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Oban business leaders slam parking shambles

by Sandy Neil
sneil@obantimes.co.uk



Argyll and Bute Council's new parking charges are now the biggest complaint in Oban and they risk driving away tourists, Oban Community Council heard on Monday.

The meeting was told drivers are now taking vital spaces in the hospital and high school car parks while council car parks lie empty, and permits are unaffordable to those on the minimum wage.

Andrew Spence, chief executive of business group BID4Oban, said he had been 'inundated with complaints' about the council's new parking charges, and had been asked by councillors to voice them in a letter to the council's chief executive, Cleland Sneddon.

'Oban relies heavily on tourism,' Mr Spence wrote. 'The vast majority of complaints from visitors are to do with parking. This is evident on TripAdvisor reviews for hotels, etc. In a recent survey of Oban Live visitors, parking was the



Andrew Spence.

single biggest complaint. We want to resolve this.'

His letter set out 'nine simple solutions'.

With charges in place for all Oban's car parks, he said, drivers are clogging streets where there are no meters, limiting access for many businesses, especially in Lochavullin. 'We would like to see yellow lines introduced,' he said. 'There is ample parking in the council car parks at Lochavullin. However, it is obvious people don't want to pay for it.'

'We have had reports from Oban, Lorn and the Islands Hospital of people parking their cars there and leaving them. While this is not council property, it is causing issues for

staff and patients who need to park there,' he said. 'If pre-paid parking permits were made more readily available for residents, this may go some way to alleviating the problem.'

He said parking permits were available online, but the minimum term was three months at £135, 'outside the reach of many people who are on a minimum wage'.

'It would be easier if they could pay monthly or weekly online. The system is not user-friendly and does not adequately list the car parks in Oban.'

'Anyone wanting to park in a town car park for more than 24 hours is unable to. Given the amount of people who may travel to the islands or use the train or buses, it would be beneficial to have this facility. Many of these vehicles are being parked in residential or business areas in the town.'

Many parking meters, owing to their software, do not let drivers buy parking tickets before 9am, meaning those starting work early cannot park legally. All the meters only accept coins, he said. 'In this

day and age, there should be a facility to pay via credit/debit card or mobile phone.'

'There are areas of Oban where people are not parking since on-street parking has been introduced, namely the Esplanade and Gallanach Road. These areas may benefit if people could park there for longer periods of time.'

'Bus parking at the car park adjacent to Atlantis Leisure [should be] reduced in price from the current £10 overnight charge to £1 [to] ensure buses are parking in the correct area.'

Councillor Roddy McCuish, policy lead for roads, said he was withdrawing his support for a multi-storey car park in Oban: 'If people are not going to pay, they will not pay for a multi-storey,' he said.

Meanwhile, more than 1,500 people signed a petition opposing the council's proposed parking charges on Mull.

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell said the difficulties in Oban and Arrochar should give the 'bulldozing' council 'pause for thought'.

Turn to page two.

Fiona is a Great Scot



Fiona Bennett shows her Unsung Hero Award. The North Connel mum-of-two won the Great Scot Award in Glasgow on Saturday after helping amass more than £300,000 of medical supplies for the Yazidi people of Iraq. Full story – page four. Photograph: Victoria Stewart.



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OT

Crossing safety summit

Multiple agencies come together to discuss near misses at school

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



More than 50 people who responded to a survey about Lochnell school crossing in Benderloch have experienced a near miss.

There were 308 responses to the survey which was presented at a meeting last week of safety campaigners, council officials, road agencies, the school and other organisations, including Sustrans.

Near misses at the A828 crossing point were reported by both pedestrians and motorists. Incidents included reports of 'reckless speed', cars overtaking on the crossing, children running across the road and tripping up in the road and being pulled back to safety by adults.

Parent Dr Beth Hadden, who devised the survey, said: 'We made it clear that the school and the road safety officer have implemented significant educational work



GP Beth Hadden with the campaign's scarecrow Nelly reminding drivers of the 20mph zone.

with the children and while we will continue to do this, feel we have reached the point whereby structural/engineering solutions to the dangers are essential. This is not something we can implement alone. Transport Scotland and BEAR need to use their resources and expertise to

provide us this, and do so timeously.

'It is disappointing that they do not consider near miss incidents when they look to improve road safety, as these are clearly indicators of impending harm. However, I can only hope their commitment to look into improvements

will provide us with some action prior to tragedy meeting one of our families. This is something we will be pushing for and continued strong community support is going to be essential.'

The meeting heard there could be some financial help available from Sustrans and there was mention of police bringing in new technology cameras and speed monitoring devices to help at the crossing, said Ardchattan community councillor Willie Barnett.

Parent and Ardchattan community councillor DJ Barr, whose own son narrowly missed being hit by a car when crossing the road, said it was good 'everyone was singing from the same hymn sheet'.

He added: 'It was a massive success that we managed to get everyone together from Transport Scotland and BEAR Scotland to all four ward councillors. Everyone pulled together.'

Mr Barr also said the

volume of responses to the crossing survey showed the strength of feeling that something needed to be done to make it safer.

'A lot of the comments made frightening reading. It's rare that people put so much effort into responding to surveys like that so it really shows the strength of feeling,' he added.

A spokesperson for BEAR Scotland said: 'Road safety is a top priority for us and Thursday's meeting provided a good opportunity to meet the community alongside other stakeholders and listen to their concerns about road safety. The next steps are for us to carry out an investigation to see if anything could be improved or introduced to reduce vehicle speeds and improve road safety at Lochnell.'

Argyll and Bute councillor Kieron Green said: 'It was a very positive meeting. There was recognition that there needed to be more done. It's a matter that is being taken seriously.'

Argyll people urged to have flu vaccine

People most at risk from complications from flu are being urged to get vaccinated as a priority.

Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership says a big uptake of the vaccinations will also stop flu from spreading.

Flu jabs are being offered to around 2.5 million people this year, including those with health conditions, people aged 65 and over, pregnant women and children aged two to 11.

The national vaccination programme comes with warnings that flu can result in serious complications for some people and can land them in hospital.

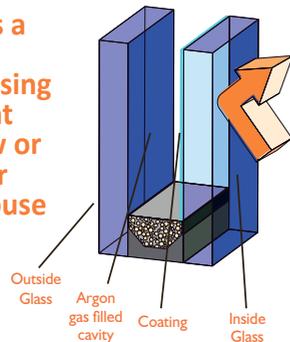
Figures show on average, 1,918 people are hospitalised for flu or its complications each year in Scotland. NHS Scotland workers and carers are also being offered the vaccine to help stop the spread of the virus.

To find out more go to readyforflu.scot or call NHS Inform on 0800 22 44 88.

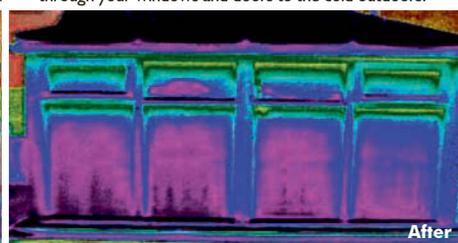
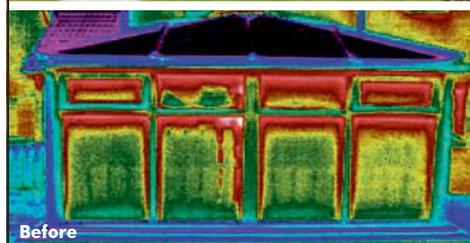
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Mull residents slam council's 'mayhem' parking charges

A petition calling for the council to scrap new parking charges by Mull's ferry terminals to Oban, Iona and Ardnamurchan has gathered 1,600 signatures.

Parking at the car parks at Craignure, Fionnphort's Columba Centre and Ledaig in Tobermory are due to move from free to pay and display, all year round, Monday to Sunday from 9am to 6pm.

A consultation on Argyll and Bute Council's proposed Traffic Regulation Order ends on November 16.

By Tuesday this week 1,600 had opposed the plan, signing an online petition called Stop Argyll Council. Neil Morrison, an islander who started the petition, argued: 'This, in my opinion, is a cash-building exercise and will dramatically affect our island's economy.'

'It will not only impose extra taxation on residents and visitors, but will cause mayhem in our towns and villages by driving vehicles onto already overcrowded streets.'

Mr Morrison's fears became a reality in Oban after the council imposed new parking charges last year. This summer *The Oban Times* reported cars

clogging Oban streets had triggered a tirade of rants from residents.

The lack of free parking and long-stay provision is being blamed for tourists and workers leaving their vehicles, often for weeks, wherever they could find an on-street spot.

In Arrochar hillwalkers reacted angrily to a proposed 800 per cent increase in parking charges, from £1 to £9 per day.

One petitioner opposing Mull's charges said: 'There doesn't appear to have been an appropriate or adequate consultation, as these plans have so many implications for residents and visitors that by far outweigh the council's rationale behind this proposal.'

Another added on the petition webpage: 'People coming to stay one night or more on Iona will have to keep going back to Fionnphort to top up their parking charges, also adding extra cost for holidaying on Iona.'

Another objector, Ian English, told *The Oban Times* charging at Ledaig would displace many vehicles on to Main Street, and 'create unimaginable chaos' and 'considerable danger to pedestrians'.

'Main Street was total chaos during the summer of 2018. It is foolhardy to consider exacerbating this chaos by the imposition of this order, and for no good reason other than to create yet another revenue stream from motorists. It is incredible having witnessed such chaos that no-one has been injured or killed in Tobermory thus far. If this order is imposed, I doubt this will remain the case for long. In Craignure, residents of Mull are required to leave their vehicles there for extended periods to travel to the mainland for appointments, including hospital appointments and admissions. 'The time of their return can often be outwith their control due to many reasons, including ferry delays and cancellations. Is the council satisfied with the potential of seeing residents return from, say, cancer treatments, or funerals to find a parking ticket?'

'I presume the council is aware that, in Craignure, there are no kerb parking restrictions on either side of the road, along the full stretch from the toilets to the Craignure Inn? I expect to see this stretch of road lined with parked vehicles.'

Agnes's hit-and-run driver found

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Pennsylvania police have tracked down the hit-and-run driver who left Oban granny Agnes MacKechnie for dead.

Mrs MacKechnie was two days into a dream holiday when she was hit by a pick-up truck and thrown 25 feet into the air.

One year after the incident, near a shopping mall in Bethlehem, left her with horrific injuries, the 55-year-old has revealed police wanted her to fly back to the States to help with their investigation but she refused because she 'still can't remember a thing'.

'There's no point me going back. I still can't remember a thing. I wouldn't be able to tell them anything but I'd like to know what was in the driver's head when he hit me then reversed back to have a look before he high-tailed off,' said Mrs MacKechnie, who suffered fractured bones, broken ribs and a tear in her liver, pancreas and heart.

Surgeons in Glasgow still have a series of major operations planned to fix 'devastating' knee and ankle injuries that stop her from walking. A mobility scooter bought with well-wishers' donations has been a lifeline to the granny-of-eight, who will never walk unassisted again. 'The best I can hope for, even if the operations work, is to walk with sticks,' she said.

'This time last year we

were so excited about going on holiday. Our bags were packed. My brother James, who lives out there, had so much planned for us – including New York and Niagara Falls – but we didn't get to see any of it. Two days into the holiday and I was left for dead. We'd just picked up our costumes for Hallowe'en when it happened.

'My liver is recovering and so is my heart, I had a tear in the aorta and have had to have a stent put in. The splints are off my wrists but I still wake up in pain that'll probably be forever now. Unfortunately, the injuries to the ligaments in my knees were devastating. My kneecap was shattered. The plate in my right leg is healing. There are still more operations. I'll probably need a plate in my other ankle. It's not looking great.

'I can get up the town a wee bit thanks to the scooter bought with donations, which has been a lifeline. The kindness I was shown and am still shown with hugs and kisses when folk see me has helped with my recovery.

'It's restored my faith in humanity, as there are still good people out there.

'I've not had much information from the police but they called to say they had him and would I go over but that would be too much. He should be taken off the road for good. I'd hate to see anyone else get hurt. If I wasn't Scottish, I would not have survived this. The doctors and nurses could not



believe I was still alive. It's my Scottish grit that saved me.'

Husband David has also revealed how he kept a heart attack secret while his wife of 36 years lay critically ill in her US hospital bed.

Mr MacKechnie, who recently had a triple heart bypass, said he had 'kept quiet' about how ill he was and self-medicated on aspirin because 'there was already too much to worry about Agnes'. He added: 'I hadn't slept for days. I knew I'd had a heart attack but just kept it quiet and took aspirin.'

It was only months later when he went to his GP back home with a cough that follow-up tests picked up the heart attack he had kept hush. Mrs MacKechnie said: 'I hate to think what would've happened if David had died. They would've had to get a double box to send us both back in.'

Agnes and David MacKechnie are still suffering the effects of the devastating hit-and-run accident in the United States a year ago.



Robert, Christopher and Campbell MacKenzie and Fiona MacDonald from the Tell Organisation.

Taynuilt welder is Apprentice of the Year

A 20-year-old welder from Taynuilt has been crowned Apprentice of the Year in the Scottish Training Federation Awards 2018.

Christopher MacKenzie, who works for MacKenzie Welding, was nominated by The Tell Organisation, which funded his apprenticeship.

