Georgia at BT Murrayfield last month.

Photograph: Gary Hutchison/SNS Group/SRU.

RUGBY

'It's sometimes quite difficult to reconcile the two different roles, but I have to give him [Magnus] space to do his job,' she added.

'Whilst I'm his biggest supporter being his mother, as a former player and coach, I'm also his biggest critic.'

'Apart from a lunch in Yokohama the day after the Japan match, we left him to his own devices in camp and to focus on the matches. He was sore and tired, but has had a great experience.'

Dee also admitted to feeling disappointed following Scotland's defeat in their opener against Ireland but showed diplomacy befitting her position in terms of her thoughts on the overall team result.

'I feel that it is the role of the coaches and analysts to point out what went wrong,' she said.

RWC 2019 will also be

Continued on page 62



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High Life Highland takes flak over football fiasco

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

High Life Highland (HLH) this week stands accused of being more concerned with paperwork and profit than keeping people fit and active.

The hard-hitting condemnation came from South Lochaber Thistle (SLT) Football Club president Peter Newman, following a wrangle over the charges he claims HLH is trying to impose on the Kinlochleven-based amateur club for the use of pitches and changing rooms.

HLH was also the target of anger when this week's popular Fort William Hotshots initiative, which has run school holiday football camps for the past 12 years, came close to being cancelled at the last minute following a 'venue issue'. Luckily, further discussions saw the sessions going ahead as usual, much to the delight of youngsters and their parents.

Asked to comment, a High Life Highland spokesperson apologised for any incon-

venience. But the situations with SLT and the Hotshots event have seen HLH harshly criticised.

HLH is said to have wanted to charge SLT the full, four-hour block rate for the use of the pitch and changing rooms, which would have meant the club paying an impossible £340 a week for training sessions plus a home game.

Instead of being allowed use of Kinlochleven High School, games were switched to the Leven Centre, which Mr Newman says lacks adequate showers for 30 players.

However, an intervention from councillor Andrew Baxter has resulted in a reprieve, with use of the school allowed and two-hour bookings permitted for now. HLH has also offered to meet club officials.

Mr Newman said: 'It has been a very difficult time for us. Despite being a successful amateur club, bringing success to community football for the whole of Lochaber, every dealing we have had with High Life recently has been

demoralising. We are very grateful to them for agreeing to meet us to find a resolution but they are seriously letting people down if they feel this is how to "develop and promote opportunities in sport" as per their remit as a charity.

'How on earth a Saturday afternoon can be considered "out of hours" for a leisure facility, especially when none of their staff receives that additional money, is beyond me.

'Few of our Glasgow opponents can believe the prices we are being charged and this points to a wider issue around how fit-for-purpose this organisation is. It appears HLH is more concerned with paperwork and profit than keeping people fit and active.'

But an HLH spokesperson told the Lochaber Times: 'The pricing applied to SLT is charged at our standard community rate which is consistent across the Highlands.

'We have offered the football club an opportunity to discuss their bookings in more detail and look forward to meeting with them.'

Silver lining for Fort singer Calum



After nine days of singing, writing and reciting, this year's Royal National Mòd in Glasgow came to an end on Saturday. It was a successful festival for Fort William's Calum MacColl (MacColla), who won the men's silver pendant singing competition on Wednesday. The meteorologist told the Lochaber Times: 'It was a big surprise for me. It is a big jump from going from learners.' See inside for our 16-page Royal National Mòd special.



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Strontian craftsman's work in tune with top musicians

by Nic Goddard
fort@obantimes.co.uk

There are plenty of high-end exports from the Highlands that make it around the world – tartan and tweed, whisky and water ... the list goes on.

Also on the list is music, and Strontian-based luthier* Mike Vanden has been sending his beautifully made guitars and mandolins across the world from his workshop here for more than 30 years.

I met up with Mike in his home and workshop, a converted old school house, where the former classroom is now the heart of a career spanning more than four decades of instrument making.

The workshop is a contrasting blend of lo- and hi-tech, with a CNC milling machine and temperature- and humidity-controlled storage area for Mike's stash of wood sitting alongside planers and sanders and Mike's most used tools of all – his own ears, eyes and hands.

Mike explained how he got started as an instrument maker, telling me: 'I started out as a player, but quickly realised that while I can strum a tune I'd gone as far with that as I could, so I turned to making instead.'

Even as a child Mike had the sort of brain that wanted to explore how things worked and with an early career in design and as a draughts-



Mike Vanden in his workshop at Strontian, left, and below, Mike with Martin Taylor, with both holding instruments made by Mike.

Photograph: Adam Bulley



man behind him, working out how instruments were made was the next logical step.

Mike was working in boat building, which he tells me has parallels with instrument making and an understanding of the wood, and how it behaves is clearly an integral part of the craft.

Back in the 1970s, there were no books or courses in making the arch top guitars which were Mike's big passion. He did attend the first day of a violin-making course as the closest thing available, but realised it was not for him and set about teaching himself instead.

Long before the days of the inter-

net and YouTube tutorials, trial and error coupled with an inquiring mind was how Mike served his apprenticeship.

And it was a fairly rapid learning curve as he sold the second instrument he made and has been selling ever since.

I had fully expected to be surrounded by a showroom crammed with instruments, but Mike told me he has been trying to make a mandolin for himself for years but everything he makes sells.

Mike works on just one instrument at a time, completing an instrument before moving on to the next one.

Far from a production line, this is

an art, with full focus on one piece at a time.

He explained: 'I'm totally involved with it while I am making it and if at any stage it's not right I would discard it. I sell by reputation so I don't even set it up until it's finished, but once it's sprayed it sits for a couple of weeks before adding the bridge and the strings and by then I am on to the next one.'

Mike shows me a couple of pieces which have been discarded at various points, sometimes with 40 or 50 hours' work already done on them.

We look at the stock of wood sourced from all over the world ready for Mike to be inspired by a

piece and begin the craft. From the way he handles the wood, stroking the grain, tapping to hear the resonance created from each piece it is clear to see that each individual instrument is a piece of art, with the design, finish and sound of each one unique.

I ask if he has a list of his creations and he replied: 'I don't keep a tally, I'm not very good at keeping records of numbers made. I don't have serial numbers although I usually sign them and often leave a little message inside too which someone may find one day. I also keep a note of what did and didn't work, and the lessons I learned along the way with each one.'

Owners of Vanden instruments range from world famous musicians – Martin Taylor, Dave Pegg, Mike Oldfield – to wealthy collectors.

And Mike added: 'I know that some of my instruments are hanging on walls as pieces of art rather than working instruments – which is great, but I do love to hear them played and I've been lucky enough to hear some of the very best players using my instruments, including Martin Taylor on guitars and Simon Mayor on mandolins.'

* A luthier is someone who builds or repairs stringed instruments generally consisting of a neck and a sound box; from the French word 'luth', which means lute.

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Claims new parking policy would see more local input

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

A proposed new policy for off-street parking in Lochaber and elsewhere in Highland would streamline and simplify the process for introducing charging for many more car parks in the area and enable people to be involved locally in the decision-making and in finding solutions to any concerns raised.

That was the view earlier this week of Councillor Allan Henderson (Caol and Mallaig), chairman of the Environment, Development and Infrastructure (EDI) Committee, which meets today (Thursday) in Inverness for a special meeting about the new policy approach for off-street parking, which



There is a reducing pot of money to fund solutions for traffic congestion in places like Fort William, said Allan Henderson, left.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

could generate income for local investment.

Speaking ahead of today's meeting, Councillor Henderson added: 'The council manages infrastructure comprising some 4,000 miles of roads, 100 harbours, 1,400

bridges and over 200 schools.

'Each year, there is a reducing pot of money to invest in local infrastructure and services, and to find solutions for tourist congestion and traffic management across the region. Engagement

with communities and staff across the Highlands has identified a number of areas which need more investment – people have also told us to generate more income to protect services and jobs. We have already successfully demonstrated that we can do this in Inverness, Lochaber and Skye.'

His comments were echoed by deputy leader Councillor Alasdair Christie, who said: 'Every area has unique local priorities, whether this is gully cleaning, pothole repairs, resurfacing or just managing traffic and tourism pressures.'

'Changing our approach to charging for off-street car parking can provide a way to support some of the additional investment required to address these problems.'

'This new approach can also enable real local

decision-making and local choices to be made about improvements – improvements which we simply cannot afford from our current budget which has to be spread across a huge geographical area.'

A new policy for off-street car parking was introduced in August 2018, following a redesign review, but this has not been fully implemented.

However, Highland Council says engagement with the public has demonstrated support for the principle of introducing charges in order to support and sustain services and jobs.

The council has control of 230 off-street car parks. It currently charges for 20 with a further four having been agreed.

All potential sites are being considered for charging – with a decision made on whether to progress to

be made following public feedback.

But Lochaber Area Committee chairman Councillor Andrew Baxter (Fort William and Ardnamurchan) remains sceptical.

'It is being lauded as a fantastic thing but I will reserve my judgement until I've been able to look at it in detail,' he told the Lochaber Times ahead of today's meeting.

'The important thing to say is we are two years on from a previous car parking policy that was never implemented to the disadvantage of Lochaber.'

'What confidence should we have that this new one will ever be put in place?'

HAVE YOUR SAY
email us at fort@obantimes.co.uk

Cannabis tea on menu in Fort

A Fort William cafe now offers cannabis tea as one of its many varieties of special and flavoured brews, writes Richard Mason.

However, the brew at Not Just Desserts will not get you high as it only contains cannabidiol (CBD), the legal part of the plant.

Cafe co-owner Helen Smith got the idea to stock cannabis tea from personal experience of pain.