Christine Doherty, director of The Tell Organisation, said: 'It has been an absolute joy to observe Christopher flourish into a very skilled, proud and capable young man. Christopher can be justly proud of his success, as we are.'

MacKenzie Welding, which is based at Taynuilt and employs eight people, was established 10 years

ago by brothers Robert and Campbell MacKenzie.

Robert, who is also Christopher's dad, said: 'I am delighted. It's a great achievement. There are achievements out there for young people.'

'He won because of his work ethic and dedication. He is very good at what he does.'

'He did codings when he was 16; he was one of the youngest boys in Scotland to achieve that. Christopher is chuffed to bits.'

Robert joked: 'His head is probably bigger than it should be.'

MacKenzie Welding has recently taken on another apprentice, who will go through the same training as Christopher.

POLICE FILES

■ At about 12.15am on Tuesday October 23, a man behaved in an abusive manner, assaulted a woman and caused damage in a hotel in Appin. Police attended and arrested the man, who was driving a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol. The man was charged with the offences, held for court and a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

■ At about 5.50pm on Friday October 26, in Rhuvaal Road, Oban, a man aged 37 behaved in an abusive

manner. He was arrested, charged and issued with a recorded police warning.

■ At about 9.05pm on Friday October 26, at the Railway Pier, Oban, the car park automatic traffic barrier was pushed over and broken. A member of a group of youths seen in the area is alleged to have caused the damage.

■ At about 9am on Monday October 29, in Airds Crescent, Oban, a man aged 18 was stopped and searched by police and was found to be in possession of a small

amount of cannabis. He was issued with a recorded police warning.

■ At about 1.35am on Sunday October 28 in George Street, Oban, a man aged 23 behaved in an abusive manner. He was arrested, charged and issued with a recorded police warning.

■ If any member of the public has information to any incident, they can contact police on telephone number 101, or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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OT

Fiona hailed as Great Scots' Unsung Hero

by Sandy Neil
sneil@obantimes.co.uk



A mum-of-two from North Connel, who raised thousands to ship medical supplies to Yazidi refugees in Iraq, has won a Great Scot Award.

Fiona Bennett was one of five Scots honoured with an Unsung Hero award on Saturday, given to those who go 'the extra mile every day but never ask for recognition or reward'.

'The former psychiatric nurse was so horrified by the public gang rape of a nine-year-old Yazidi girl by Daesh that she helped amass more than £300,000 of medical supplies for the people of Iraq,' the Great Scot Award website explained.

'Fiona felt compelled to do something to help after the terror group began attacking Yazidis in 2014, forcing them from their homes in parts of northern Iraq.



Fiona and some of the medical supplies she helped amass.

'From her home 3,500 miles away, the mum-of-two sourced feeding tubes, needles, medical gloves, disinfectant wipes and other medical supplies to help the victims.

'Fiona collected enough to fill eight shipping containers and launched a Facebook appeal

to raise the £14,000 shipping fees. The equipment arrived at the hospital in Sinjar and is making life a whole lot better for the refugees being treated there.'

Fiona, a human resources manager in Oban, jumped out of a plane with her friend Faith

Orr to help raise the money. She also works with Yazda, a global Yazidi aid organisation, and last year arranged for UN ambassador Nadia Murad, a Yazidi human rights activist who survived sexual slavery by ISIS, to visit the UK for the first time. This year Nadia won the Nobel Peace Prize for campaigning against rape in warfare.

Fiona said her unsung hero award 'feels bittersweet, because I am being recognised for something that nobody should be recognised for'.

But it is raising awareness, she added, and it is leading to an interview on BBC Radio Scotland's Kaye Adams show this week. 'Hopefully, people listening will go away and Google it and maybe donate,' she said.

The evening also led to a meeting with Unicef UK's vice-president, Lord Jack McConnell, a former First

Minister of Scotland, who could help Fiona visit Iraq. 'I will be pushing for help from Unicef,' Fiona said.

'I want to meet the hospital staff. I want to see if the donations have been of any use, more information about what they need, what I can do to help. Can you imagine how much time I have thought about the Yazidis - people who four years ago I had never heard of? I am thinking about them constantly. I want to see it for myself, to meet the people.'

The award, she said, will sit in the toilet, 'so everybody sees it'.

The night's other unsung heroes included the founder of Missing People Scotland Angie Sivagnanasundaram, who helped reunite more than 3,000 people with their lost loved ones, and 82-year-old Jim White, secretary of the Wayside Club in Glasgow, which feeds 100 homeless people every night.

Park primary ditches homework

Park Primary School has ditched all homework except reading in a bid 'to improve classroom engagement'.

Parents will now choose if and how much is done at home. However, reading will still be required.

Argyll and Bute Council said a study showed that levels of pupil engagement in classroom activities increased when homework was removed from the curriculum.

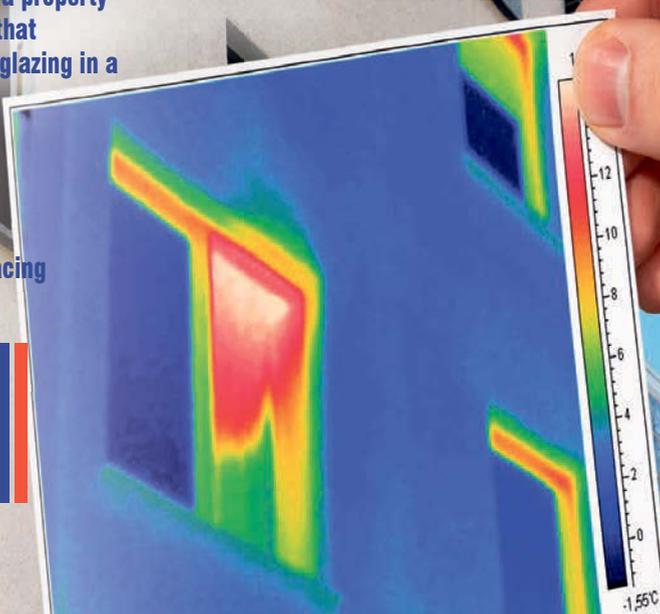
Teachers will send home information along with suggested learning, which will not need to be handed in.

In a letter to parents, the school said: 'This way you will have a choice as to how much additional learning you want to do with your child and you can organise this around your child's extra-curricular activities, family events, etc. We must stress that reading homework will continue to be set as this is an integral part of your child's education and we ask that you continue to encourage your child to read as much as possible.'

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Oban and Dunbeg are set for bonfire night

This year's Oban fireworks display will be one of the best arrays in years, according to BID4Oban.

The first 500 visitors to Station Square will receive an eco cup, made from organic bamboo fibre, courtesy of Scottish Sea Farms.

The event will commence at 7.30pm on Monday November 5, with the best views being from Oban town centre and North Pier, as well as the Esplanade.

This year will be particularly striking thanks to a £6,000 grant from the Scottish Sea Farms' Heart of the Community Initiative.

Andrew Spence, from BID4Oban, said: 'Last year's event was very well attended with many people choosing to come along early to get the

best spots for viewing. Having a public display brings the community together on a cold November night and enables them to view the fireworks in a safe manner.'

In addition to the fireworks display, there will also be food stalls at Station Square, as well as a Scottish Sea Farms information point, where spectators can collect their free eco cup.

Meanwhile, on Saturday November 3, hundreds of people will make their way to Dunbeg for the village's annual bonfire and fireworks display.

Proceeds from this year's event will go to three-year-old Harris McGougan, who has leukemia.

Event organiser James MacDonald said: 'His family

have had a nightmare so this year Dunbeg is going to give them a night to remember.'

The bonfire will be lit at 7.30pm on Saturday November 3 at the Lochnell Road car park - next to the start of the cycle path.

Everything is in place and the Rotary Club of Oban has already donated £500.

There will be a raffle and an auction on the night, which includes prizes such as a builder for the day, a plasterer for the day, as well as a tour of Ibrox for four people.

The event will also feature burger and bottle stalls.

'It's all going good,' James added. 'I am really looking forward to it, especially for wee Harris.'

James revealed there would be a few surprises on the night.

Band pipes up for charity with a soup lunch

Oban Pipe Band committee and friends are organising a fundraising soup lunch on Saturday November 10.

All money raised at the event in the Band Hall, Shore Street, will be in aid of the Beatson Cancer Charity in Glasgow, supporting treatment and the well-being of patients and their families

Alistair Dewar, the band's

fundraising convener, said the charity was chosen in recognition of the care and support so many patients from the Oban area experience while having treatment at the Beatson.

'Earlier this year my daughter-in-law, Eilidh Ann, was diagnosed with leukaemia and as a family we have so much praise for the

wonderful care she received and continues to receive,' said Mr Dewar.

Eilidh Ann, who is a mum-of-one, is now in remission.

A choice of soups and homebaking will be served from noon until 2pm on the day.

Anyone just wanting to make a donation can call in between 10am and 3pm.

Islanders' poppy tribute made with heartfelt love

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Islanders have created thousands of handmade poppies to remember the 10 men from Luing who died in the First World War.

The cascade of poppies took six months to make and was kept under wraps until it was revealed at a community meal in the Atlantic Centre earlier this month ready to mark the centenary of Armistice Day on November 11, 2018.

Each poppy has been lovingly-made to become part of the eye-catching installation that will stay on display until the end of the year.

There were so many poppies left over that 10 remembrance wreaths were also made – one for each of the Luing men lost.

It was Morag Mawson who came up with the idea of the cascade, which quickly got another 30 islanders involved, crafting the poppies at home then bringing them to the top-secret meetings once a month to attach them to a recycled fishing net kept under sheets at Cullipool Village Hall.

Mrs Mawson was inspired by the sea of blood-red ceramic poppies displayed at the Tower of London in 2014 which attracted worldwide media attention.

The Luing installation's oldest poppy-maker was 93-year-old Elizabeth Lyon, whose relative Douglas Campbell Gibson was a lieutenant in the Royal Engineers when he fell in



Poppy cascade makers Morag Mawson, David Mawson, Linda Leggett, Pam Baker, Sarah Ashmead and Jean Alexander, secretary of the Easdale branch of the Royal British Legion.

action at the Somme on March 25, 1918.

Mrs Lyon commemorated Lt Gibson on one of the individually painted leaves made from luggage labels that people are being invited to add to the cascade as a personal act of remembrance.

The tiniest poppy made a journey of more than 9,000 miles, all the way from Australia, to be included, another was made in Leeds, Yorkshire.

'People came together from across the island to get involved. It got the creative juices going and even kicked off a bit of one-upmanship to see who could make a poppy different from all the others,' said Mrs Mawson.

'I'm so proud of the result. It's beyond my wildest dream. It's hard to com-

prehend that so many men lost their lives between 1914 and 1918 and I really hope that this small tribute will go some way to giving our thanks for the sacrifice they made.'

The stunning red poppies, knitted, embroidered, crocheted, felted, sculpted from recycled waste and some even crafted from cupcake cases and pipe cleaners, flows over the centre's balcony and wraps round a ceiling beam before flowing down towards the lower floor – the 10 wreaths are on poignant display in the window.

Donations will go towards the Easdale branch of the Royal British Legion and it is hoped the cascade will go on tour of other venues around the island in years to come.

Luing will be lighting a beacon at 7pm on Sunday November 11. There will be a two-minute silence at 11am that day and a remembrance service at Kilchattan Church at 10.45am.

The Luing men who fell in the Great War were Private James Cowan of the 7th Highland Light Infantry; Private Angus McInnes of the 8th Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders; Seaman Peter McDougall of the Royal Naval Reserve; Private Alexander Campbell of the 8th Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders; Sergeant-Major Alexander Nicholson of the Royal Garrison Artillery; Seaman George B McIntyre of the Royal Naval Reserve; Private Hugh McKechnie of the

6th Cameron Highlanders; Seaman Angus McDougall of the Royal Naval Reserve; Private Joseph McLean of the Machine Gun Corps; and Lieutenant Duncan Turner of the Carnatic Infantry in the Indian Army.

Is your community or organisation doing something different this year to mark this special anniversary? Let us know. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk with your information so we can include your event in our coverage of this year's Remembrance Day.



Morag Mawson with the leaf labels for people's remembrance messages.

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OT

Stefanie's in high spirits after victory

Seil's Stefanie Anderson has won a top bartender contest.

This summer, Stefanie, pictured, who works at Bon Vivant in Edinburgh, beat stiff competition from as far away as London to be crowned winner of the



Talisker whisky brand's Race to Skye bartender competition. Over the two days of the competition,

Stefanie and the other finalists took part in four challenges, culminating with each bartender having just seven minutes to present their own signature Talisker Made by the Sea cocktail to a panel of judges.

Stefanie, whose family has a farm at Balvicar, said she was 'delighted to have won'.

Stefanie was also awarded the title of honorary Talisker Ambassador to support the brand's on-going Made by the Sea campaign.

Alert as cat loses tail and leg in snare

by David McPhee
dmcphee@obantimes.co.uk



A Dalmally pet owner has issued a warning about snares after her one-year-old cat was left fighting for his life.

April O'Donnell was heartbroken on Wednesday morning of October 17 when she found her cat, Leo, with a missing paw and a stripped tail.

April's back garden overlooks a wooded area, which is a popular dog walking spot.

When Leo unusually did not return home on Tuesday night, she shouted for him the following morning, which was met with a squeal.

'I screamed and I ran over,' she said. 'His paw was missing, his tail was stripped, there was an injury to his other paw.'

Leo has since had to undergo an operation to amputate his back leg, tail and three toes on his remaining back paw. It was



Leo before the incident.

touch and go last weekend as to whether his damaged back leg would be able to support his weight.

Thankfully, little Leo has survived the worst of it and returned home on Monday.

April said: 'We are all delighted. It would have been

added: 'This will let pet owners and parents know about the snares in the field. It could have been a kid's hand or foot. It's just so senseless to set up snares in a residential area.'

Due to ill health, April and her family were struggling to pay the vet's bill, but a number of charities have helped the O'Donnells with donations. Jean Sutherland from Argyll Animal Aid donated £300; Margaret Turner from Daisy's Den in Dunoon, £200; and Samantha and Kevin Simon from Dunoon's Small Animal Rescue, £50.

'Thank you to everyone who has helped to contribute, as well as Oban Vets for looking after Leo and keeping the costs low,' April said. There is currently an outstanding bill of £272. If anyone would like to help contribute, 'even £1 or £2', they can do so by donating directly to Oban Vets towards Leo's remaining fees.

April believes the damage was caused by a snare. She

Oban Living Well Initiative up for award

A team of healthcare professionals from Oban are finalists in the Scottish Health Awards 2018.

The Oban Living Well Initiative has been shortlisted for the Integrated Care for Older People Award – one of 17 categories recognising hard work and dedication of healthcare professionals across the country and tonight, November 1, they will find out if they have won.

The Oban initiative is competing against three other finalists, the Care Home Contenance Improvement Project in South Lanarkshire, the Edinburgh Behaviour Support Service and West Lothian Psychological Approach Team for Dementia from Edinburgh and the Otago and More Falls Prevention Team from the Shetland Islands.

Front-line health and social care staff Pauline Jespersen, Erik Jespersen, Derek Laidler, Katy Docherty, Hugh McLean and Roy Clunie make up the team.

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More than 140 pupils spent a night in Atlantis to raise charity money. 17_t44_LockIn01

Atlantis Leisure lock-in is a 'huge success'

Atlantis Leisure was home to 140-plus high school pupils on Friday night for the annual 'lock-in'.

The event sees S1 pupils spending the night in the leisure centre to raise money for Hope2Oban – a charity that supports young people in Oban and the surrounding areas.

The 11 and 12-year-olds arrived at Atlantis at 9pm on Friday night and the police locked the doors at 9.30pm. The pupils were left inside the premises until 8am the next day.

Kevin Keen, sports co-or-

dinator, said: 'The October 2018 lock-in was a huge success.'

'We weren't quite sure how it would go given that it was the first time we have run this event at this time in the year.'

'The 140-plus S1 pupils who attended were an absolute joy to have the whole night and were an absolute credit to themselves.'

'This event couldn't have run smoothly without the great partnership between H20, Atlantis Leisure, the Youth Cafe and Oban High School.'

'I'd like to give a special mention to all the volunteers who came in and gave up their Friday night to help make it such a great night. In particular, I'd really like to thank the exemplary sixth-year volunteers, who became an integral part of the team on the night.'

The young people were able to play football, rugby, ping pong, giant Jenga, lacrosse, as well as dance, and do arts and crafts.

In addition, the pupils were able to use the gym and swimming pool, including the inflatables.

'Massive' row shuts popular gastro pub

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A successful gastro pub near Taynuilt has shut after 'a fall-out' between its owner and tenants.

The Kilchrenan Inn, originally an 18th-century trading post, closed last month with a number of jobs being lost.

Visitors on Tripadvisor raved about food and service at the inn, only renovated two years ago by businessman Scott Gibson. Last August the inn also got a mention in the new Good Food Guide.

Tenants Jordan and Lesley Foster took over the lease to run it in 2016 but told *The Oban Times* 'a massive fall-out' between themselves and Mr Scott had made it impossible to stay open.

Mr Foster, who was also head chef there, had worked in some of the world's top restaurants before being selected to take



The Kilchrenan Inn has closed despite winning rave reviews

on the Kilchrenan Inn with his wife who had a wealth of front-of-house experience working in restaurants from Loch Lomond to Bristol, Sydney in Australia and London. Mrs Foster said: 'When we signed the lease two years ago, we never thought it would end this way. It was a successful business, we had amazing staff and great local support. It's fair

to say there's been a massive fall-out. We couldn't carry on like that so we closed it.'

The Fosters want Mr Gibson to end their lease early. Solicitors are involved on both sides now.

Mr Gibson said he was 'in the dark' about why the pub had closed and said the reasons for doing it were 'beyond him'. He said Mr and

Mrs Foster had been doing 'a brilliant job' and it was one of 'the nicest and finest gastro pubs in the west of Scotland'.

Customers are hoping the pub will open again. One who lives nearby said: 'We heard it was something to do with the lease but no one knows for sure what happened. It's a big shame to see it shut after all the hard work that's gone into it.'

Oban chip shop and restaurant closes

A popular Oban chip shop and restaurant served its customers for the last time on Saturday night.

The Oban Bay Fish Bar and Restaurant on George Street has closed after eight years.

The space is now set to be split into two retail units that will be rented out.

Owner Renato Di Ciacca said he was 'upset' to be closing, but had been thinking about it for a while. 'I want to take it a bit

easier,' he added. 'However, I will still be working in Norries.'

'I would like to thank everyone who has come to us. We will still be serving them a brilliant product in Norries, so we won't be far away and most of my staff are coming with me.'

Renato took over the establishment in 2007 when it was McTavish's Kitchens, which he ran for three years before turning it into a chip shop and restaurant.

Desperately still seeking lost monkeys

Two lost monkeys are still on the loose in Oban, despite their owner's appeal in *The Oban Times* to get them back.

Pamela-Jane Wood left them on the railings above George Street beach after taking a holiday snap of the pair on their Scottish break from Clacton-on-Sea. Ms Wood dashed off back to her tour coach only realising too late she had left monkeys Red Adair and Spekkels Spinky behind.



So far a Facebook appeal and the help of *The Oban Times* has failed to get them home but Ms Wood, who can be emailed at pamela.wood@btinternet.com, still has hope.

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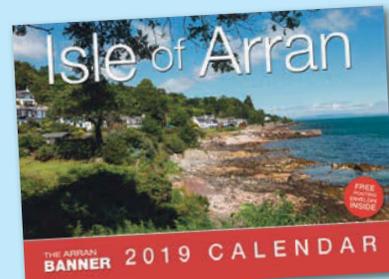
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OT

Buy-out fund is postponed

This year's World Stone Skimming Championships on Easdale raised more than £7,000.

The grand total would have been more but islanders still had to pay £1,000 to land-owner Jonathan Feigenbaum to use the quarry.

Funding for about £15,000 has been approved by the Scottish Land Fund (SLF) to purchase the quarry but its release has been temporarily postponed.

Six complaints against the funding award were received but, after investigation, the SLF found 'there was nothing to answer for', said Duncan Smallman, who is current chairman of Easdale Island Community Development Group.

'The upshot is the Scottish Land Fund is still happy to release the money and is keen to see it through. However,

because there's been a change of circumstance in some of our directors' residency, the SLF has asked us to get more islanders onto the board first and that's something we are trying to do,' added Mr Smallman.

Once the funding comes through, it means skimming championship organisers will not have to pay a fee to use the quarry which will then free up more money to pay running bills of the community hall and folk museum and help towards refurbishing the harbour.

Originally, Mr Feigenbaum had wanted £1,200 this year for use of the quarry but dropped it to £1,000.

Hundreds of people turned out for September's stone skimming championships, with around 350 taking part.

Overall world champion this year was Peter Szep from Hungary, who managed to hit

the back wall and then with his other two attempts threw a total of 122 metres. Lucy Wood was the best woman on the day, throwing 38 metres.

Funding from SLF would also include money to improve safety fencing around the slate quarries and put up new storyboard signs bringing the past back to life.

The next annual general meeting of Easdale Island Community Development Group is in December.

Potential funding to help refurbish Easdale's Folk Museum has also been sourced. The museum has now shut for winter but anyone interested in volunteering for next year to keep it running should get in touch with Eilean Eisdale.

To find out more about Eilean Eisdale and its projects and how to give support, go to easdale.org



The Corran Halls was filled with gin lovers. 17_T44_Ginfall01

Gin festival is a real tonic for Oban

It was a dream come true for Oban gin lovers on Saturday.

Ginfall, a festival that celebrates all things gin, took place in the Corran Halls.

Stallholders arrived in their dozens and surrounded the venue – and Obanites made the most of the free samples.

The event was broken into two sessions, with the first taking place from noon until 4pm, before restarting from 5pm until 9pm.

The event was organised by John McIver and Damian Higgins of Social and Cocktail Events.

The company spotted a gap in



Ann Marie Sinclair and Pauline Guild won *The Oban Times'* ticket giveaway. 17_T44_Ginfall02

the market with there being so many gins.

In a bid to get as many people

to try them, they started Ginfall.

After the first festival in Pollokshields in Glasgow in March, it then travelled to Greenock and Helensburgh before arriving in Oban last weekend.

John confirmed the festival would return to Oban next year.

'Today has been absolutely fantastic,' he said. 'It was great. I think everyone has enjoyed themselves. It's a bit different for Oban, but the feedback has been great.'

'I would like to thank all the staff in the Corran Halls.'

Village joins in Battle's Over celebrations

Kilniver and Kilmelford Community Council is playing its part in Battle's Over, an international commemoration marking 100 years since the guns fell silent at the end of the First World War.

It will be joining in events throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, and at scores

of locations overseas, including New Zealand, Ireland, Australia, Bermuda, France, Belgium, Canada, the United States and Germany, to name but a few.

People are invited to Kilmelford village car park at 6.45pm on Sunday November 11 to view the lighting of a beacon at 7pm which will be

followed by a lone piper, then soup, rolls and homebaking.

Organiser Roanna Clark said: 'We are proud to be playing a part in this international event to commemorate the centenary of the end of the Great War, and to recognise the contribution and sacrifice made by the men and women from our own community.'

It is all go as fireworks show looms

Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

editor@obantimes.co.uk



What a hectic month October has been ... I would say thank goodness it is November but I think it may prove to be just as busy. Ginfall in the Corran Halls was fabulous and everyone I've spoken to seems to agree.

And we have another gin event to look forward to on the same day as the Reindeer Parade, Saturday November 17, which is giving me a dilemma.

Can I combine an afternoon in The View sampling gin with helping the Oban and Lorn Lions at the Reindeer Parade? We'll just have to wait and see.

I have another dilemma this evening, Thursday November

1, with two quizzes on the same night; like buses, you wait ages and they all come at once.

In the Royal Hotel this evening is a quiz for the Oban High School Pipe Band, which is amazing, and in the Oban Inn is a quiz with the indomitable Craig Munro, who has been hosting quizzes in the Oban area for about 30 years, give or take a few.

If you're more musically minded, this evening sees Mike Denver in the Corran Halls.

On Saturday we have the first of the Holly Teas in aid of the MS Therapy Centre and a pop-up art sale in The Rockfield Centre in aid of Motor Neurone Disease, so it's going to be another busy weekend.

Next week, of course, we have our Oban annual fire-

WHERE IS THIS?



works spectacular which will be fabulous this year.

I'm really looking forward to it this year and to a wee visit to the stalls in Station Square for something to eat while I'm watching from my favourite spot, which I'm not sharing in case everyone turns up and there's no room for me. I have my fingers crossed that the weather will be kind to us.

Last week's photo is of the TSB bank and for this week you need to take a wee walk and figure out where I took this photograph from.

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Food hub delivers online market

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



The new Oban Food Hub is up and running.

The online farmers' market had its first collection at the town's Rockfield Centre last Thursday (October 25).

Organisers are hoping the initiative for people to buy locally-produced food from artisan producers will grow more and more customers.

The hub works with customers browsing a collective shop window online and paying for their order then the producer just brings it along to the weekly collection point.

The hub is a new take on the former Oban Food Assembly that started out earlier this year.

'Everything was going swimmingly well and we had great producers on board, sales were growing and then the company which provided



The first local produce collection at Oban's new food hub.

the food assembly web platform announced that it was pulling out of the UK market.

'We were really keen to keep going as it was doing well and the feedback from our producers and customers was really good so we started looking at all the other options out there and while there were a few there was nothing that quite matched up to the food assembly web

functionality and ease of use,' said Angela Anderson, one of the Oban hub organisers.

One of the longer serving food assembly hosts, Gillian MacKay from Ardunan Farm in Milngavie, near Glasgow, took on the task of setting up her own platform - The Great British Food Hub - so the initiative could continue.

'It is really quite incredible what she has achieved in a

short space of time, we had about three months' notice from The Food Assembly and Gillian has set up a brand new website and shop and has quite a few hubs up and running already,' said Ms Anderson.

The Oban Food Hub is one of them.

The online shop opens each week on a Wednesday with the food being ready for collection at The Rockfield Centre between 4-6pm the following Thursday.