She said: 'I have a long-term injury and every time I went to the doctor I was given more painkillers and you can end up being dependent on them. It got to the point where I just couldn't take them anymore, but I was still in pain and felt terrible. Using CBD was a relief from the horrible feeling and took my mind off the pain.'

'Nothing is a miracle cure that will make any ailment disappear, but the benefits are great and it's a natural remedy.'

CBD has been shown to provide relieve to debilitating conditions like Alzheimer's, cancer and one study has linked it to healthy weight loss.

While Helen's son told her she would probably have high school-aged youngsters queuing up for the tea, the customers have been quite



Helen Smith enjoys a brew of cannabis tea.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

the opposite. She said: 'We have only had it a week, but within half an hour of putting it up on Facebook I had a lady come in who had tried it in Glasgow. She was occasionally using sleeping tablets, but found that CBD did the same job for her. She bought some of the teabags to give it a try.'

'A lot of the people coming in already know about CBD and have used the oils or other products. We had a regular customer in who has tried the tea. He has asked his doctor in the past to prescribe CBD, but was told there is more chance of getting a new hip.'

Medical cannabis can only be prescribed for children and adults with rare and severe forms of epilepsy, or adults with vomiting or nau-

sea caused by chemotherapy, according to the NHS.

Some CBD products bought on the internet can contain tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), which gets you high, but the tea at this cafe contains less than the legal maximum of 0.2 per cent.

The cafe will soon be stocking tea bags to buy separately, a peppermint version of the tea and some CBD oil products.

There has been interest from customers in places such as Inverness and Aberdeen, and other Highland cafes have asked about stocking the same brand.

If you have any medical conditions, you should consult your doctor before using CBD products.

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The central square on Fort William's High Street was purple to raise awareness for DLD.

Photograph: Highland Council



Cameron Square lit purple for DLD awareness

Cameron Square was lit purple last Friday to raise awareness for Developmental Language Disorder (DLD), writes Richard Mason.

It was an initiative by the Highland Council's speech and language therapists to raise awareness of DLD in the local area, joining displays all over the world.

Cameron Square was part of the global campaign, alongside the likes of the CN Tower in Canada, Niagara Falls in the USA and the Perth Sky Ribbon Bridge in Australia.

Crystelle Mountford is a specialist speech and language therapist with Highland Council. She said: 'While it can be a hidden but

common disability among children and adults, many people have never heard of the condition.

'We are trying to raise the profile of DLD, which refers to difficulties learning language. This includes speaking and understanding. It also involves reading and writing.

'DLD can have other effects on development, including social skills and emotional wellbeing. Without recognition and support, the impacts of DLD can last into adulthood by increasing the risk of unemployment and reducing the opportunity to be independent.'

A child with DLD described it as a difficulty in talking and understanding words and it

can sometimes feel like people are speaking a different language.

The child said: 'You really, really want to say something and it just stops. Your brain has just gone – is that the word, no it's not, is it this one, no it's not. It's picking out those different things. I just want it to teleport to the other person's head so they know what it means and they get what I'm trying to say to them as quickly as I can.'

To help your child with their communication skills, call Just Ask on 07785 477868 (Tuesday 2-5pm) or the local speech and language therapy service on 01397 709856. Referrals are not necessary, just telephone.

Lack of funding bring change for walking groups

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Five healthy walking groups in Lochaber are among a number across the Highlands which have lost support from their Inverness-based parent charity due to a lack of funding, it has been confirmed.

Running for 15 years, the Partnerships for Wellbeing (P4W) oversees the P4W Walk network, previously known as the Step It Up Highland walking programme.

The groups have encouraged people to walk for health and mental wellbeing benefits in Ballachulish (two groups), Fort William, Caol and Spean Bridge.

But P4W says, in common with many small third sector organisations, it is facing funding challenges.

Lynne Bannister has been the charity's co-ordinator of its health walks service since 2011 and told the Lochaber Times: 'While putting a lot of energy into seeking new funding sources we have needed to review the service we provide.

'We have a very small staff, all part-time, and have been supporting 34 walking groups covering the Highlands from Wick to Fort William and Poolewe to Tomatin. We can no longer offer the service to so many groups over such a wide area.

'This has been a very difficult decision. We are advising those groups we cannot support that they may choose to be completely independent or explore links with local community groups.

'We can offer affiliated status with P4W which would enable access to initial walk leader training and occasional ongoing training as well as publicity in our directory and website.'

And she added that all the affected groups have been offered the chance to remain linked to the Scottish Health Walk Network.

And the charity's board chair Pam Courcha added: 'We are extremely proud of and grateful for the large number of volunteer walk leaders who have given freely of their time to support the walks.

'We are very sorry we have had to make this decision but a number of groups are now well established in their local areas with excellent reputations and we are confident that they will continue to offer health walks.'

Geraldine Critchell, from P4W's Fort William walking group – one of the groups affected by the changes – said that, while the decision was 'disappointing', the popular group was continuing.

'We have decided to keep our weekly walks going. We have three weekly walks for different abilities and they have proved very popular, each one averaging between 25 and 30 walkers.

'We will not be disbanding, but will continue as a solo group. As well as the walks, we enjoy socialising together afterwards and it means that as well as the health benefits from taking part there are mental wellbeing benefits as well.'

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Staff open renovated Morrisons in Fort William

The newly renovated front of Morrisons in Fort William was officially opened by store staff who have worked there for decades. Cutting the ribbon on the extension, Linda Aswith, who has worked in the store for 30 years, alongside Scott Hollas, 28 years, helped by his daughter, eight-year-old Erin and manager Robert MacMillan, right.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Youngsters pick up awards at Fort bookshop

In a celebration of its 125th anniversary, children were invited to 'capture the spirit of the West Highland Line'.

On Tuesday October 22, at The Highland Bookshop, awards were presented to the winners and runners-up for the categories of short story, photography and posters. There were almost 60 entries, from

Surrey to Mallaig, with three winners – Alex Drysdale, 11, of Banavie, for his poster that will be replicated for the Fort William station; Archie Stewart, 10, of Crianlarich, for his photograph of the line; and Maggie MacAskill, 11, of Acharacle Primary School, for her short story about the secret life of railway animals, which was read out at the event.

Secretary for the West Highland Community Rail Partnership Hege Hernaes said: 'The 125th anniversary needed to be celebrated and a kids' competition was a way for us

to get the next generation involved. The primary schools grasped the fact that you can put so much learning into a competition like this in terms of the geography and history of the area.'

Both Mallaig and Acharacle Primaries had lots of entries and Acharacle P4-7 teacher, Margaret Ford said: 'After discussing what we would see on the journey the children came up with their own ideas for what to do. For some, this was their first piece of English writing as we speak Gaelic in class.'



Murdo Morrison, Mallaig, who was a runner-up, with Archie Stewart, runner-up Mary Margaret McAlpine of Acharacle Primary School, Maggie MacAskill and runner-up Leonie Allen, of Mallaig. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Parent Council welcomes pledge of support for Duror youngsters

by Richard Mason
rmason@obantimes.co.uk

Parents of Duror Primary School got some good news as they have now been promised a full-time Pupil Support Assistant.

The school previously had an assistant for 10 hours per week but parents have been requesting full-time assistance for the single teacher who looks after a composite class of 10 pupils.

The pupils range from P2 to P7 and a classroom assistant is essential in ensuring that all pupils learn properly when at different stages of development.

A spokesperson for Highland Council said: 'We can confirm that as part of the support given to the school following the recent Education Scotland inspection, additional assistant hours have been allocated to the school, on a fixed-term basis, for the school session.'

The assistant will now help out in class for all contact time with pupils and will be there until the end of the school year in June 2020.

Head of the Parent Council Natasha McCallum Millar said: 'If this is true, it is a major step forward towards the council putting things right.'

Last term the school had eight teachers within six months due to lack of a permanent cover for maternity leave, and recently performed very poorly on an Education Scotland inspection.

Parents have been asking Highland Council for more support for months and Ms Millar became disheartened by the lack of action taken on an at risk school like Duror.

The Parent Council still thinks more can be done to help the school and Mrs Millar previously suggested an experienced principal teacher could take some strain off the group head teacher in terms of admin work.

Duror is a small community and when the Education Scotland report came out there was outrage that the school was performing so poorly.

Chairman of the Duror and Kentallen Community Council Sandy Stoddart said: 'The whole community is keen to have a good primary because that is going to be attractive for people coming into the area.'

'It is good to be able to welcome young families into the community and a good primary school may be the deciding factor to whether they choose us over somewhere else.'

The commitment was made by the council's former interim head of education, Dr James Vance, who is now returning to his role as head teacher of Culloeden Academy. Head teacher of Alness Academy, Nicky Grant, will be replacing him.

This change in personnel is not concerning the parent council which has confirmed to the Lochaber Times that it will be picking up the outstanding issues at Duror with her at the next opportunity.

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Railway line closure is platform for successful investment

Network Rail engineers have successfully delivered upgrade and refurbishment works as part of a wider £5 million investment in the West Highland Line.

The line between Crianlarich and Fort William was closed from October 5-14, to allow vital engineering works to take place. During this time, engineers worked around the clock to refurbish bridges and renew under-track drainage systems on the line.

Bridges near Spean Bridge and Corroul were refurbished and repainted, while the timber deck was renewed and metalwork was repaired at Auch Viaduct near Bridge of Orchy. Drainage culverts beneath the track between Tyndrum Upper and Bridge of Orchy were also upgraded.

The platforms at Rannoch were rebuilt as part of the work, meaning that the station tea room could not be reached by rail during the line closure. However, over the 10-day work programme it played an important role, feeding and sustaining the



Work was carried out throughout the night to minimise disruption.

workforce and providing a welcome respite from the persistent rain.

Despite the challenging weather conditions – which included a yellow weather warning – engineers worked around 9,000 hours to remove 400 tonnes of spoil, remove and replace 600 square metres of timber decking and lay 242 metres of track, as part of an investment of more than £5 million in Scotland's railway.