Producers go along to deliver the orders and get a chance to chat to the customers. From bread and milk to mutton and beef, cakes and cheese, the hub has lots to choose from.

'We are hoping to continue to grow and add more customers and more producers as we go,' said Ms Anderson.

Go to thegreatbritishfoodhub.com to find out more.

Western Isles MP blasts Home Office

Western Isles MP Angus MacNeil is highlighting what he called 'the double standards of the Home Office' following press reports that non-European Economic Area (EEA) workers are employed in the offshore windfarm industry earning a fraction of the UK minimum wage.

Mr MacNeil says he is 'continually pressing the UK government to help the west coast fishing industry to allow non-EEA workers to

fill the gap in crew shortages. Despite having met six Tory immigration ministers, the Home Office refuses to help and boats are tied up due to lack of crew'.

Mr MacNeil said: 'The west coast fishing industry is crying out for crew and desperate to see the introduction of a scheme to allow non-EEA workers to fill the labour gap - a scheme which pays proper wages. However, this was rejected by the Home Office.'

Winter ceilidh at Royal Hotel

A festive ceilidh and dance is taking place at the Royal Hotel in Oban tomorrow (November 2).

The event will feature Oban High School Pipe Band, Mòd gold medallist Alasdair Currie, children from Rockfield Primary School and many more.

Ceilidh band Ceol An Aire will be playing at the dance.

There will be homebaking, tea, coffee and stovies for guests and a raffle with prizes that include a fishing trip

for two, a £100 cash prize, a luxury hamper, plus two standard weekend tickets for Oban Live 2019.

The doors open at 7pm and tickets are £10 for adults, £5 for children under 16, £20 for a family, with under-fives going free.

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OT

Jobs bonanza could be coming to Oban

New data published by Skills Development Scotland (SDS) forecasts that 8,800 jobs will become available in the next 10 years across Argyll and Bute – and there are more opportunities and greater variety of career options than ever before.

The latest information gathered by SDS through Regional Skills Assessments (RSAs) has looked in detail at the demand for skills throughout Scotland. The assessments show some encouraging findings, particularly in highlighting growth in the demand for skilled workers in every Scottish local authority area.

Margaret Bennett, team leader for Argyll and Bute at SDS, said: 'It's a really exciting time for Argyll and Bute as a whole, and for Oban in particular. Oban's university

town status means that more people are staying in and coming to the area to build their careers.

'Our skills research shows that there are opportunities across many sectors and at all skills levels, from higher level management positions to entry-level jobs.'

As a result, Argyll and Bute is becoming an even more attractive option as a place to live and work for people of all ages and stages.

The three professions forecast to experience the most significant growth in the next decade are admin and support services; professional scientific and technical; and construction. These sit alongside the top three employing sectors in Argyll and Bute – public admin and defence, accommodation and food services, and human health

and social work. People living in Oban and the surrounding area no longer have to move to get the training and skills needed to get started in these careers, and a range of other professions.

For example: modern apprenticeships are offered by a variety of employers in sectors such as hospitality, scientific technologies and administration in Oban, providing the chance to gain an industry-recognised qualification while working and earning a wage.

Argyll College UHI's Oban campus offers a range of part-time and full-time courses, ranging from introductory to degree and postgraduate level. Courses include childcare, horticulture, hospitality and business. Further and higher learning opportunities are also on offer at specialist

learning centres Ballet West and the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) UHI.

Local schools are doing their bit to prepare pupils for the world of work too. Foundation apprenticeships are a new way for school pupils to gain work experience and a widely recognised qualification. Pupils work on real projects with a local employer, developing skills and experience while gaining a qualification at the same level as a Higher.

Schools are also getting involved with the Open University's Young Applicants in Schools Scheme (YASS), where S6 pupils have the chance to study university-level modules alongside their other courses.

Whatever the age and stage in life, Oban has plenty to

offer in terms of potential to learn, earn and develop.

If anyone needs advice in terms of advancing their career – whether just starting out in the world of work, or currently out of employment or looking for a change – SDS's professionally qualified advisers can help.

Margaret explains: 'Our team can offer advice on the labour market and opportunities, discuss training opportunities and help you build your skills to get the job you want.'

To find out more about support from SDS, go to www.sds.co.uk, or head along to the Oban careers centre on Albany Street. Careers information can also be accessed online at myworldofwork.co.uk, or find out more about apprenticeships at apprenticeships.scot.

Plan aims to support deaf people in Argyll

A new plan to promote the use and raise awareness of British Sign Language (BSL) in Argyll and Bute has been approved by the council's Policy and Resources Committee.

The aim of the plan, which is shared by Argyll and Bute Council, Live Argyll and the Health and Social Care Partnership, is to improve access for deaf and deafblind BSL users to information and public services, including healthcare and mental health support.

The Joint Local BSL Plan for Argyll and Bute 2018 – 2024 sets out actions to develop the use of BSL.

The BSL (Scotland) Act 2015 requires public bodies to publish plans every six years showing how they will promote and support BSL.

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Crafters at Oban Hospice's Dove Centre are getting ready for Christmas. As the festive countdown begins, preparations are well under way at the centre's Thursday afternoon crafting group to knit, stitch and crochet items to sell at a craft market during the Oban Winter Festival later this

month. For anyone who can't wait, cheery knitted holly brooches, the idea of Nina Saleh Ahmed, pictured, can already be purchased by calling into the Dove Centre in Stevenson Street. Funds raised will be ploughed back into the centre supporting people with life-limiting illness.

Council tax change for buildings under repair

Buildings under long-term repair in Argyll and Bute are in line for a reduction in council tax under proposals agreed by council chiefs.

The policy and resources committee agreed to relax the rules on a double council tax charge on long-term empty properties. An additional 10

per cent council tax discount will now be given to properties which are under repair for up to 24 months, as opposed to the previous time of 12 months.

Dalavich hydro scheme secures new investors

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A hydro scheme run by a micro community in Dalavich has pulled in more than £50,000 of shares in just three weeks.

It needs £500,000 of investment ultimately to keep the scheme running for future generations and is now offering shares outside the community.

The offer has made an appearance in the Friends of the Earth newsletter and representatives from Awesome Energy (Dalriada)'s (AED) board of directors, who run the company, got lots of interest when they attended this year's Good Money Week conference in Edinburgh promoting sustainable and ethical opportunities for investment.

Income from energy produced will be ploughed back into community projects once the build and infrastructure costs are paid back.

AED launched its latest share offer on September 8 and, 21 days later, had secured £54,900 of investment from existing shareholders and the community that also takes in nearby Kilchrenan, Kilmaha and Inverinan.

In September, the hydro saw its largest generation figures since it was commissioned in February rising to 168,784kWh; the previous best was February with 150,128kWh.

'This performance was forecast by the team of experts who were brought in at the beginning of the project to map out best and worst case scenarios for the project,' said

AED spokesperson Samantha Marshall.

'A recent calculation carried out by Awesome Energy shows that this has saved 48Kg of CO2 from entering the atmosphere in the first nine months of production - the community is very proud of this achievement,' added Ms Marshall.

Innogy Renewables UK made full grid connection possible by providing AED with free access to its grid capacity at its nearby Braevallich hydro power station, without which support AED would not be able to operate.

Ms Marshall said: 'This is a small community which had a dream, which it has turned into reality.'

To find out more go to awesome-energy.com/shareholders.html

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



Like most professions, skills and attributes, it has long been recognised that music passes down the generations.

The piping world is well known for players whose abilities grew from the talents of their forebears. Last weekend this pattern was substantiated yet again when Finlay Johnston was crowned winner of the Glenfiddich Piping Championship 2018 held at Blair Castle in Perthshire.

Seen by many as the premiere prize of the entire piping scene, the Glenfiddich competitors are chosen based on their accumulated achievements in the year leading up to the championship. Winning among a field of the 10 best competing pipers in the world, is an outstanding achievement.

Finlay has pipe music in his blood. His mother, Anne Johnston (nee Sinclair), had a very successful solo piping career and was the first female winner of the Silver Medal at the Northern Meeting in Inverness. His father, Tommy, was a top pipe-band drummer and is a maker of very fine pipe reeds. Like Anne, Finlay's pip-

ing began under the tutelage of his grandfather, the late Alasdair Sinclair from Tiree.

When Finlay was eight years old he spent a summer on Tiree with his grandfather and this was when his road to winning the Glenfiddich began.

His own hard work, along with guidance from his mother and continued instruction from Ronnie McShannon, combined to grow a champion from that boy who first played the chanter under the watchful and encouraging eye of his grandfather more than 24 years ago.

The following sentence is an excerpt from a column I wrote covering the Tiree Songbook Concert at Celtic Connections in January 2016 at which Anne and Finlay appeared. I was conveying how the presence of the late forebears of those performing could be strongly felt and was envisaging how they might be reacting to the fine music being played and to the atmosphere of the occasion.

'As Anne and Finlay Johnston played Am Falbh thu leam a Ribhinn Og, their father and grandfather respectively, Alasdair Sinclair, was singing

along with a wide grin and a glint in his eye.'

Well, if Alasdair Sinclair could have witnessed his grandson hitting the very pinnacle of the piping world last Saturday, his grin would have been as wide as the open Atlantic behind his house and the glint in his eye brighter than the beam from Skerryvore Lighthouse.

Another of Alasdair's pupils was Pipe Major Gordon Rowan, who is the current director of the Army School of Piping in Edinburgh. With a grandson who has just been crowned as king of pipers for 2018 and another former pupil holding one of the most prestigious positions in piping, his influence on the contemporary bagpipe world is significant.

Alasdair Ruadh, as he was known, died in November of 1996 but, like many who pass on skills, knowledge, music and art, they render themselves and their memories immortal.

By winning the Glenfiddich, Finlay Johnston has added greatly to the immortality of his grandfather's memory and to Tiree piping lineage.

Well done, Finlay!

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OT

Scientists reveal plastics problem

Marine creatures living in the deepest parts of the ocean have been feeding on microplastic particles for at least four decades, a study has revealed.

Researchers at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) at Dunstaffnage delved into the institute's archived samples from the Rockall Trough, an area of deep sea off the west coast, to assess the extent of microplastic ingestion in bottom-dwelling starfish and brittle stars.

Traces of eight different plastics, including polyester and nylon, were found in specimens that lived more than 2,000 metres below the ocean surface between 1976 and 2015 – and the levels of ingestion were similar throughout that period.

Across the time series, scientists found nearly half of the starfish and brittle stars sampled had ingested



A Hymenaster seastar was one of the creatures sampled.

microplastics, defined as small pieces of plastic less than five millimetres in size. When ingested by sea creatures, microplastics may be retained in their bodies and passed up the food chain.

The study, published in Environmental Pollution, follows on from SAMS research in 2017, which was the first to quantify the levels of microplastic ingestion in marine

creatures living at depths of 2,200 metres.

Author Winnie Courtene-Jones, a UHI PhD student at SAMS, said: 'Mass production of plastics only began in the 1940s and 1950s, so it would be reasonable to expect less plastic in our earlier samples, with a subsequent upward trend to the present day levels, but we haven't seen that. In fact, the level of microplastic

ingestion is remarkably similar throughout the time series.

'This data shows, for the first time, the long-term prevalence of microplastic pollution in the deep sea and indicated that microplastics may have been present on the sea floor of the Rockall Trough prior to 1976.

'We were only able to gather this evidence by using archival specimen collections and I would encourage those with access to such repositories to consider using these in order to broaden our knowledge of historical plastic pollution, which will help us tackle our modern-day problem.'

Researchers at the Dunbeg-based SAMS had access to historical records collected from the annual Ellett Line scientific cruise, which began in 1975 and takes samples and observations at monitoring stations between Scotland and Iceland.



Repairs on the breakwater are estimated at £800,000.

Work starts to repair damaged breakwater

Work has started on a £800,000 scheme to demolish and rebuild Kerrera's new breakwater.

The breakwater was less than two years old when it was struck by a boat in December causing significant damage.

The Scottish Government had invested £2.05 million into a project to extend the two slipways at the ferry crossing between Gallanach and Kerrera, completed on time and within budget in August 2016.

A new 40-metre breakwater was also constructed on the Kerrera side to allow lifeboats to moor for medical evacuation and provide a more reliable and resilient ferry service for its islanders in poor weather, making cancellations and delays less likely.

After the collision, a

spokesperson for Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL), which owns CalMac's ferries and ports, told *The Oban Times* that 10 metres of the breakwater structure had been damaged, displacing a number of the pre-cast concrete deck sections and steel sheet piles.

CMAL conducted a public procurement exercise to appoint a contractor to demolish and rebuild the damaged section of the breakwater.

A project budget of £800,000 was allocated for the rebuilding works, which would be fully recovered through CMAL's infrastructure insurance arrangements.

A notice on the Gallanach slipway reassures passengers the work, due to be completed in December, will have no impact on ferry timetables.

Argyll MP lobbies chancellor on behalf of WASPI women

MP Brendan O'Hara has written to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Phillip Hammond, on behalf of 6,700 WASPI women across Argyll and Bute who have been hit by

the UK government changes to the state pension age.