Jeremy Spence, programme manager for Network Rail

Scotland, said: 'One of the major jobs requiring closure of the line was lifting the track and replacing the timber decking as part of the refurbishing of the Auch Viaduct with the metalwork on the structure also being repaired and repainted. We do, though, apologise to anyone whose plans were impacted by this closure.'

Work on the refurbishment of Auch Viaduct is ongoing, with work scheduled to be completed early in 2020.

Lochaber joins chambers in fight against tourist tax

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce has joined forces with those in Inverness and Caithness to strongly oppose the introduction of a tourist tax in the region, arguing it would be an unwelcome additional levy on the hard-pressed industry, writes Mark Entwistle.

The three chambers, which together represent 820 companies, outlined their stance in a submission to Highland Council's consultation on the issue that ended on Sunday.

The letter, signed by the chambers' chief executives Stewart Nicol (Inverness), Trudy Morris (Caithness) and Frazer Coupland (Lochaber), will also be passed to the Scottish Government which is taking submissions on the topic until December 2.

The government has committed to consult on, and introduce, legislation to give councils the power to apply the tax in their local circumstances.

Highland Council says the levy is one option it is considering as a way of raising income to manage the impact of tourism and help it invest in the industry. It estimates a levy could generate £5m-£10m each year.

In their submission, the chambers recognise the vital importance of tourism to the Highland economy and the significant role the region plays in ensuring Scotland is one of the top tourism destinations in the world.

They say they appreciate the



Lochaber Chamber CEO Frazer Coupland.

difficulty Highland Council faces in responding to the infrastructure and service challenges and are committed to working in partnership with it to respond to the situation. However, they reject the implementation of a 'tourist tax' as a mechanism to address the issue.

The submission states: 'You will be aware that the tourism sector is already facing unprecedented challenges with recruitment and retaining of skilled staff. This has been a real challenge for many years and has been critically exacerbated by the prolonged and damaging uncertainty around Brexit.'

'The sector has been under significant cost pressure in recent years, particularly around business rates. Regardless of how the levy is framed, this would act as a further unwelcome tax on this hard-pressed sector.'

The chief executives say

one of their fundamental concerns is that the levy will give out the wrong message to visitors: 'The addition of a tourism levy to the cost of each person visiting the Highland Region, no matter how nominal, will make a clear statement that this part of Scotland is more expensive to visit than elsewhere in the country.'

It is also argued that business visitors will be liable to any additional daily charge, which would inevitably add to the cost of doing business in the Highlands.

The chambers' submission also raises concerns that a levy collected on overnight stays would exclude day visitors from contributing towards infrastructure and service challenges, as well as how funds from the tax would be distributed.

'Each of our chamber territories has differing mixes of tourism offerings and infrastructure or service challenges and we have a concern that revenues raised in one area would either be insufficient to meet local needs or be used elsewhere to fund projects which are deemed more pressing,' they said.

Lochaber Chamber chief executive Frazer Coupland said: 'At this point in time there is little indication about collection and distribution and who would be affected by this tax.'

'It would increase the cost of doing business in the Highlands.'

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WHAT'S ON in Lochaber

■ Kilmallie Community Company will hold its AGM tomorrow, Friday October 25, at 7.30pm in the back hall at Kilmallie Community Centre. Find what's going on and have your say as to how to manage Corpach Woods. All welcome.

■ The Lochaber Community Wind Band will be performing in concert at Kilmallie Hall at 4pm on Sunday October 27. For details, turn to page 20.

■ Lochaber Transport

Forum holds its AGM and quarterly meeting in the Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church Hall in Fort William on October 29 at 11am.

■ Friends of Nevis will hold its AGM on Friday November 1 at Glen Nevis Restaurant, at 6.30pm. A short meeting will be followed by a talk from local climber Helen Rennard. Finger buffet (£5 donation requested). All welcome. Preferably names in advance – call Joy on 01397 772459, email

pjbiggin@gmail.com.

■ An evening of music and songs will be held in Fort William Baptist Church on Sunday November 3, at 7pm. The event is being held in aid of Mission Aviation Fellowship.

■ The 10-pin bowling team league restarts on Monday November 4 at the Nevis Centre, Fort William. Registration and practice at 6.30pm on October 28. Please turn up on the night or call 07710 940917.

Volunteers remove 115kg of rubbish from the Ben

Tissues and tampons majority of litter gathered in annual clean-up

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Tissues, tampons, a pair of shoes and a bin were among the 115kg of rubbish and other items picked up from the slopes and summit of Ben Nevis in this month's annual Real3Peaks Challenge.

A large memorial cross was also removed and taken to a memorial garden in Glen Nevis.

The event saw 30 separate locations across the UK's most iconic mountains, including Ben Nevis, all 'deep cleaned' over the same weekend.

When the event started back in 2013 with the aim of having a mass participation litter pick on the three highest peaks in Scotland, England and Wales, the total amount of rubbish scraped off the



sides of Ben Nevis alone was 230kg.

Over the intervening years, that figure has steadily decreased – with the odd exception year – and this year's event saw 115kg of waste collected from Ben Nevis by volunteers.

However, when it comes to

tackled by volunteer clean-up squads and individuals, that amount has kept increasing from 265kg in 2013 to 611kg last year – this year's figure is still being collated.

The Ben Nevis clean-up was founded and is co-ordinated by Kinlochleven-based hillwalking guide, mountain skills instructor and outdoor

The Ben Nevis deep clean team – Phil, Jon, Sebastian, Mark, Lynn, Callum, Graeme and Robert. Not pictured – Claire and Rich Pyne.

activity business owner, Rich Pyne.

In his report, Mr Pyne states that in all, 15 bags totalling 115kg of waste were removed from Ben Nevis by a team of 10 people.

'Nearly all of it was tissues and tampons, with the exception of a pair of shoes, a large cross and a bin,' he added.

Mr Pyne says the worst spot was the summit shelter after someone placed a refuse bin inside for rubbish to be disposed of.

'All it actually did was encourage people to leave stuff behind, which they did. The

food waste inside was rancid, smelt extremely strongly, and was obviously a hazard to health,' added Mr Pyne.

The memorial cross was removed from its mountain path location and handed in to the local office of the John Muir Trust.

Mr Pyne explained: 'It is most likely that it will be placed in the memorial garden in Glen Nevis, which was designed for those who wish to leave a reminder of their loved ones in the Ben Nevis area.'

'A large number of memorials are left on the Ben each year, which do not belong there. If they are not relocated, then the mountain soon looks like a cemetery.'

As well as Ben Nevis, sites cleaned in Lochaber this year also included three locations in Glencoe.

Fishermen urged to attend safety event

Fishermen in the West Highlands are being urged by Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Kate Forbes to attend an event about new safety codes.

There have been 46 fatalities on small fishing vessels in the past decade, sparking calls for improvements on mandatory requirements for machinery, crew protection and man overboard recovery.

The event has been organised by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and takes place at the Mallaig RNLI Station on Wednesday October 30 between 1pm and 4pm.

Ms Forbes said: 'Fishing remains one of the most dangerous jobs in Scotland and we all want to reduce fatalities and accidents at sea.'

'I know that the MCA have been developing a new code of practice, with new requirements. It is important these are developed in collaboration with the fishermen themselves so that they are implemented by fishing crews.'

Writing competition looks for work focusing on Highland landscape

Writers young and old are invited to submit work for the Hugh Miller Writing Competition.

This year's theme is the 51 Best Places to see Scotland's Geology with many in and around Lochaber.

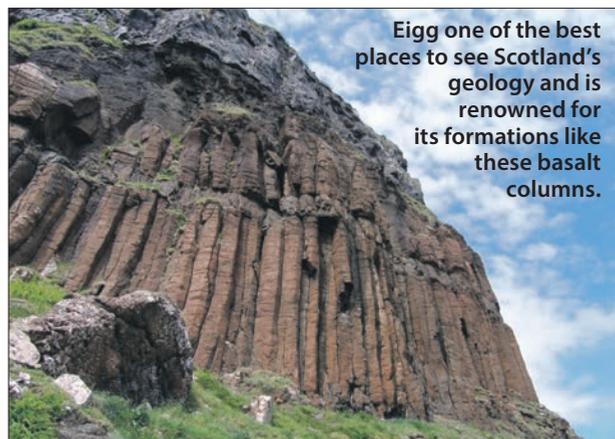
You can use one, many or all locations as a basis for a piece of fiction, non-fiction or poetry and organisers are hoping lots of young people submit work this year for the under 18 category.

Palaeontologist Elsa Panciroli is one of the judges for the competition and explained why a writing competition was set up to honour the Scottish geologist.

She said: 'Hugh Miller was such an amazing writer and could be described as the David Attenborough of his day in the early to mid 1800s.'

'He wrote the most amazing prose in newspapers and books where he wound together not only the rocks and landscapes, but the folklore and feeling of places. He was also a social activist and very inspiring person.'

Everyone with an interest in the landscape around them, its history and the processes that constructed them is



encouraged to enter. Awards will be made in poetry and prose with a weekend for two in Cromarty including a tour and fossil hunting trip as the top prize.

Lochaber has a storied history of geological discoveries including the first place where the process of a volcano collapsing was studied, at Glencoe.

The chairman of Lochaber Geopark, Jim Blair, told the Lochaber Times of all the inspiration that can be drawn from the area.

'We could have had 51 places in Lochaber alone to see geology, the diversity here is so vast.'

'Eigg was a place that Miller spent a lot of time, finding bits of plesiosaurs and shark teeth, and the parallel roads of Glen Roy were once studied by the likes of Charles Darwin as a geological mystery.'

'Before it was discovered that the roads were made through water being trapped in the glen by a glacier, mythological tales tell of an ancient race of people that cut the roads out of the hill.'

Geopark volunteers are more than happy to help with any geological questions.

The competition closes at midnight on March 15, 2020, and full details are at scottishgeology.com/hughmiller


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Lord Steel of Aikwood gives Charles Kennedy lecture

Former Lib Dem leader and Borders MP David Steel – now Lord Steel of Aikwood – will be in Fort William on Wednesday November 20 to deliver the fifth annual Charles Kennedy Lecture, writes Mark Entwistle.

The lecture is the flagship event of Lochaber Ideas Week and a highlight of the community events calendar.

Lord Steel, who was the first Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament after its reconstitution in 1999, has enjoyed an incredibly distinguished career in politics and public life.

He is a man of strong social and political convictions who is known as a superb orator.

Since the Charles Kennedy Lecture was set up in memory of the former Liberal Democrat leader and long-serving Lochaber MP, key figures from public life



Lord Steel will deliver this year's Charles Kennedy Lecture at Lochaber Ideas Week.

have been attracted to deliver the prestigious lecture.

Past speakers have included Alastair Campbell, Baron Jim Wallace, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and Lord John Thurso.

Discussing the continuing

success and growing reputation of the Charles Kennedy Lecture, Lochaber Chamber of Commerce CEO Frazer Coupland said Mr Kennedy was renowned as a quick-witted and compassionate man who revelled in ideas

and debate, adding: 'We set up the Charles Kennedy Lecture to honour his memory as one of Lochaber's favourite sons and to celebrate the power of ideas.'

'We've been very lucky to attract leading politicians

and well-known public figures to Lochaber to deliver thought-provoking and personal lectures on a wide range of topics. We're delighted to welcome Lord Steel to give this year's lecture.'

In 2018, Alastair Campbell, former head of communications for the Labour government and a long-time friend of Charles Kennedy, delivered a highly personal lecture focusing on the importance of friendship in times of trouble to a capacity crowd of almost 300 people.

The year before, Lord John Thurso's inspiring and insightful lecture focused on the vital part that tolerance plays in public and political life during uncertain times.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and Lord Wallace both gave rousing lectures, with Ms Sturgeon delighting

the audience with reminiscences of the time when she and Mr Kennedy spent time together as young politicians on a study trip to Australia in the 1990s.

One day the pair 'skived off' official activities to watch *Trainspotting* in a Melbourne cinema, drawing strange looks from others in the audience as they laughed uproariously at the Scottish jokes no one else could understand.

Mr Coupland added: 'There are no rules or criteria for the subject of the Charles Kennedy Lecture. It's really a chance for the speaker to explore a subject close to their heart, whether personal or political.'

'The lecture is a celebration of ideas and we very much look forward to hearing where Lord Steel's speech will take us this year.'

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Lord David Steel delivers the 2019 Charles Kennedy Lecture

Lord David Steel, former leader of the Liberal Democrats and long-serving MP and Peer with a distinguished career in politics and public life, will deliver the prestigious Charles Kennedy Lecture during Lochaber Ideas Week this November.

The 'Charles Kennedy Lecture' is always an informative and inspirational evening. Set up in memory of the former Liberal Democrat leader and long-serving Lochaber MP, the lecture sees distinguished speakers deliver personal and thought-provoking lectures.

Past speakers have included Alastair Campbell, Baron Jim Wallace, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and Lord John Thurso.



Image: Iain Black Photography

About David Steel, Lord Steel of Aikwood

Lord Steel is a very well-known figure in UK political life, serving first as Leader of the Liberal Party at just 38 years old and later overseeing the formation of the Liberal Democrats in 1988.

David long campaigned for Scottish devolution and became an MSP and the first Presiding Officer of the newly formed Scottish Parliament when it opened

in 1999. Lord Steel was made a Liberal Democrat Life Peer in 1997 and continues to sit in the House of Lords.

Join us for an enlightening evening with a grandee of British politics.

Wednesday 20th November, 7 – 9pm

The Ben Nevis Hotel & Leisure Club, Fort William (please note: due to unforeseen circumstances, the venue has changed as Lochaber High School is now unavailable.)

The lecture is **free** to attend, but please book your place in advance online at www.lochaberchamber.co.uk, by phone on 01397 705 765 or in person at 15 High Street, Fort William during office hours.

This event is kindly sponsored by Ferguson Transport & Shipping. Ferguson Transport & Shipping, a family-run business since 1959, is now proudly one of the largest independent integrated road, rail & sea logistic companies in the Highlands & Islands of Scotland. They proudly work 24 hours a day and 365 days a year to provide Modern Commercial Road haulage, Port, Shipping, Rail and Logistics & Warehousing.



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Lochaber Women's Aid hit hard as funding cuts continue to bite

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Lochaber Women's Aid says the funding cuts imposed by Highland Council in the previous year are continuing to hit the charity hard.

Discussing the matter at the recent AGM, it was emphasised that people should be in no doubt that the cuts to funding have had a direct impact, not only on the employment of staff but on the service offered to the vulnerable women, children and young people of Lochaber.

A further cut to the service this year saw an end to the provision of supported accommodation.

Ironically, following the 10 per cent funding cut, the demand for the women's service and children's service increased by 16 per cent and 22 per cent respectively, and for the first time in the history of the service a waiting list is in place for children

and young people who need support.

While most businesses and organisations would be proud to see an increase in referrals, sadly an increase in demand for women's aid means that there is still much to be achieved in securing gender equality.

A futher cut to the service this year saw an end to the provision of supported accommodation.

The AGM reinforced that Lochaber Women's Aid is very much a people's organisation – or, to be more specific, a women's organisation operated by women, supporting women, children and young people in the community suffering the trauma of living with domestic abuse,

whatever form that may take.

It was emphasised that the board is extremely grateful to the experienced, professional and dedicated team of staff which works so hard to deliver within the constraints of funding cuts and increased demand.

The organisation welcomed three new directors who bring a wealth of varied skills and knowledge to the board.

Tribute was paid to Liz Fotheringham, who has had to take a step back from the board after giving more than 15 years' service.

Liz was a founding member of LWA and played a pivotal role as a dedicated support worker and latterly as a board director.

The meeting was also an opportunity to recognise the other achievements over the year, which included an event to celebrate 15 years of service delivery, school and community awareness-raising sessions and being award-

ed funding via Scottish Women's Aid to appoint an Ask Me co-ordinator to pilot the Change that Lasts Ambassador project.

Newly appointed chairwoman Helen Gallon thanked everyone in the community who has supported the service and added that the organisation is determined to increase its fundraising activities, starting with a prize bingo evening at Caol Community Centre on Friday November 29.



The clean-up team on Sunday. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Volunteers tackle playpark rubbish in Fort William

Volunteers from Upper Achintore Regeneration Group (UARG) and Fort William Town Team scooped up litter from children's playparks in Fort William on Sunday, including several bags' worth in Grange Road (pictured).

The UARG-led clean-up was organised with the help of Keep Scotland Beautiful and the town team.

Town Team information officer Mark Drayton urged other areas to follow Upper Achintore's example and blitz litter on Sunday.

View from the Chamber

Earlier this month, Scotland's innovative Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) programme was awarded the Future Policy Silver Award 2019 by the World Future Council.

This is the only global award that recognises policies for the benefit of present and future generations.

The DYW programme was selected from among 67 nominated policies from 36 countries. This award highlights policies from around the world which have the most impact to empower youth.

The other winning laws and policies come from places as diverse as Rwanda, Estonia, Nepal, Los Angeles (USA), Senegal, South Africa and Europe.

DYW is Scotland's youth



employment strategy that delivers on the government's commitment to tackling youth unemployment and improving the skill levels of young people to adapt to market requirements.

The award is an amazing achievement for the programme, and for all those across Scotland who have worked tirelessly to tackle youth unemployment, address inequality and develop new pathways to help young people into positive and sustained destinations.

Above all, it recognises the success of young people across Scotland who have

striven to overcome barriers to employment and been empowered to develop skills for learning, life and work, and to embrace new opportunities and pathways.

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce is proud to host the work of the Developing the Young Workforce West Highland programme.

It provides fantastic opportunities for young people to engage with the world of work in a variety of ways that best suit their needs.

We encourage all local businesses to get involved to help excite young people about the opportunities available to them.

If you'd like to find out how you can help, give the DYW team a call for a chat on 01397 705 765 or visit www.dywwesthighland.org to find out more.