Mr O'Hara said: 'In Argyll and Bute, benefit claims for women over the age of 60 have increased drastically

and it would appear a large number of these are from women who are affected by the changes to the state pension age. Before the autumn Budget on Monday, I wrote to

the Chancellor to ask him to put things right and look again at what options are available to bring forward necessary funding to provide support for all affected WASPI women.'

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Specialist Jayne is all heart

The Oban Times is running a series of articles championing the work carried out by Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) in the Oban, Lorn and the Isles locality. Each article features a specific service provided by the HSCP and focuses on the staff who provide that service and the role they play in making a positive difference for the people living in Oban and surrounding areas. This week we look at the work of Jayne Mahmoud.

Jayne Mahmoud is Argyll and Bute clinical cardiac physiologist based in Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban.

She has worked out of the hospital for 13 years and also provides professional services to patients living in Islay, Mull and Campbeltown.

Her role involves the diagnosis of heart disease in adults. She performs and reports on cardiac tests, such as echocardiograms, exercise testing, ambulatory ECGs and complex lung function tests.

In 1998, she studied at Leeds University obtaining a degree in human physiology. This is the science of how the body works and is one of the fundamental disciplines of biology and modern medicine. Physiology investigates the interaction of molecules, cells, tissues and organs, and how these parts make up the whole body. Human physi-

ology has a focus on cellular and molecular mechanisms of disease.

Jayne worked through her degree to develop an interest on expanding her specialism in cardiology. She continued to study in the field of cardiology and has been a fully qualified

'My job is varied and no two days or patients are ever the same'

highly specialist cardiac physiologist for 20 years.

Highly specialist cardiac physiologists work in laboratories, operating theatres, hospital and clinic settings. Jayne

also works closely with cardiologists and surgeons to diagnose and treat heart diseases. She also works with a wide range of other health and social care professionals.

Jayne said: 'After studying and training for my degree in human physiology I developed a strong interest in cardiology and continued studying at degree level



Jayne Mahmoud loves walking her dogs.

enabling me to fully qualify as a highly specialist cardiac physiologist.

'There are a wide range of cardiac tests which means my job is varied and no two days or patients are ever the same. I can honestly say my job is very rewarding and, like most health professionals, my expert field can be challenging. Heart physiology is still very interesting to me, even after 20 years of service. I definitely chose the correct career.'

Being a highly specialist

cardiac physiologist requires keeping up to date with medical guidelines and governance. They also need to train to use sophisticated computer software and programmes, be part of a team and have excellent interpersonal skills.

Jayne is part of a team that means she works off a rota to ensure a high quality service is being delivered. Being organised, prioritising and scheduling patient appointments and test results is a large part of her day.

Performing tests and producing accurate reports for other health professionals is also an essential part of her work.

Jayne added: 'Each patient is different, which continuously challenges and assists in developing my knowledge and skills.'

'Technology has advanced immensely during my career, and is developing all the time which makes my job much more advanced and accurate.'

'The most rewarding part of my job is to see patients diagnosed, successfully treated, and observing their heart condition and general health improve. This helps keeps me motivated, and gives us all a buzz when they only require an annual or occasional follow-up.'

Jayne has spent a large part of her working life in Oban. She loves working at Lorn and Islands Hospital and the friendly staff that over the years have become really good friends.

She also enjoys living in a small friendly community and never tires of enjoying the peaceful bays, stunning countryside and sunsets that are such a pleasure in this part of Scotland.

Jayne's spare time is spent looking after her two horses, two cats and roaming the hills and beaches with her two dogs.



Oilfast's Dail Beattie with Councillor Roddy McCuish.

Tanker competition draws on creativity

More than 80 primary pupils from Oban and Fort William entered an Oilfast drawing competition to win a class trip to Blair Drummond Safari Park.

Oban councillor Roddy McCuish had the tough task of choosing just one winner out of all the entries from Rockfield Primary School and Caol Primary School in the two towns.

'The quantity and the quality of the designs was impressive. I'm delighted Oilfast is getting involved in the community and I'd encourage more businesses to follow suit,' he said.

The challenge was for youngsters to draw an Oilfast tanker and Caol P4 pupil Hania Antonina Loboda's colourful design was selected as the overall winner.

Youngsters from both schools were all given hi-vis vests by the heating oil supplier to keep them safe when they walk to school.

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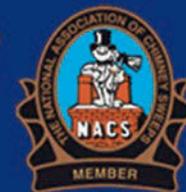
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BUSINESS NEWS

Argyll firms head for tourism 'Oscars'

Tourism businesses from all over Argyll are heading to Inverness to attend the Highland and Islands Tourism Awards 2018 - also known as the tourism 'Oscars'.

Sixteen businesses have been shortlisted for the prestigious awards with winners going on to the Scottish Thistle Awards finals in Edinburgh next year. Argyll tourism is represented in all of the 14 categories.

More than 160 businesses were originally nominated but just 43 were shortlisted in the end, with Argyll and the Isles leading the way.

David Sexton, from RSPB and Mull Eagle Watch, also a finalist in the Working Together for Tourism category, added: 'It's fantastic to see all these finalists from Argyll and gives a real sense of pride in what these businesses are doing.'

Argyll businesses are finalists in Best Cultural Event or Festival, Best Eating Experience, Best Outdoor/Adventure Experience and Best Self Catering Experience.

The full list of Argyll businesses and individuals shortlisted is: Portavadie, Loch Fyne; Clan Cottages, Oban; Oban Live; Jura Music Festival; Ninth Wave Restaurant, Mull; St Hilda Sea Adventures, Oban; Basking Shark Scotland, Oban; Nature Scotland, Mull; Majestic Line, Argyll; Glenegeedale House, Islay; Mull Eagle Watch; Argyll and the Isles Tourism Cooperative Ltd; John McNulty, Taynuilt Hotel; Emma Clark, Glenegeedale House; Alice Gill, Lodge on Loch Goil.

New AITC leadership announced at AGM

Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative's annual general meeting last month saw a change of leadership.

Loch Melfort Hotel's Calum Ross relinquished his post as chairman and Iain Jurgensen stepped up from his vice-chairman's role to take over the top job.

Iain will be joined by Daniel MacIntyre, who fills the vice-chairman's position.

Iain thanked Calum for his leadership over the past year saying: 'We recognise the enormous contribution Calum makes both in and for Argyll as well as at national and UK level in pursuit of the best conditions for economic growth in the tourism sector.'

'We would also wish him great success as he joins the HIE board. I am very pleased he has agreed to continue with us as a co-opted director.'

'I am delighted and privileged to take on the post of chairman at this most exciting of times with the Heart and Soul Campaign in full swing and building upon the Wild About Argyll campaign success. We are in a great place to grow the tourism offering and brand awareness to our markets.'

'There are challenges as well as opportunities and, of course, we will be working hard to make the case for a permanent solution to the Rest and Be Thankful to ensure Argyll is open for business as a year-round tourist destination.'

'Over the past year we have grown the skills on the board through co-opting Daniel MacIntyre, who recently took over The View in Oban, and Virginia Sumsion from Food from Argyll. And we welcome two newly-elected directors - Neil



Daniel MacIntyre, left, and Iain Jurgensen.

MacKay from Oban and Lorn Tourism Alliance and Donna Chisholm from Visit Bute.'

Iain added: 'I am delighted to welcome Daniel to the role of vice-chairman. Dan has been heavily involved in our new website and the Heart and Soul campaign and champions our digital agenda.'

AITC now looks ahead to a very busy few months, with the innovative Heart and Soul campaign with Glasgow Life and key travel partners running through to March 2019. It will shortly share the findings of the ambitious

West Coast Marine Tourism Collaboration, which has been progressed with several other destination marketing organisations from Lewis to Arran and is scoping out new product development opportunities to progress in readiness for 2020 the Year of Coasts and Water.

After the AGM, AITC hosted a networking event with the Scottish Destination Management Association sharing all that's new across the region and seeking to significantly increase the amount of business undertaken in Argyll and the Isles.

On November 6, AITC is jointly hosting an events and festivals workshop with EventScotland for event providers across Argyll which is seeking to encourage much more collaboration in the planning, delivery and promotion of events.

Over the coming months the AITC development team will be focusing considerable energy on product development and planning for 2020 the Year of Coasts and Water.

The full AITC board comprises: Neil MacKay, Oban and Lorn Tourism Alliance; Gavin Dick, Cowal Marketing Group; Victoria Winters, Heart of Argyll Tourism Alliance; Niall Macalister Hall, Explore Kintyre and Gigha; Fiona McPhail, Kyles Marketing Group; Donna Chisholm, Visit Bute; Cathy Craig, Entrepreneurial Scotland; Iain Jurgensen, Portavadie, Loch Fyne; Andy Roger, Cameron House, Loch Lomond; Daniel MacIntyre, Little Bay Trading; Virginia Sumsion, Food from Argyll; Calum Ross, Loch Melfort Hotel; and the Duchess of Argyll.

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Young Highlanders selected for new entrepreneur programme

Eleven young Highland entrepreneurs have been selected to take part in a new business growth programme to drive their businesses forward to the next stage.

IMPACT30 is a 12-month funded business growth programme organised by Highlands and Islands Enterprise's (HIE) Northern Innovation Hub in partnership with consultancy business Anderson Anderson and Brown (AAB).

The programme aims to support the next generation of entrepreneurs by providing mentoring support and tapping into industry leaders' expertise. It has been co-designed by young entrepreneurs to meet their needs.

People under 35 within young ambitious businesses less than three years old are eligible to take part in IMPACT30. It has been formulated to develop the new generation of talent by taking an agile approach to building and delivering their growth plans.

Applicants created a short video pitching themselves, their business



Finlay Macdonald of Chocolates of Glenshiel.

and what they would like to take away from the programme. The winners were selected by a panel from the IMPACT30 coaching team, HIE and AAB.

The successful entrepreneurs hail from a variety of backgrounds, including the food and drink and property sectors. The programme will begin on November 12. They

are: Julia Latif of Our House of Spice Ltd, Fort Augustus; Jonny Ingledew of North Uist Distillery; Ben Oakes of Isle of Skye Seaweed Company; Finlay Macdonald of Chocolates of Glenshiel; Jamie Fletcher of Caora Dhubh Coffee Company, Isle of Skye; Gemma Ashdown of Skye Serenity, Broadford; Cecilia Grigor

of Loch Ness Knit Fest, Inverness; Jo-Ann Clark of Emily's Bees, Cairngorms; Ian Smith of Tíree Whisky Company Ltd; Kevin Clark of Heilan Loos, Grantown-on-Spey; and Hannah Low of Handpicked Properties, Inverness.

Felix Spittal, senior project manager at HIE, said: 'We have been impressed by the drive, innovation, commitment and determination from the diverse range of applicants, all of whom exemplified the type of business acumen that will benefit from the high-quality support IMPACT30 offers.'

'This programme will allow the entrepreneurs to remain in their locations while receiving tailored guidance and support from AAB, coaches, mentors and peers throughout. I'm looking forward to watching these young entrepreneurs grow over the next 12 months and beyond.'

Claire Smith, consultant at Anderson Anderson and Brown, added: 'The successful candidates clearly articulated their business growth plans and objectives for

IMPACT30 and creatively used their video applications to give the panel insight into their venture.'

'We can't wait to kick off the programme and look forward to working closely with the young and exciting businesses to achieve their growth ambitions.'

The Northern Innovation Hub, led by HIE, is a set of projects in the Highland Council area seeking to support the biggest opportunities for the region to create a global competitive advantage.

The projects are targeted at supporting the long-term growth of small and emerging enterprises in sectors including life sciences, tourism, food and drink and the creative industries.

It was awarded £11m by the Inverness and Highland City-Region Deal, along with £3m from the European Regional Development Fund and £2m from Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

To find out more about Northern Innovation Hub and to apply for future cohorts for IMPACT30, visit nih.hie.co.uk.

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Highland Clearances Trail given update

by Martin Laing
mlaing@obantimes.co.uk



A new edition of the popular guide to sites that pinpoint communities that were subject to the Highland Clearances is being planned for early next year.

Former MSP Rob Gibson, the author of several editions of the Highland Clearances Trail, has agreed with his publisher Luath Press to produce a refreshed edition.

It started as a pamphlet that grew and grew from 1983, selling thousands of copies. When finally published in book form in 2006, it contained routes for visitors to take to the very places where people were dispossessed from Shetland to Arran.

Rob said: 'Since the 2006 edition, community purchases are reclaiming land that was once cleared. New ideas about resettlement and successful repopulation are happening in places where the worst clearances took place in the 18th and 19th centuries. New studies of specific clearances have been published and issues of wild land versus clearances country have been hotly debated.

'The Scottish Government's land fund has made possible new community buyouts such as Ulva off north-west Mull earlier this year. Ulva suffered falls from 600 inhabitants to 50 in 60 years to 1889. Today five people are permanent residents on an island with huge potential for resettlement.

'Debates about speeding round the North Coast 500 route have provoked calls to slow down and find out why the landscape is so devoid of people and visit the places they were forced to leave.

'A new book, *The Scottish Clearances – A History of the Dispossessed* by renowned historian Sir Tom Devine, shows the whole pattern of clearances.

'Sir Tom notes that my Highland Clearances Trail is very popular from edition to edition. I am revising the 2006 edition and hope to see a new fuller version appear next year to meet the thirst for knowledge of how our land was shaped and is now owned.'

Map makers and pl

Morvern lines

IAIN THORNER

ian.thorner@btinternet.com



Colby is not a surname you come across much in Argyll these days which is a pity as one of them literally put the county 'on the map'.

Two and a half centuries ago there were very few maps of the Highlands; those that did exist were so inaccurate as to be practically useless – as the Duke of Cumberland's soldiers were to find out when trying to round up Jacobite sympathisers after the battle of Culloden.

If another rising was to be prevented a map showing the lie of the land and one true to scale, would be required. The most up-to-date map of Scotland available at the time was by John Elphinstone, a military engineer who served with the Duke of Cumberland's army. It was an improvement but lacked the necessary detail required for moving troops and planning campaigns.

Other soldiers tried but it was William Roy of the Board of Ordnance who leaped ahead with his one inch to a thousand yard 1747-1755 military map of Scotland. Roy's magnificent government-sponsored project was part of a broader strategy to open up the Highlands in parallel with the construction of an extensive road network, connecting newly built forts and repaired military strongholds. Roy, rising to the rank of Major General, was largely responsible for determining the relative positions of the French and British royal observatories.

Roy's map was the starting point of the Principal Triangulation of Great Britain (1783-1853), and led to the creation of the Ordnance Survey of which Thomas Frederick Colby (1784-1852) became its longest-serving Director General.

Colby, who lost a hand in a shooting accident, was not only involved in designing specialist measuring equipment, he also established a systematic collection of place names, and reorganised the map-making process to produce clear, accurate plans. Place names were recorded in 'Name Books'.

Those for Scotland are still extant and can be found online or in the archives of Historic Environment Scotland. Instructions for their use were: 'Persons employed on the survey are to endeavour to obtain the correct orthography of the names of places by diligently consulting



the best authorities within their reach. The name of each place is to be inserted as it is commonly spelt'.

Colby's most important work was the Survey of Ireland, which he began planning in 1824 and completed 22 years later. Then came the challenging 1784-1858 triangulation which resulted in the six inch to one mile series of the whole of Scotland. Colby chose stations for their good inter-visibility, which meant that inevitably they would be working on mountain summits using heavy theodolites, signalling mirrors and other bulky paraphernalia. Colby was rather short, with a wiry active frame and believed in leading from the front.

One of his sappers recorded; 'Capt Colby took me and a fresh party of the soldiers on a station-hunt. Our first halting place was Grantown, at a distance of 24 miles; and Captain Colby, having, according to his usual practice, ascertained the general direction by means of a pocket compass and map, the whole party set off, as on a steeple chase, running down the mountain-side at full speed.

'Arriving at Grantown in about five hours and a half we dined there, and proceeded afterwards along the valley of the Spey, by the high road, to the Aviemore Inn to sleep. The distance travelled by us that day was calculated at thirty-nine miles'.

Although a slave driver, Colby, like Nelson and Napoleon, knew how to look after those under his command, particularly at the end of a season of nearly four months' living beneath canvas in inhospitable places, by producing treats in the form of enormous plum puddings. 'Every camp kettle', explained one of his subalterns, 'was requisitioned for mixing the ingredients – some breadths of canvas tent-lining were converted into pudding-cloths and a large brewing-copper was borrowed to boil it



in. The pudding was suspended by a cord from a cross-beam to prevent it burning, and was kept boiling for four and twenty hours - a relief of men being appointed to watch the fire and maintain a constant supply of boiling water'. When the giant pudding of nearly 100 pounds in weight was ready, 'a long table was spread in three of the marquees with seats being placed also for Colby. All the surveyors and assistants partook of the pudding, which was excellent, and toasted, "Success to the Trig [point]"'.

There are at least two camps in Argyll associated with the famous Thomas Colby. The highest lies in Ardgour in a sheltered hollow fifty yards below and to the N of the summit of Creach Bheinn (2,789ft). It is in a remarkable state of preservation and consists of a guard room, a cook house and three round bases for tents, lying between two massive eight-foot high drystone wind breaks.

A well laid stone path leads up from the camp to the site of the signalling station. The second is on Beinn an Oir (2,575 feet) – the highest of the Paps of Jura. It, too, was established in the nearest position to the triangulation point that afforded any shelter – for example in a shallow saddle about a 100 yards to the NE and



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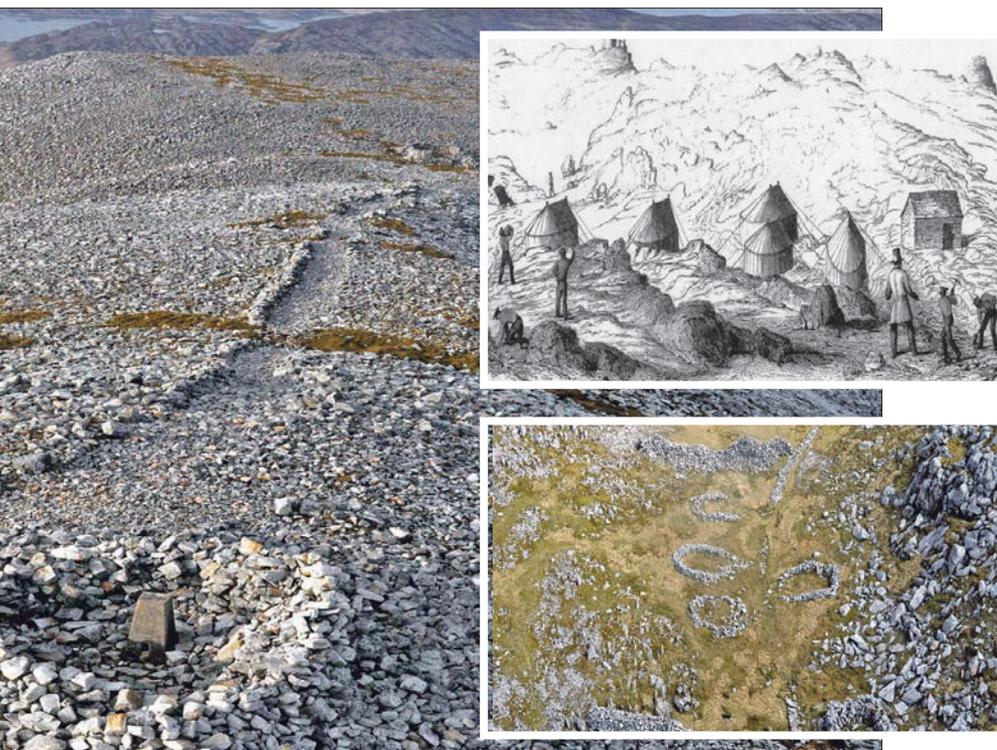
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Top left: Col Thomas Colby by William Brockedon, 1837; main, the trig point and track leading to Colby's camp on Beinn na Oir, Jura; top right, Creach Bheinn camp from a sketch by Joseph Lowry 1851; and below Colby's camp on Creach Bheinn, Ardgour.

Photographs: Iain Thornber

connected with a clear, made path through the scree.

The camp consists of two rectangular dry-stone structures, the walls of which were probably roofed with tarpaulin. The larger building measures 28 feet by 16 feet with the wall standing up to almost five feet. There are no wind break walls. There is a small unrecorded roofed stone building about 50 yards below and east of the summit which was possibly a latrine or an observation hut.

The following account was written by Lt Col Porlock while on the trigometrical survey on the Isle of Man in 1825 and was dedicated to that venerable institution, the landlady, who has a special place in every surveyor's heart.

'Landing at Douglas, his [Colonel Colby's] first object was to hasten towards North Baroole, and to locate himself at its base in a small public-house on the roadside, kept by Mrs Looney. The next morning, as the month was June, he started with a small party of men,

about three o'clock, for the summit, and was soon hard at work preparing for and erecting the three-foot Ramsden theodolite. A few hours thus employed, and the free breathing of the wholesome mountain air prepared the stomach also to do its duty; and welcome therefore was the sight of Mrs Looney, attended by her maidens as she scaled the summit, with kettle in hand, a store of burning fuel in an iron pot, and all the glorious appendages of a substantial breakfast. The repast was soon ready, appetite was boundless, and digestion sound, and yet the supply was inexhaustible. With new vigour the work was now resumed, and about eight o'clock, pm, the party descended, when Mrs Looney, whose heart was a generous one, served up a dinner, which, though it might not have suited the palates of a court of aldermen, was in quantity sufficient to gorge a company of giants.'

Iain Thornber
iain.thornber@btinternet.com

DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



This week's Down Memory Lane comes courtesy of Willie Barnett from Tralee who found this charming snap among his mother's belongings recently. It comes from a young people's fancy dress parade at Oban Congregational Church. The date on it could be March 1914. The girl third from the left was Willie's aunt, Asa Goodbrand. Do you recognise anyone else?



It's been all change for the shops on Fort William High Street since this picture was taken. Photograph courtesy of the Roamer archive.

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LETTERS

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Controversy over Oban parking will simply not go away

It is a subject we have dwelled on previously and are forced to return to.

The parking regime in Oban remains a fraught topic and one that continues to exercise minds.

Now the residents of Mull are also up in arms over the proposed introduction of new charges for parking, all year round, Monday to Sunday, from 9am to 6pm. Some people on the island have branded the planned fees as likely to cause 'mayhem' and have voiced their fears for public safety if the charges are introduced.

These are justifiable worries on Mull given the fact that many people are obliged to park for extended periods while they visit the mainland, including, for example, for hospital visits.

So widespread is the concern now over the parking situation in both Oban and on Mull that it has prompted the intervention of Andrew Spence, the chief executive of BID4Oban.

The bottom line here is – as we have said on many occasions previously – that the system in Oban is not fit for purpose. Rather than blithely soldiering on, it is long past time that Argyll and Bute Council went back to the drawing board.

There simply must be reasonable provision for people travelling into town to work and for people visiting the islands – and vice versa – to park without falling foul of the parking fines.

Enjoy the fireworks

Yes, it is that time of year again when large numbers of us enjoy the excellent bonfire night and fireworks displays organised across our region.

Principal among the displays will those at Dunbeg on Saturday and Oban on Monday.

Both are deserving of wide support for providing great entertainment in a safe environment. Enjoy!

Upgrade of road should not be at expense of hospital

I must respectfully take slight exception to the letter from Joanne Matheson of Acharacle in *The Oban Times* of October 18.

While I agree that the A82 itself is badly in need of an upgrade (particularly, I would say, on the 10-mile stretch between Inverarnan and Tarbet), and I'd like to see a bypass being built from Morrison's roundabout over the river to Blar Mhor to connect with the A830 at the Blar roundabout, I don't think that any such upgrade should be at the expense of anything much more needed, such as the new hospital.

Davie Kerr, Onich.

Strange sights on the road beside Loch Awe

I was most interested in your story about the strange happenings around Loch Awe ('Loch Awe road is one of Britain's spookiest', *The Oban Times*, October 18).

I was a bus driver working for Stewarts Coaches at Dalavich from 1997 until 2005. I would set out at 6.45am to do a school run from Eridine and quite a few times on the way would be flashed from behind by a Mark Three Cortina wanting to pass. I would pull in at the next passing place but was never to see it. Also, on several occasions a Vauxhall Vellux flashed to pass but never did.

I have never mentioned this to anyone except Tommy Stuart, who said he had seen these cars as well.

I also saw a man walking along the side of the road one morning around the same time just before the what was then Highland Heathers. He was wearing a three-cornered hat and knee-length trousers. He put his hand up and vanished.

I only mention this now as other people have felt and seen things too.

Thomas Middleton, Dalavich.

South Pier should be run by public authority

For nearly 100 years, the North and South Piers at Oban, and the defined harbour areas around them, were owned by the council and fell under its jurisdiction. The wider Oban

YOUR PICTURES



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

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

General Harbour Authority Area (which is still a legal entity) fell under the jurisdiction of the Oban General Harbour Authority, on which the council was (and is) a joint undertaker.

In 1988, the South Pier was forcibly handed over to Caledonian MacBrayne, despite a great deal of political opposition. That politically-driven decision was the catalyst for the insidious growth in CalMac/CMAL's dominance and self-serving influence over the management of Oban harbour since.

Whatever the original intention was for the handover, ultimately CMAL's stewardship of the South Pier has been detrimental to the economic benefit of the port of Oban.

Attempts by the council to develop the South Pier over the years have been thwarted by CMAL's vested interests, and while CMAL has been very happy to reap the benefits of the income it receives from the South Pier, it has spent very little on the infrastructure of the pier itself.

It is difficult to see why ownership of the

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ALLAN CAMPBELL

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made in 1988 and to put in place the relevant legislation to vest control of the South Pier in the hands of a body that will have the wider interests of Oban at its heart.

**Fergus G R Gillanders,
Craiggaol, Kilmelford.**

Coire Glas: environmental questions unanswered

It seems that Scottish Canals has accepted an agreement with SSE on the Coire Glas pump storage scheme (not classified as a renewable) that can be financially lucrative to it (*Lochaber Times*, October 18).

Scottish Canals would otherwise have been expected to make representations on SSE's plans to extract more than 23 million tonnes of water and discharge the same every day to Loch Lochy. This has a consequent risk of bank erosion and scarring on the shores of Loch Lochy, with acknowledged effects of many and rapid fluctuations in loch level on water plants and aquatic invertebrates.