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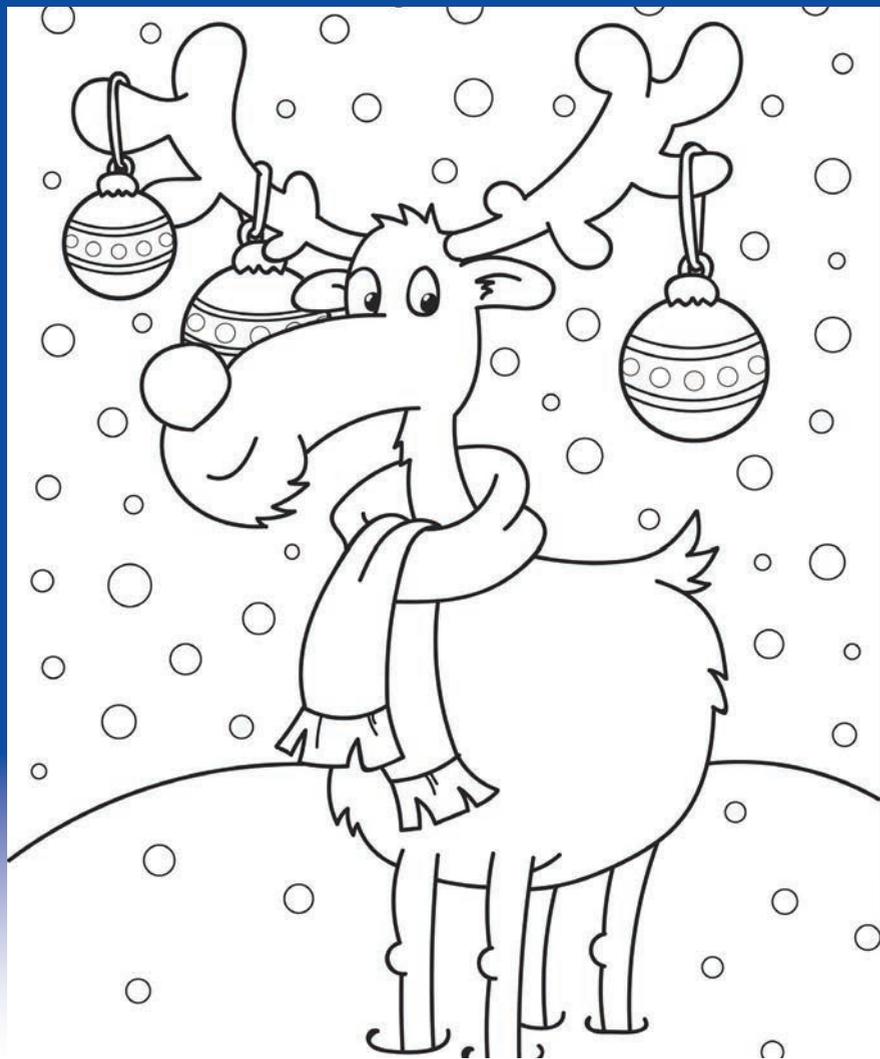
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WIN A CHANCE TO HELP SANTA ON HIS SLEIGH

Santa needs help

Can you find the hidden words in the Word Search and/or colour in Rudolph?

The Rotary Club of Lochaber in partnership with The Lochaber Times, and with support from Ferguson Transport & Shipping, has plans well in hand for this year's Christmas Festival at the Nevis Centre in Fort William on Saturday November 30.

Santa's Grotto, bouncy castle and more than 70 stalls packed with festive crafts and food products will be ready on the day.

Santa, with his sleigh and reindeer, will be arriving at Cameron Square at 10.30am

and leaving at 11am to make his way to the festival. This is a busy time for Santa and he is looking for two local youngsters aged between five and 10 years to help him and to ride in his sleigh from Cameron Square along the Parade Green over to the Nevis Centre, waving to the crowds who have gathered to watch the reindeer parade.

Last year's winners were Aine from Mallaig and David from Roybridge.

If you would like to help Santa this year and to ride on his sleigh all you have to

do is find the hidden words in the Word Search puzzle and/or colour in Rudolph.

Once you have completed the puzzle and/or Rudolph, fill in the coupon below with your details and post it with your entry to: Santa's Helpers Competition, The Editor, The Lochaber Times, 22 High Street, Fort William, PH33 6AT to arrive no later than Monday November 11. All the entries, including the winning two, will be displayed in the foyer of the Nevis Centre on the day of the Festival.

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Competition

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Word Search

Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Santa, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen, Rudolph, Sleigh, Elves

S	G	H	J	V	V	I	X	E	N
L	R	U	D	O	L	P	H	L	S
E	C	Z	K	L	D	C	V	V	D
I	F	E	P	R	A	N	C	E	R
G	G	D	G	I	N	R	O	S	E
H	S	A	T	A	C	S	M	S	N
S	S	K	Q	E	E	D	E	R	N
D	A	S	H	E	R	F	T	D	O
U	N	V	G	J	Y	E	R	S	D
W	T	Y	C	U	P	I	D	R	H
N	A	R	D	F	Y	G	S	F	S
K	H	E	B	L	I	T	Z	E	N

We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition. Entry data will be deleted/disposed in a timely manner after the competition entry deadline and in a manner appropriate to GDPR regulations. Entrant's details will not be used for any other activity'.



Lochaber's Holly appears at Greens' autumn conference

Teenage Lochaber climate striker Holly Gillibrand was in Inverness recently to appear at an event at the annual autumn conference staged by the Scottish Green Party.

Lochaber High School student Holly, 14, introduced the party political broadcast at the start of the Scottish Green New Deal plenary session.

A spokesperson from the Scottish Greens said: 'We were delighted that Holly agreed to be interviewed for our party political broadcast. She and the other climate strikers are truly an inspiration, and she gave a powerful speech reminding us exactly why we need to push the government so hard on this.'



Holly Gillibrand is pictured second left, next to party co-convenor Patrick Harvie.

A Cry For The Wild

HOLLY GILLIBRAND

fort@obantimes.co.uk



Uncooperative crusties? How about doctors, lawyers and even a princess

According to the State of Nature Report, 48 per cent of our Scottish species have declined and 11 per cent are at risk of being lost forever ... except the term 'lost' implies that our precious wildlife has disappeared suddenly with none of us the wiser as to how or when. That is far from the truth.

These figures should send people into a panic, they should make headlines, and wake everybody up; these figures should be the sole topic of conversation for weeks and months after the report was released because they confirm the fact that we are experiencing cataclysmic biodiversity loss.

The natural world has been pillaged and plundered for generations and is still being pillaged and

plundered. We know that our wildlife is declining. We know that we are at the beginning of the sixth mass extinction, or more accurately, the first mass extermination. From the 2018 Living Planet Report, we know that 60 per cent of life on Earth has been decimated in the past 50 years.

If all these things are apparent, why then do we continue down this road of madness? Why do we continue to think that we have infinite resources on a finite planet? That we can take what we want, and do what we want, without there being any consequences for the planet and humanity?

For decades, environmentalists have been screaming from the rooftops, but nobody

listened. Instead, the environmentalists were victimised and labelled as weirdo hippies. They have run out of options, so, for more than a week this October, Extinction Rebellion activists have been blocking the streets in London and more than 60 cities around the world to highlight the ecological emergency.

Let's be clear, they are not hippies. They are doctors and lawyers, scientists and paralympians, teachers and even princesses. There are thousands of ordinary citizens who are peacefully raising their voices to get governments to act on the biggest crisis facing humankind.

Well over 1,000 people have been arrested in London. Extinction Rebellion may be causing inconvenience today, but that is nothing compared to the disruption that

climate and ecological collapse will cause tomorrow if we continue with business as usual.

Currently, we are on track for catastrophic climate and ecological breakdown, probably well before the end of this century. The New York UN Climate Action Summit in September was a failure.

It failed to safeguard my future, the future of generations to come, and the world on which we all depend. It failed to protect the lives and livelihoods of people who are already suffering.

It is clear that the people in power have not listened to the youth on school strike, or the environmental activists and members of the public who are putting their liberty on the line.

That is why you must choose: extinction or rebellion?



Chair of the Board of Management Cathraiche a' Bhùird Stiùiridh

West Highland College UHI is seeking a new Chair for its Board of Management.

West Highland College UHI is a growing, dynamic and successful provider of higher and further education in the West Highlands, supported by a Board that collectively helps guide the strategic direction of the College and fosters an environment which maximises the potential of learners.

As Chair of the Board, you will bring your expertise and skills used in locally business or in the community to play a key role in ensuring that the governing body works effectively. You will have particular responsibility for providing strategic leadership to the Board and for ensuring it successfully discharges its overall responsibility for the activities of the College. You will also play a leading role in the College's relationship with the University of the Highlands and Islands and other key stakeholders.

The commitment is an average of 2-3 days a month. Expenses and a small honorarium is paid to the Chair, but the chief rewards are the ability to 'make a difference' for students, employers and local communities, and the personal satisfaction that will be gained from a leading role at a highly regarded College.

Closing date: Friday 8 November 2019

For further information please contact the secretary to the Board:
Email: claire.wylie.whc@uhi.ac.uk Tel: 01397 874525 (Monday to Thursday)

In line with our Equality and Diversity policy, West Highland College UHI is committed to ensuring that all candidates are treated on the basis of their merits and abilities, and that unfair and unlawful discrimination is eliminated. We positively welcome applications from all sections of the community.

West Highland College UHI is a company limited by guarantee (SC153921) with charitable status (SC024193)
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LT

Improvements to 4G in Outer Hebrides a 'pot luck'

There has been a lack of progress in delivering improvements to mobile phone coverage in the western isles, says SNP MP Angus MacNeil.

The Na h-Eileanan an Iar MP is writing to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and the Home Office regarding the Emergency Services Network (ESN) which aims to deliver improved voice and data service in the UK.

The Home Office is leading

the programme to deliver the project, but Mr MacNeil feels progress is slow and without a clear direction.

He said: 'While improvements have been made, progress is slow. This is an Emergency Service Network but at times it feels like a pot-luck/patch-up network. It is also concerning that when outages occur on these sites, it can take days or weeks to get the fault repaired. This is not good enough.'

Eligible young carers in isles urged to apply for funding

Social Security Scotland's Young Carers Grant is now open for applications.

The new grant of £300 is available to young people in Scotland aged 16-18 who care for someone in receipt of certain disability benefits for an average of 16 hours a week.

Na h-Eileanan an Iar MP Angus MacNeil said: 'There are many young people across the isles who willingly take on the care of a family member

who need regular support. This new benefit is designed to help these young people. I would urge any young person in this situation to look into this and see if they qualify.'

'Information on applying for this grant is available on the Young Scot website or at www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/what-we-do/stakeholder-resources/young-carer-grant and I would encourage eligible young carers to apply.'

People on Skye invited to discuss recycling plan

Zero Waste Scotland will be visiting Portree to talk with local businesses and community members about a new recycling scheme that is coming to Skye.

The event on Friday November 1 will let people know about the new Deposit Return Scheme that adds a 20p deposit to single-use drinks containers made of materials like plastic, glass or aluminium.