Of course, much of the incredible four million tonnes of rock will still have to be taken out by thousands of lorry transports as well as by canal.

There are still many unanswered questions: how does SSE square the fact that it will get paid twice, for generating the electricity from the wind farms and also from the pump storage scheme? How much will it recompense the community (businesses and home owners should get personal compensation for massive environmental disturbance and it will take 20 years for landscape recovery)?

How exactly will the four million tonnes of rock be disposed of and how is SSE going to 'remodel' the landscape at Coire Glas, as it so nicely puts it? Also, how will it take in 1500 Mw of power continuously to Coire Glas pump storage and also get the electricity out?

I wonder if the customers of Scottish Canals will be pleased to see miles of huge pylons from half way up Loch Lochy on the west bank to Fort Augustus. More than one million visitors each year passing on the A82 will see these blighting pylons and also walkers on the Great Glen Way. If SSE does not insist in making this an underground electricity connection to Fort Augustus, then it will be an eyesore in the Great Glen.

**Jim Treasurer,
Friends of the Great Glen
Environmental Group, Fort William.**

Faisg air seachdadh bliadhna bho fhoillseachadh an nobhail 1984 tha cuid a' coimhead air ais air na brudaran aig Seòras Orwell mar fhàidheadaireachd air cuid de thachartasan an latha 'n-diugh.

Cha ghabhainn fhin cus taobh ris a' bheachd sin ach aig an aon àm tha mi gu tur a' creidsinn gum bheil teicneòlas a' toirt buaidh 's dòcha ris nach robh dùil air beatha làitheil a' mhòr-shluaigh a chionn 's ged a tha e a' dlùthachadh dhaoine ann an aon dòigh, ann an dòighean eile tha e a' cur às do chothroman coinneachaidh is conaltraidh luachmhor a bh' againn.

Leis a' chothrom a th' aig daoine an cuid ceannach a dhèanamh air an eadar-lìon nuair a fhreagras sin orra, tha a rèir coltais barrachd is barrachd a' seachnadh nam bùithtean agus anns an t-seachd sin chan eil iad a' cur seachad ùine an cuideachd chàich a chèile mar a bha.

A bharrachd air gum bheil sin a' cruthachadh chun-nartan aonarachdais, tha e cuideachd a' ciallachadh nach eil na bùithtean fhèin a' cosnadh uimhir is air am bheil feum aca gus cosgais

an làraich agus tuarastail a choinneachadh, gun ghuth air prothaid! Tha na h-uiread de sgeulachdan den t-seòrsa air a bhith a' nochdadh bho chionn greise agus a-nise tha fios gum bheil na marsantan mòra M&S agus Debenhams a' fulang, agus Debenhams dol a dhùnadh caogad bùth ri linn a' chrionaidh ann an àireamh luchd-tadhail is ceannach.

Chan iongnadh ged a bhiodh àrd-shràidean nam bailtean a' call an cuid drip is snas leis mar nach tèid aig marsantan air farpais tuilleadh ri seirbheis agus prìsean an eadar-lìn, agus feumar faighneachd mun bhuaidh a th' aige sin air daoine nach eil a' coinneachadh is a' conaltradh mar a bha. Bheil coimhearsnachdan a' fulang ri linn seo?

Bho chionn beagan bhliadhnaichean a-nise tha dragh air a bhith air mòran sgiobaidhean ball-coise leis mar a tha àireamhan luchd-amhairc air sioladh, agus teachd a-steach ri linn sin, fo bhuaidh gheamannan a bhith gan craoladh beò air telebhisean. Gu ìre saoilidh cuid againn gum bheil an aon rud a' nochdadh a-nise

aig farpaisean mòra a' Mhòid Nàiseanta bho thòisich barrachd dhiubh sin a bhith gan craoladh beò. Air an dàrna làimh tha e math agus buannachdail a bhith a' faotainn barrachd foillseachaidh dhan Mhòd agus dhan Ghàidhlig, ach air an làimh eile tha sinn a' call cosnaidh nach fhuiling sinn fada.

Cha ghabh teicneòlas neo saoghal telebhisean seachnadh ach tha e deatamach gun lean sin mar sheirbheis dhan mhòr-shluaigh is nach leigear leis coimhearsnachd a sgaradh agus cultar a sgrìos!

No profit without loss, says a proverb, and some feel that technological developments are now producing damaging side-effects.

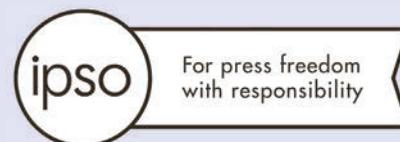
One such effect is a serious downturn of customer footfall in high street stores as people opt to shop online, and another negative impact is the turnstile and box-office revenue loss at events being broadcast live on television. Clearly unfortunate if media bankrupts its own subject material!

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

sent by Patric Louis from Cologne, who said: 'I took this picture on my way from Arisaig to Glenfinnan. It seems like light from God makes the Polish Chapel an eye-catcher in this dramatic landscape.'

South Pier now has anything to do with provision of lifeline ferry services. The commercial activities currently undertaken at the South Pier (or which could be developed in future) are not remotely linked to the core business of CMAL or CalMac, but could be of prime importance to the wider economic success of the port of Oban.

Work is well under way towards the establishment of a Trust Port Authority at Oban. Serious consideration needs to be given by the appropriate authorities to rectify the mistake



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

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DISTRICT NEWS

ARROCHER

A charity in Arrochar has been awarded £84,000 to provide and install a pontoon and visitor moorings on Loch Long, for the use and enjoyment of residents and visitors.

Dawn Gourlay, secretary of the Loch Long Jetty Association, said: 'Many private yachts and chartered vessels sail up Loch Long every year, but with no pontoon or visitor moorings they are currently unable to safely moor and come ashore, to visit the village and explore the surrounding area. By providing these facilities it will also allow us to hold community-led initiatives such as an annual triathlon and raft race, which will help to enhance community spirit and benefit small businesses in the village.'

In addition to the money from the Weston Anniversary Fund, financial backing has also come from the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park and the Hannah Stirling Loch Lomond Charitable Trust.

'We are extremely excited about what the future holds for our community in Arrochar. It is anticipated that construction work on the pontoon will commence in the spring of 2019,' added Ms Gourlay.

BENDERLOCH

The Post Office is restoring services to Benderloch with a new hosted outreach service at the Victory Hall on Mondays from 2-4pm. Customers will be able to collect benefits in cash using everyday banking services or Post Office Card Account.

The Ledaig branch closed temporarily in July 2015. Angela Smith, Post Office area network manager, said: 'We are confident that this new hosted outreach service at the heart of the local community will meet customer needs.'

Benderloch and North Connell Drama Club proudly present Cinderella as this year's pantomime offering at the Corran Halls from December 6-8 with a special matinee performance on Saturday December 8.

Western Isles show receives lottery boost



Westside Agricultural Show Committee has received £2,128.80 from the Western Isles Lifestyle Lottery. The lottery's Janet Paterson presents a cheque to John 'Corrags' MacLeod, Malina Morrison and Jonathan Smith of the show committee. Proceeds were raised from lottery ticket sales from supporters in the Ness and Westside area of Lewis. Other funding has already been given to Eoropie Playpark and Carloway Community Centre, making a total of £5,075 distributed to date.

Tiree youngsters enjoy adventure to Scotland's capital city

First and second year pupils at Tiree High School enjoyed a trip to Edinburgh recently.

Head teacher Graham Wilks said: 'The adventure was a massive success and definitely worth repeating. The pupils seemed to enjoy it immensely and they learned a lot from the places we visited.'

'Mr Campbell and I would like to comment on how well behaved and cooperative the pupils were; they were a credit to the school.'

'Our highlights were visiting the Parliament building at Holyrood and meeting John Swinney MSP

and Michael Russell MSP and being able to watch question time while we were there.

'The other highlights were the war memorial in the castle, Dynamic Earth, and Mary King's close was a big hit too.'

Youngsters had a great time visiting the parliament, and were delighted to get the chance to meet Deputy First Minister John Swinney and Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell.





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DALMALLY

Dalmally Primary School parent council is organising a bonfire night celebration at Dalmally Community Centre on Saturday, November 3 at 6pm to raise funds for the school. Hot food, hot drinks and face painting will be available. Suggested donation is £3.

INVERARAY

Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) had its 12th annual general meeting at the Inveraray Inn in September.

A board of management was appointed. Among tenant members are Ian McIntyre from Oban, Lorn and the Isles. Members were advised the Argyll and Bute Council nominees were Councillors Roddy McCuish, Iain Shonny Paterson and Donnie MacMillan.

ARDCHATTAN

Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council meeting will take place at 7pm on Wednesday November 7 at Lochawe Village Hall.

SEIL

Seil Community Hall will be hosting the island's Christmas Craft Fair this year on Sunday December 2 from 11am. Tuesday nights are for country dancing at Seil hall from 7.45pm. New members are welcome.

TAYNUILT

Taynuilt Carpet Bowling Club has started its new season at the village hall on a Tuesday at 7.30pm. Call Douglas MacCallum on 01866 822465. The club is always looking for new members.

TOBERMORY

Tobermory High School is appealing for information on Mull

soldiers as part of a small First World War exhibition it is getting ready for its Remembrance Day assembly. Anyone who can help should contact email Lynne Horn at lynne.horn@argyll-bute.gov.uk or call 01688 302062.

ARDFERN

Ardfern's post office services are to be resumed from Craignish Village Hall one day a week. The previous service closed temporarily in September 2017 when the postmaster resigned and the premises were withdrawn for post office use.

A permanent solution was still being sought, said a Post Office spokesman but for the time being the village hall option, on a Monday from 9am to 11am, meant customers could still post letters and parcels, return online shopping and withdraw cash and make use of other banking services.

Angela Smith, area network change manager, said: 'We are making it easier for customers to get their cash, send and collect their mail and do their banking because we know how important these services are to residents.'

'We are pleased to be able to reinstate services to Ardferrn customers at this temporary unit while we continue to seek a permanent solution.'

LUING

The Atlantic Centre starts its winter opening hours from Monday November 5 until March 31. During that time the centre will only be open on Fridays from 11am to 4pm, Saturdays from 11am until late, Sunday from noon to 4pm, and Mondays from 11am to 4pm, with the lunch club at 12.30pm.

Special events will be posted on the centre's noticeboard and online at atlanticislandscentre.com

■ Luing Horticultural Society has its annual general meeting on Tuesday November 6 at 6pm in Cullipool Hall, everyone is welcome.



Rosie Burgess, whose father founded the Ross of Mull Historical Centre at Bunessan, cuts the commemorative cake.

Ross of Mull Historical Centre celebrates 21 years

Located at the old water mill in Bunessan, Mull, the 21st anniversary of the Ross of Mull Historical Centre was celebrated at the annual general meeting on Saturday October 27.

Rosie Burgess, whose father Jimmy McKeand founded the centre, was invited to cut the anniversary cake and speak about the vision and motivation of her dad.

Rosie said: 'My father had empathy for all those families who had had to move away from their homeland, whether by choice or enforcement. He established contact with people locally, on the mainland and worldwide with a shared interest in the history of the Ross of Mull.'

'Between 1993 and 1995, he visited Australia and New Zealand, contacting and visiting many with Mull connections.'

'He also travelled to Nova Scotia, Cape Breton and Prince Edward Islands, following the trail of emigrants from the Ross. His photographic records of those trips are in the archives here at the centre.'

The Ross of Mull Historical Centre, run by volunteers, was formally convened in 1997, by Jimmy and other local folk, in particular his Bunessan School contemporary, Attie MacKechnie.

Jimmy died in 2001, but the momentum was enough to motivate others to carry on to establish a lasting venue which continues to welcome those from all over the world back to their roots.

The AGM also launched a new website, designed by Clearbox Designs, Oban, to reach a global audience of anyone wishing to trace their roots in the Ross of Mull. Go to <https://romhc.org.uk>.

At random

MARTIN LAING

mlaing@obantimes.co.uk



A pair of troupers

I have to take my hat off to Agnes MacKechnie.

Agnes is the Oban woman who suffered devastating injuries when she was smashed into the air by a hit-and-run driver in the United States a year ago during a holiday.

Thankfully, it seems the City of Bethlehem Police Department has traced the driver of the pick-up truck who, unbelievably, reversed after hitting Agnes to stare at her before racing away.

Let's hope the US justice system deals with this scoundrel suitably and locks him away for a long time.

Given the level of trauma Agnes suffered, it is a miracle she lived but she puts her survival down to being a Scot and the grit that goes with that characteristically.

Agnes and husband David, when I've met them, remain consistently upbeat and cheerful, despite Agnes still facing a series of operations and David having recovered from a triple heart bypass following a cardiac arrest.

It is testament to their resilience and good nature that they are still smiling despite everything that has happened.

What a pair of real troupers.

Deserved accolade

Fiona Bennett has been honoured with A Great Scot award and it could not be more deserved.

Fiona, from North Connel, was so moved by the plight of the Yazidi people after the Islamic State terror group attacked them in 2014, killing hundreds and forcing many women into sexual slavery, that she campaigned to help them.