People get their money back when returning empty containers for recycling and the scheme is expected to give people an incentive to litter less and recycle more.

Jill Farrell, chief operating officer at Zero Waste Scotland, said: 'We want to make sure Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme works for the whole of the country. That's why we are visiting Skye to speak with residents,



People can find out about the Deposit Return Scheme at the meeting in Portree on November 1.

it accessible and practical for everyone in Scotland.

Alastair Nicolson, programme manager at Highlands and Islands Enterprise, said: 'This is a very ambitious scheme that aims to make a real difference to people and communities in every part of Scotland.'

'It's great that the needs of islanders are being recognised at this early stage of the Deposit Return Scheme through this programme of events on the ground and online.'

The event will take place at Aros, Portree, on Friday November 1 from 10am to 1pm and to register to take part go to bit.ly/DepositReturnSkye.

If you are unable to attend there will be a webinar held after all the island events are complete to give people a chance to learn more.

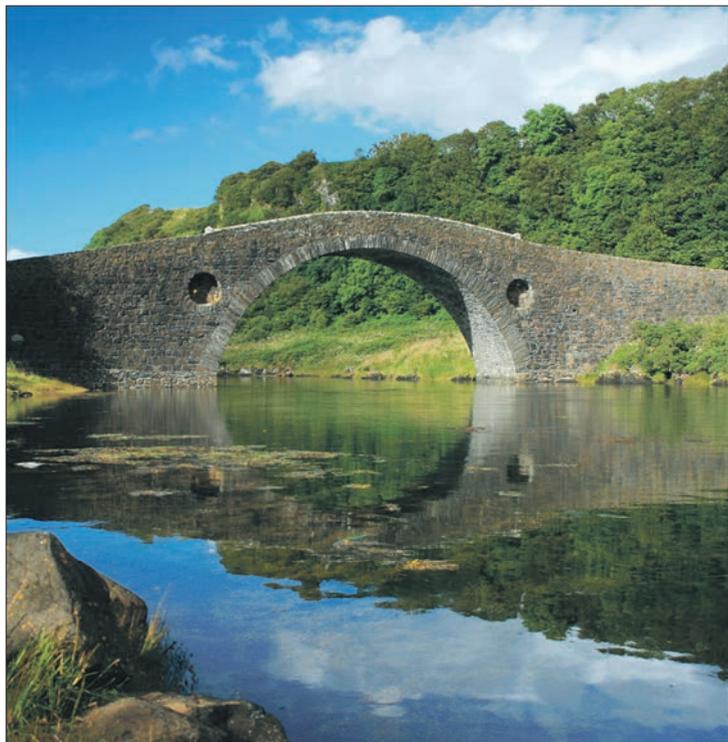
businesses and stakeholders. We want to benefit from their insight into how this will work for the islands.

Zero Waste Scotland helped the government design this scheme and is especially interested in hearing from island-based businesses like drink producers and tourism companies.

'Making the scheme a

success on Skye,' continued Ms Farrell, 'will require different approaches from in Scotland's cities. From logistics and transport, to cash flow and tourism, we look forward to discussing how we can work together to deliver a world-class scheme.'

There is a target of catching 90 per cent of all scheme containers which means making



BRIDGING THE RETIREMENT GAP

Ever-increasing life expectancy means larger retirement pots are now needed. This means the age-old practice of stopping work at 65 is being replaced by phased retirement; many are reducing hours or responsibility, but extending their working lives by several more years, bringing with it a host of new financial considerations.

So, for the generation now contemplating retirement, the trick is to plan ahead so that pension provision meets both your financial needs and wider hopes for personal fulfilment. Contact us for further information.

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LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to editor@obantimes.co.uk
or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HBBen Nevis littering
is a persistent
public problem

With all the attention devoted to climate change and the environment, it is galling to witness the degree of disdain with which Ben Nevis is treated, and as evidenced by the amount of rubbish removed as part of this month's annual 'deep clean' of the mountain.

Volunteers tell us they removed 115kg of waste from the slopes and summit. That is well down on the 230kg of rubbish removed back in 2013, when the event was first launched, but remains disappointing.

Thousands of people climb the Ben every year, the vast majority of whom are respectful of the environment and take any litter off the mountain when they leave.

However, some discard their waste as they go and we would urge them to think again about their actions.

We salute the volunteers but they should not have to respond to this problem.

Good news for village
primary school

Duror Primary School has not had its problems to seek in recent months.

Last term the school had eight teachers within six months due to lack of a permanent cover for maternity leave, and recently performed very poorly on an Education Scotland inspection.

Now, however, these shortcomings could be about to improve with the news confirmed that Highland Council is to recruit a full-time Pupil Support Assistant.

The Parent Council is understandably upbeat with the announcement.

Fragile rural communities such as Duror rely on facilities such as a good school to arrest population decline and, indeed, to encourage families to move into the area.

We are pleased for Duror that the school staffing issue is being addressed.

George Street noise is like
being in a war zone

Regarding Martin Laing's comments about a noise nuisance from a loose manhole cover in George Street (At random, October 17), I have reported this terrible noise and so have local shops, to BEAR Scotland and the local council.

The answer I got from BEAR Scotland is that it could not carry out repairs until the first week of November. Argyll and Bute Council never bothered to reply to my complaint.

I have a friend who is up from Glasgow working in the flats above Cuan Mor who cannot sleep because of this noise.

I also feel sorry for the staff who work in the shops all day serving tourists who bring money to the town and are constantly hearing this noise. They would as well have been in Afghanistan listening to two rounds being fired every two seconds.

Brian McMahon, by email.

Chopping down of trees was
act of wanton destruction

Regarding your front page news 'Appeal to save trees as council defends plans', Lochaber Times, October 10), I was part of the group in the photograph.

We made a cry for nature and what did the Highland Council do? The trees were chopped down the very next day.

It is very easy for the council to dismiss trees as 'poor quality' or 'low condition'. This just seems to me to be an excuse to wantonly destroy mature trees that should have been incorporated in the site.

The trees were part of an ecosystem and part of a natural life cycle of growth, maturing and dying and putting goodness back into the earth. Many of the trees would be around 40 years old and had many years ahead of them.

The comment by the council is so dismissive – just a lot of old, useless trees but these trees were a habitat for many insects, birds and mammals.

Any new trees that are put in by the developers will take years to mature and form an ecosystem and I am afraid if we keep on destroying nature we will not see them mature.

Highland Council, you did declare a climate emergency: when are you going to do the right thing and stop the destruction?

Janet Hickman, Fort William.

YOUR PICTURES

Much enjoyment from
family's fascinating history

I much enjoyed the recent excellent Morvern Lines article about my great-great-granduncle John Sinclair, whose sister married my great-great-grandfather, John Macfarlane, who was a fulling Miller and Dyer at Bunlusragan, Connel.

According to family and other folklore, John was, indeed, a benevolent, kindly man who used his wealth liberally on behalf of others. He did, however, have a great sense of family and was prepared to be ruthless on their behalf, if required.

His sister, Margaret, had married the Campbell Tacksman of Caolas in Coll. She became pregnant but Campbell accused her of adultery and threatened her with possible



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DISTRICT NEWS

LOCH LEVEN

The remains of a dog found by volunteers during a roadside clean-up could not be identified by an SSPCA officer.

The animal's body was found in a bin bag on the B863, on the banks of Loch Leven, by volunteers who gave up their Saturday to tidy up the high and low roads. The remains were picked up along with piles of rubbish, including car tyres and empty bottle of alcohol.

Chairwoman of Kinlochleven Community Council, Yvonne Rosie, reported the incident. She said: 'Sadly, the remains of the pooch were no more than bones and they had been there for some time.'

'The SSPCA officer was fairly sure there were no suspicious circumstances; it appeared to be that of a small/medium size dog perhaps a collie from the size of bones/skull.'

'A very sad end for any animal, no one should dispose of them in this way.'

'I'm not expecting any further action on this matter but thank the SSPCA and dog warden for coming down and investigating.'

If you wish to report an injured or distressed animal, the SSPCA can be contacted on 03000 999 999.

FORT WILLIAM

Serco Caledonian Sleeper has completed the roll-out of its new overnight trains with the fleet now operating between London and Fort William and elsewhere in Scotland.

The new trains offer accommodation ranging from completely new comfort seats for the budget traveller to rooms with double beds and en-suites for the first time in the history of Caledonian Sleeper.

Ryan Flaherty, Serco's managing director for Caledonian Sleeper, said: 'We have worked really hard to learn lessons from the introduction of the trains on the lowlander route earlier this year. We are now confident that all passengers can rely on the Caledonian Sleeper to provide the journey of a night time.'

Thousands of geese flock to Loch Leven nature reserve

A mass migration of pink-footed geese from Iceland have arrived to roost on Loch Leven, writes Richard Mason.

Photographers captured stunning images of the wild geese flocking to the Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) national nature reserve.

There may be as many as 25,000 geese at peak times – almost 10 per cent of the global population.

Stuart MacQuarrie, SNH's head of nature reserves, said: 'To see a flock of geese as they lift off from their night-time roost is one of Scotland's greatest wildlife spectacles. It's such a remarkable aerial display, made even better by the chorus of their high-pitched calls.'

'These amazing birds migrate as far as 3,400 miles to reach Scotland for their winter feeding, before

returning to more northern climes in the spring. And there's plenty of time for people to come out to one of our nature reserves over the next few months and see this marvellous display for themselves.'

There are also high numbers of tufted ducks, coots, teal and pochard, with another Icelandic nesting species – the whooper swan – arriving at Loch Leven too, adding another 10,000 to 15,000 birds out on the loch.

The best place to view the birds is from the Kirkgate viewpoint, particularly in the early morning as first light breaks the horizon.

The evenings are also good times, with geese returning to roost on the loch, which looks spectacular from any part of the Loch Leven Heritage trail.



Watching the geese take off from the reserve is a sight to behold.

LOCHABER

This year, the Lochaber Community Wind Band will be holding its autumn concert in the Kilmallie Hall at 4pm on Sunday October 27, to raise funds for the Rotary Club of Lochaber.

As well as a rich and varied repertoire from the wind band, the club's Senior Young Musician of the Year, trombonist Jake Sessions, will make a guest appearance.

A wind band spokesperson said: 'Our local Rotary Club has been a fantastic supporter of the band for a great number of years and we are delighted to support it in its charitable work.'

Club president Clive Talbot added: 'We have a long association with the wind band and are proud to promote this local event. I'm sure we will have a good turnout for what will be a very enjoyable and entertaining afternoon concert.'

Tickets cost £5 which includes tea and coffee. Children under 16 get in free.



Trombonist Jake Sessions will also be performing.

SKYE

This year's Macdonald of Sleat poetry prize is being shared by two winners, Flora MacDonald who wrote *The Leaf* and Martin MacIntyre with *Healing*.

The competition, which is run by

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig in collaboration with Clan Donald Lands Trust, was instituted by Sir Ian Macdonald of Sleat in memory of his daughter, Deborah, who died at an early age.

Flora was born and raised in Benbecula, with historical links to Clanranald. She has a home in North Uist, where she also has links to Macdonald of Sleat, but her permanent residence is in Glasgow.

Flora worked at Sabhal Mòr on summer short courses for several years and it was there she was inspired to write her poems.

Martin, whose father hails from South Uist, was raised in Lenzie but has lived in Edinburgh for more than 25 years. He was a student at Sabhal Mòr from 1990 to 1992 and returned there to work on the Tobar an Dualchais project between 1998 and 2003.

The theme of the competition each year relates to trees and this year an invitation was extended to anyone who writes poetry, or has an interest in doing so, to compose a poem on the subject, Craobh nan Ubhal (the

apple tree). Martin's and Flora's poems were selected as joint first place by the judges, Professor Meg Bateman and Mark Wringe, both lecturers at Sabhal Mòr.

Flora was presented with her prize at a gathering at the Museum of the Isles in Armadale Castle last month by Sir Ian Macdonald, chairman of the board of trustees of Clan Donald Lands Trust. Martin was unable to attend the ceremony.



Flora MacDonald receives the prize from Sir Ian Macdonald.



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Call for new applications to CalMac Community Fund

Demand from west coast youth groups for CalMac's new Community Fund has been so strong the company is expanding it.

The ferry and harbour operator is looking for a further round of applications from non-profit organisations looking for support for a project or activity that will benefit young people aged 26 and under. Organisations based in a mainland port or island the company serves can apply for £500 to £2,000.

So far the fund has supported 39 projects from women's football in the Outer Hebrides, to the Campbeltown Sea Cadets and a Gaelic youth club on Skye.

CalMac's director of community and stakeholder engagement, Brian Fulton, said: 'We have been bowled

over by the demand from groups up and down the west coast. There is clearly a need for this type of support within the communities we serve, so I'm delighted to announce the extension of the fund for another round this year.

'So far we have made awards to some truly innovative projects that will really make a difference to the lives of young people in our island and coastal communities. I'm really looking forward to seeing what this next batch of applications brings in.'

Organisations which have applied unsuccessfully are welcome to submit a new application, but successful applicants cannot apply again.

Application form and full terms and conditions at www.calmac.co.uk/communityfund.



Beaver Scouts from across Lochaber District enjoyed the fun and games and some keen competition.

Beaver Scouts battle for glory at own Highland games

At the end of August, Beaver Scouts (aged six to eight) from Lochaber District came together for an afternoon of fun at the first annual Beaver Highland Games.

Eight strong and courageous Beavers turned out to take part in the games despite the horrendous weather conditions and the last-minute change of venue to avoid the flooded field.

The two clans, Clan Fort William and Clan Minecraft came together and enjoyed caber tossing, welly throwing and haggis pitching among other activities.

They battled it out in a hard-fought, but friendly challenge all afternoon to become the Lochaber Beavers clan of the year.

In the end it was Clan Minecraft that took the honours and received their trophy from Games chief Simon Andrews, a member of Lochaber Scouts Active Support.

The organisers would like to thank the parents and the volunteer leaders who made this afternoon possible.

There are six Scout Groups in Lochaber - Corpach, Ballachulish,



Spean Bridge, Mallaig, Strontian and the Isle of Muck.

All can offer a fun, challenging and adventurous programme for six to 18-year-olds.

If you would like to enrol your child, or think you can offer some help as a volunteer why not get in touch at kilmalliescouts@gmail.com.



Calum Mackenzie and his crew are joined by Pat Mucklow, Audrey Sinclair and Marie Finlayson for Macmillan Cancer Support aboard the Sula Mhor.

PLOCKTON

Calum Mackenzie and his crew from his Plockton-based seal trip boat Sula Mhor held a presentation ceremony aboard the boat earlier this month as his season nears the end.

All the tips he and his crew receive over the season are collected for charity and this year saw

three cheques for £868.95 each presented to Pat Mucklow for the Highland Hospice, Audrey Sinclair for Marie Curie and Marie Finlayson for Macmillan Cancer Support.

They were thanked by the ladies, with Marie stating that Calum has given more than £22,000 to Macmillan over the years.

We think Fridays are for dramming...

Mark Watt, Director of Sales for WM Cadenhead is joining us for our tasting this weekend.

As usual we will be tasting 6 drams really looking forwards to this one as it is sure to be a memorable night.

£20.00 per ticket. 7pm - 9pm, Ardshiel Hotel.

Tickets available here: tickets.ardshiel.co.uk



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FOOTBALL

Fort William FC announce changes to 300 Club account

Problems with accessing bank accounts has resulted in a decision by Fort William FC to relaunch a new weekly/monthly draw.

In a statement to the Lochaber Times, club chairman Peter Murphy told us:

'I write regarding our 300 Club which has run for many years and been an excellent fundraiser over the years.

'At the time of the change of board office bearers last summer we had a significant problem with the bank regarding access to accounts, particularly the 300 Club account.

'This has been an ongoing problem since, which has led to a formal complaint to the bank for its handling of the matter.

'During this time we have been unable to carry out the monthly draws as we could not see who was still paying into it. This has reached the point now where was cannot see this being resolved in the short term.

'So to reach a conclusion in this matter and give the



Fort William FC chairman Peter Murphy

club the opportunity to re-launch a new weekly/monthly draw we intend to close the account. This will stop any further standing orders paying into the account.

'We propose the following option with the funds that have accumulated over this time: 300 Club members can contact us on 07971 441180 or by e-mailing fortwilliamfc@highlandleague.com if you would like a refund of payments made since the last draw.

'To finalise this issue, if a refund is not requested by Thursday, November 21, 2019, at 5pm, we will deem these payments as donations to the club.'

LOTTERY NUMBERS

Lochaber club lotteries

Caol Community Centre Bingo Club lotto numbers for 20/10 were 6, 17 and 18. No winners so £200 next week.

Ballachulish Shinty lottery numbers for 20/10 were 6, 7 and 19. Still no winners this week, so it is a £1,000 jackpot next week.

Caol Regeneration Lotto numbers for 17/10/19 were 9, 11 and 13.

No winners, so £700 jackpot for next draw on 24/10.

Fort William Golf Club Lotto numbers for draw on 17/10/19 were 4, 7 and 11. No winner so £1,000 jackpot available for draw on 24/10/19.

GOLF

Bob could be Rookie of the Year

Oban golf ace Bob MacIntyre achieved a top five finish at the recent Italian open, edging him closer to a place in the US Masters in April.

He has also jumped from 99th to 86th in the world rankings, with the top 50 at the end of the year being automatically invited to the Masters in Augusta next spring.

Achieving his highest finish in a Rolex Series event, MacIntyre remains on course for the Sir Henry Cotton Rookie of the Year title which will be announced in November.

Bob is next in action at the WGC-HSBC Champions event at Sheshan International Golf Club in Shanghai, China, starting on October 31.

Lochaber score six tries before ref stops game due to injury

Lochaber	41
Cumbernauld	5
West Region Division 3	

Lochaber booked their place in the West Regional Bowl final when they ran in six tries against Cumbernauld at Banavie on Saturday.

The two teams know each other well after playing only four weeks previously when Lochaber won 13-34.

Cumbernauld would have been looking for some revenge after that game and they struck first early in the first half to take the lead 0-5.

But Lochaber, playing in their second bowl semi-final in three seasons, responded quickly with a try of their own. Lochaber attacked down the right wing before quickly shipping the ball through the hands to Jack Hamilton on the left wing.

He had support around him but he didn't need it with his pace beating the defence to score in the corner.

Lochaber quickly added a second when a chip over the defence wasn't dealt with and Matt Murray benefited with the bounce of the ball to run in under the posts.

With Jonathan McCook converting to make it 12-5. Lochaber were building with



Matt Murray tries to escape the grasp of a Cumbernauld opponent. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

confidence, and the backs were finding all sorts of gaps in Cumbernauld's defence.

The scrums were going well as well with hooker Rory MacKay taking a few against the head. Lochaber's third try came through Koni Johnson who evaded a few tackles to score in the right corner.

McCook then added a penalty before scoring Lochaber's fourth try and he then converted his own to make it 27-5 at half-time.

During the interval team talk Lochaber felt like they had left a couple of tries out there and spoke about putting

the game to bed with a couple of early touchdowns in the second half.

Their fifth try did come early in the second half with a scrum in the left hand corner 10 metres out. Conor Taylor picked from the back of the scrum and attacked down the blindside and Cumbernauld couldn't keep him out, with McCook converting.

Lochaber's sixth score came after they switched the play from right to left and MacKay broke through the tackle to go clear, and he might have made it all the way to the line but drew the last defender

RUGBY

before passing to captain Callum MacDonald to score by the posts leaving a simple conversion for McCook to make it 41-5.

Lochaber were pushing for their seventh try when vice-captain William Stewart picked up the ball from the back of the ruck just a couple of metres out.

Unfortunately, Stewart sustained a broken leg during a tackle and it is hoped he will have been in for surgery on Monday.

With an ambulance being called, the referee spoke to both captains and it was agreed to finish the game with the current score standing.

So Lochaber move forward to their first final in quite a while, where they will play either Glasgow University Medics or Birkmyre on November 9.

Before Lochaber learn their finals opponents, they are back in league action this Saturday with an away fixture to Cowal.

Lochaber recently won 0-50 away to Cowal in the quarter-finals so will be hoping to travel with a strong team to try get another positive result away from home. Kick-off 3pm at Dunoon.

Spean Bridge win cross country event

On a wet and windy day there were some impressive performances at this year's Lochaber Primaries Cross Country Running Championships.

Spean Bridge retained the Samuel and Partner's overall schools' shield with first place in the boys' event and second in both the boys' and girls' races.

Second overall were Invergarry Primary and Caol Primary came in third.

The fastest time of the day

was posted by Ross Loughray, in 09.58, an improvement of 17 seconds and two places from last year. Spean Bridge team-mate Jack Bamber came in second, in 10.08 with Caleb Stoddart from Caol Primary taking third place in 10.19.

In the girls' event, first place was secured by Chloe Cameron from Lochaline Primary, who crossed the finish line in a time of 11.36, 14 seconds faster than her winning time from last year

and over a minute faster than the next girl.

Kaedia-Lei Neville from Spean (who came in fourth last year) secured second with Leona from Mallaig taking third place. Only in P5, and running against many children a year or two her senior, Leona is definitely one to watch for the future.

The Active Schools organisers thanked all participants, parents and staff who came along to support the event as

CROSS COUNTRY

well as the enthusiastic team of marshals from Lochaber High School.

Boys' times: 1 Spean - Ross Loughray - 9.58; 2 Spean - Jack Bamber - 10.08; 3 Caol - Caleb Stoddart - 10.19; 4 Caol - Lewis Luxton - 10.37; 5 Invergarry - Murray Donald - 10.38; 6 Invergarry - Dharas - 11.04; 7 Caol - Jack Stephen - 11.06; 8 Spean - Connor Pollock - 12.24; 9 St. Columba's RC - Roddy MacInnes - 12.29; 10 Kilchoan - Allan Curtis - 12.31

Girls' times: 1 Lochaline - Chloe Cameron - 11.36; 2 Spean - Kaedia-lei Neville - 12.49; 3 Mallaig - Leona - 13.12; 4 Mallaig - Annie - 13.27; 5 Lochaline - Rowan Willis - 13.48; 6 Caol - Maisy Anderson - 13.49; 7 Invergarry - Mya - 14.16; 8 St. Columba's RC - Elize Lopez - 14.16; 9 Lady Lovat - Zara - 14.44 10 Invergarry - Sofi - 15.01.



Spean Bridge were first overall in the event.

SLT lose penalty shoot-out against Glasgow Island

South Lochaber Thistle 2
Glasgow Island 2
Island win 4-3 on penalties
West of Scotland Cup

South Lochaber Thistle's poor run of results continued with a defeat on penalties to exit the West of Scotland Cup in the second round at the hands of Glasgow Island.

The Jags were actually in better form, playing the ball around comfortably. Glasgow Island were defending doggedly but couldn't actually control the possession.

Between Dave Forbes and Cameron Grant, the midfield were well controlled but the Kinlochleven outfit struggled to put away their ample chances to leave the score 0-0 at half-time.

Early in the second half, Forbes stepped up to open the scoring with a thunderbolt from fully 35 yards out after the ball dropped kindly to him following a cleared corner.

Things continued to improve for Thistle as, only nine minutes later, they doubled their advantage. Allan MacLellan did well to get a shot away which the Island's keeper could only parry and skipper Martin Munro made no mistake, slotting the rebound in with aplomb.



SLT sporting its new strip. Back row (left -right) Gabor Tot, Albie Robertson, Rebecca Small, Ewan MacLean, Dave Forbes, Owen Cooke, Farquhar MacRae, Lewis Campbell, Andrew Martin, Calum Foxley. Front row: Allan MacLellan, Alan Gray, Shaun Hendrie, Martin Munro, Kieran Lopez, Sean Noble, Cameron Grant. Photographs: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

At this point in other seasons, the Jags would have seen the game out, but it was not to be. The visitors pegged SLT back after only three minutes to halve the deficit and then four minutes later snuck a second to level at 2-2.

Chances

The Jags pressed on and had decent chances to sneak the win but it remained drawn at full-time and went straight into the penalty lottery.

Munro slotted the first penalty while the Island's striker blasted his over the bar. In response, Lewis Campbell missed for Thistle before Glasgow slotted home: 1-1 after four penalties.

Farquhar Macrae then missed his spot kick, before Island scored making it 2-1 to the visitors after six penalties. Although penalty specialist Sean Noble and Forbes both scored, the Glasgow Island men held their nerve to triumph 4-3 on penalties.

In response to South Lochaber Thistle's third defeat in three games, manager Alan Gray said: 'It was a much improved performance and we are playing some really good football.'

'The attitude and the work rate are improving all the time and we now will set our sights firmly on moving up the league without the

FOOTBALL

distraction of the cups.'

Man of the match: Cameron Grant.

On a happier note, South Lochaber Thistle were proud to unveil their new home strip, sponsored by Mowi at the weekend.

Employ

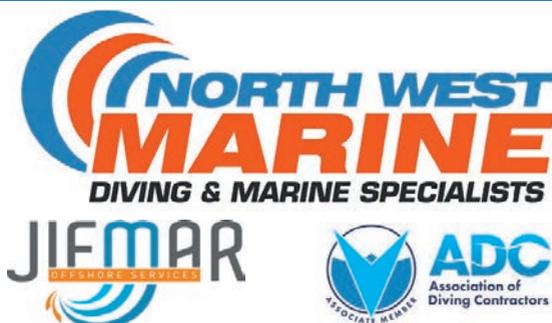
Mowi has partnered with the Jags since their first season and employ a number of the first team squad, including veteran midfielder David Forbes, Andrew Martin, Cameron Grant, Shaun Hendrie, Calum Foxley, Bradley Cameron, David Horne and Craig Cameron.



Martin Munro heads for the visitors' goal.



Andy Martin moves in to intercept a Glasgow attack.



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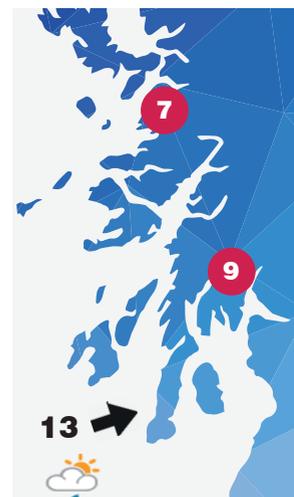
Thursday
Light rain showers and a fresh breeze
Temperatures
7°C to 11°C.

Friday
Light rain showers and a moderate breeze
Temperatures
6°C to 9°C.

Weekend Outlook

Saturday
Heavy rain and a moderate breeze

Sunday
Light rain showers and a moderate breeze
Temperatures
6°C to 11°C.



FRIDAY

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday October 25, 2019 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

	02.57	3.2	08.18	1.4
Thur	15.04	3.6	21.27	1.3
Fri	03.44	3.5	09.19	1.1
	15.48	3.9	22.14	1.0
Sat	04.23	3.8	10.11	0.8
	16.27	4.2	22.56	0.8
Sun	04.57	4.0	10.58	0.5
	17.04	4.3	23.36	0.6
Mon	05.30	4.1	11.42	0.4
	17.41	4.4	**.**	**
Tues	00.14	0.5	06.05	4.2
	12.25	0.4	18.17	4.3
Wed	00.51	0.6	06.41	4.2
	13.07	0.5	18.53	4.1

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

Chain, shackles and buoys all available to purchase.

Lochaber score six tries before ref stops game due to injury

SLT lose penalty shoot-out against Glasgow Island



Late header keeps Fort in hunt for Scottish Cup glory

Albion Rovers' keeper is left on his hands and knees after Hastings' equalising header hit the back of the net. Photograph: Ben Kearney.

Albion Rovers	1
Fort William	1
Scottish Cup	

There were scenes of jubilation among the visiting Fort support at Cliftonhill on Saturday when Gabriel Hastings' late header against Albion Rovers kept Fort

William's Scottish Cup dream alive.

It looked like a win from this game would be a tough ask, especially after the 34th minute when the home side went one goal up after Jack Breen slotted the ball into the Fort net.

But the way the Fort players responded resulted in prob-

lems trying to pick a man of the match, such was the commitment and effort on display.

Accolade

Hastings eventually got the nod for that accolade but there were at least three others just as deserving, if not more.

It looked like a bad omen

when the Fort team bus got stuck under a railway bridge on way to the ground.

But it did nothing to dent the confidence of the Fort players who got stuck in to the task at hand and enjoyed plenty of support from travelling fans.

Both side had their chances throughout the game, but

strong defences meant the scoreboard was not kept overly busy.

Cracking cross

The equaliser came on the stroke of 80 minutes when a cracking cross swept in from the right wing was met by the head of Hastings who gave the home keeper no chance.

It is hoped Claggan Park

will resound to the noise of an extra big crowd this coming Saturday for the replay against Albion Rovers. Kick-off is at 3pm.



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