Fiona, a mum of two wee girls, helped acquire £300,000 worth of medical supplies and raised £14,000 to ship them to Iraq.

It is an amazing achievement and one that quite rightfully has been recognised with the award, run by the Sunday Mail, and culminating at a ceremony on Saturday October 27 at DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Glasgow Central.

Well done indeed, Fiona.

What do you think?

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OUTDOORS

Annual winter warning for mountaineers

Walkers and climbers are being reminded to take extra care in the mountains.

With the onset of winter, precautions are being advised, especially if snow is lying. A thin covering of snow over bare rock or scree can make footholds extremely slippery, without giving enough purchase for crampon points or ice axes to bite.

Heather Morning, from Mountaineering Scotland, said: 'Conditions can be very treacherous at this time of year and just having the right equipment isn't enough: you have to be able to call on experience to know how to deal with a whole range of conditions, both weather-wise and underfoot.'

'And that equipment and experience must also include a map and compass and a high standard of navigational ability, because you're not going to have the luxury of time and comfort that you do in summer. You're going to have to be able to navigate accurately in some pretty extreme conditions of poor visibility and while being buffeted by wind and snow.'

'Winter is a tremendous season in the mountains and the rewards are great when everything comes together, with great views, a sense of adventure and a very real sense of achievement.'

'You have to be ready for many challenges. Shorter daylight hours, dropping temperatures and the first snow on the hill are all good indicators that it is time to think about extra kit in your rucksack. A head torch and spare batteries is crucial. If you are heading out on the higher tops, now is the time to add crampons, an ice axe and spare items such as hats and winter gloves.'

A vital job is checking the mountain weather forecast at a site such as www.mwis.org.uk.

Saddle up for a new type of holiday

A new horse trekking holiday business has been established thanks in no small part to Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

Combining rustic horse trekking through the Highlands with a balance of luxury, Wilder Ways offers a new type of holiday.

Cara Gelati and Nikki Dayton started Wilder Ways due to their passion for horses and enjoyment from holidaying with them. Now they get to share their passion with hundreds of people each year.

The idea for Wilder Ways was sparked when Cara and Nikki were on holiday on Islay in 2015. Having trekked on the island with their own horses, they realised they could use their own talents and expertise to help others have a similar holiday experience.

Originally planned as camps, the couple would take people who have brought their own horses on different routes across the Scottish wilderness. But this limited those who could come on the trips.

Taking a leap of faith, in 2016 the pair bought seven horses in five weeks, opening the business up to a whole new market: people who were interested in horse trekking but who didn't own horses.

Offering more than just horse riding, the couple combined hotel stays and fine dining.

Cara said: 'On our trips we take people right into the wilderness of Scotland, way off the beaten track. We spend hours of the day riding through this beautiful landscape, often getting muddy when it rains.'

'After a long day's riding, people want to relax with luxury accommodation, great food and experience the local charm. So, we decided to take care of everything for our guests - from accommodation to dinner reservations. This means that not only do our guests benefit from the trips, the local community does too. Over the course of four weeks last year in a community of 94 people, we helped provide a cash injection of more than £12,000.'

However, organising all aspects of guests'



Wilder Ways combines horse trekking with luxury accommodation in the Highlands.

trips proved a challenge as it meant Wilder Ways would fall under package holiday regulations. Thanks to their relationship with the Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) innovation team they were able to access their wealth of knowledge and get advice on how to work within the regulations.

Cara said: 'By putting everything together for our guests meant we are essentially acting as tour operators and have to abide by package holiday regulations, despite the massive differences in what we offer.'

'This was a complete minefield for us, so being able to tap into the expert knowledge of HIE was extremely beneficial. It felt like you had a big player in your team helping you succeed.'

Finding a way to keep their original vision possible while staying within regulations, the couple have kept innovation at the centre of everything they do. Cara said: 'Innovation is

the exciting prospect of creating something new and better than what you had before. We really believe we have done that with Wilder Ways and we aren't going to let the red tape of regulations get in the way. Instead, it encourages us to be even more innovative. It was at the core of creating the company and we still use it when we are planning what to do next.'

'I'd love to think that one day we will get to the point where we sit down and think that we have done all the innovation we can with the company, but we will probably always keep innovating.'

'We're always chasing something fun and new. It makes life more interesting and the job much more enjoyable so I believe everyone should be innovating in any way they can.'

Businesses looking to sign up to access HIE's innovation services can visit hie.co.uk/hietime or call 0300 013 5041.

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This week's walks



Robbie Semple easily picks up the superlight carbon fibre cycle.

Cyclist wins charity crusader's bike

A cyclist has a new set of wheels after winning a carbon fibre bike that was vital to an epic trip to Oban.

Kintyre man Robbie Semple won the machine in a raffle after charity cyclist Willie 'Big Bill' Neilson, from Dunbeg, rode it from Land's End to Oban and raised £14,000.

Another Argyll link was completed when former Chennai Six pirate hunter Billy Irving, from Connel, piped Neilson into Glasgow during his epic ride. Irving and Neilson were team-mates at Taynuilt Shinty Club and members had raised money during the ex-paratrooper's incarceration in an Indian jail.

Semple was delighted to win the superlight bike and said: 'Willie bought it new in March just for the charity ride for the Beatson.

'I received the bike a couple of weeks ago after it had been serviced

by The Rusty Bike Shed in Taynuilt, as part of Willie's deal.'

Neilson, 29, completed his 737-mile cycle in August to raise money for three charities close to his heart: Alzheimer's Scotland, the Craighalbert Centre and the Beatson Cancer Charity.

Each of the charities has a special connection to the building contractor. Willie's gran passed away after suffering from Alzheimer's disease, and his other granny was diagnosed with cancer. However, she was given the all clear after being admitted to the Beatson Centre in Glasgow.

His sister-in-law, Laura, who cycled the last part of the journey with Willie, has cerebral palsy and attended the Craighalbert Centre.

After completing the challenge, Willie said: 'There were loads of

challenges on the way, with the bike breaking down with punctures, worrying about the campervan, the routes were a bit of an issue at times and, it's typical, as we landed in Scotland it started raining again.'

At one point on the cycle, the campervan broke down and the spokes on Willie's bike gave way, meaning he had to cycle 100 miles on his back-up bike with no support team. 'But the next day was smooth again,' he said.

On the last leg of the journey, Willie was joined by friends and family, and when he arrived in Oban he was greeted by 100 people cheering, as well as a bottle of Champagne. 'It didn't really sink in until the next day,' he added. 'When I woke up and opened Facebook and I saw all the well wishes, I was crying in bed looking at it.'

LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

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

Sunday November 4: Dun Deardail and Sgorr Chalum, Glen Nevis

A walk to the well known site of an iron age vitrified fort, followed by a climb to a splendid but rarely visited viewpoint over Glen Nevis.

Park at Glen Nevis Visitor Centre NN122729. Head S on the main road for about 400m and turn W on to the WHW. Follow it up between the fields on to a forest track. Still on the WHW head S on the forest track, taking the right fork. The track rises gradually for about 1.5km, then zig-zags up steeply.

At the high point where the WHW continues downhill, turn left and follow the path up to Dùn Deardail. From here head SE down over rough ground to a broad col at NN128698. Climb the N ridge of Sgorr Chalum to its summit at 556m. Continue S on the high ground for about 400m then descend into Coire Riabhach, following a SE course. Cross the Allt a'Choire Riabhach, then its tributary, to reach a stile at NN132681. Climb over and follow the path beyond down to the forestry track. Turn SE and follow the track down to a large hairpin bend. Locate a footpath which follows the Allt a'Choire Dheirg down to Achriabhach. Transport required, 6Km from start.

Grade: M; distance: 9km; height to climb: 599m; map(s): LR41, EX392. Meet at Fort William WM at 9.20am, for start of walk at 9.30am. Leader: Fiona Wild 07879 495165.

Thursday November 8: Meall Lighiche, Glen Coe

An interesting hidden Corbett which makes a fine winter walk with good views of the surrounding Munros.

Start at Achnacon from the CP on the A82, just E of the bridge over the Allt na Muidhe, NN120563. Re-cross the bridge, (beware of fast-moving

traffic), and follow the track S into Glen Leac na Muidhe. Cross the river soon after the track ends at a gate and climb S up the shoulder of Creag Bhan, 719m. Soon after, the ground narrows to a ridge curving W and rising to the summit of Meall Lighiche, 772m. Retrace steps E for 600m, then turn SE and descend to Bealach Easan. Some fence-posts may assist navigation in poor visibility. Turn NE and descend in to Gleann Leac na Muidhe and cross the main burn, following it N. Pick up the path and follow it to the gate at the head of the farm track. Follow the track back to the start.

Grade: M+; distance: 12km; height to climb: 730m; map(s): LR41, EX384. Meet at Glencoe village car park at 9.30am, for start of walk: 9.45am. Leader: Andrew Gilbert 07808 924722.

NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

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

Saturday November 3: Meall Glas, Glen Lochay

The ascent route is described in Noel William's book Scrambles in Lochaber, route 3.

Park at the end of the public road in Glen Lochay and follow the track W as far as Batavaime. Cross the river Lochay (bridge marked on map) and ascend the N ridge of Meall Glas to its summit. Head E on the summit ridge over the 908m point and NE to Beinn Cheathaich, 937m. An easy descent can be made from here down the N ridge to pick up a track back to Lubchurran and the river Lochay. To continue to Sgiath Chuil, descend E down to a bealach then up the steep grassy slopes to Meall a'Churain and along the ridge S to the summit of Sgiath Chuil. Descend the N ridge until past the steep crags then cross the burn and pick up the track to Lubchurran. (15km, 850m ascent / 18km, 1200m ascent)

Suggested by Toril Frantzen, Robert Paterson and Chris Tracey; coordinated by Gerry Gilbert.



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LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

Tiree piper wins top award

by Sandy Neil
sneil@obantimes.co.uk



A piper from Tiree came top overall in the Glenfiddich Piping Championship at the weekend.

Finlay Johnston came first in piobaireachd playing My Dearest On Earth Give Me Your Kiss.

The 45th Glenfiddich Piping Championship, held at Blair Castle near Pitlochry on Saturday October 27, 'seeks the best overall exponents of ceol mor or piobaireachd (the great music) and ceol beag or light music (the little music)'. Ten competitors qualified

to play for the ram's horn trophy, 'the pinnacle of piping', in the Great Hall, including Callum Beaumont, Stuart Easton, Finlay Johnston, Stuart Liddell, Bruce Gandy, Jack Lee, Angus MacColl, Dr Peter McCalister, Roderick MacLeod, and Alex Gandy.

Johnston, who teaches at the National Piping Centre in Glasgow, began learning the pipes from his grandfather Alastair Sinclair on the Isle of Tiree, and his mother Annie was the first woman to win the Silver Medal.

The 32-year-old said: 'I'm overwhelmed. It's a competition I've watched my

entire piping career - one I've looked up to. To now have won, it is unbelievable.'

He was followed in the ceol mor by Dollar Academy teacher Callum Beaumont, Inveraray and District Pipe Band Pipe Major Stuart Liddell, Oban High School Pipe Band pipe major Angus MacColl from Benderloch, and Canadian Alex Gandy.

Gandy, from Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, was competing beside his father Bruce - the first time a father and son have played against each other in the contest since it began in 1974. It was also the first time a husband and wife had

judged together, with Murray and Patricia Henderson serving on separate benches.

Callum Beaumont triumphed in the march, Strathspey and reel, with Alex Gandy coming second, Finlay Johnston third, Angus MacColl fourth, and Stuart Liddell fifth.

Pictured, back left to right: Bruce Gandy, Roddy MacLeod, Jack Lee, Finlay Johnston, Callum Beaumont, Stuart Liddell, Angus MacColl. Front Row Seated: Alex Gandy, Stuart Easton, Dr Peter McCalister.

Photograph Derek Maxwell.



pork schnitzel
with sauerkraut
& roasted new
potatoes

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Dinner: Pork Schnitzel with sauerkraut & roasted new potatoes: Take 8 tender pork escalope (visible fat removed) and generously coat in herb infused breadcrumbs, make a creamy sauerkraut dressing and roast the new potatoes with a low cal spray. Serve the schnitzels with the sauerkraut and potatoes, sprinkled with parsley and black pepper. Yum!

Snacks: Settling down at home to watch a movie? Get the cinema feel with a 25g bag of Propercorn Sweet Coconut & Vanilla Popcorn (6 Syns)

OBAN

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Lochgilphead Baptist Church
Union Street/ Argyll Street
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Tel: Rhona 07880 878 906

CAMPBELTOWN

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Kindness is contagious



Hope Kitchen is hosting a Rebel Acts of Kindness event on Friday November 23 at 7pm as part of Book Week Scotland 2018. The evening is linked with writing project SHARE Argyll.

Oban publisher celebrates second award nomination

An Oban-based publisher and author is celebrating this week after being shortlisted for his second award this year.

Alan Windram of Little Door Books has been shortlisted for Saltire Society Emerging Publisher of the Year 2018 award, which aims to recognise the work of an individual in the early stages of their publishing career.

Little Door Books was set up in 2016 and is a small independent publisher producing high-quality children's picture books. Alan, who is in charge of the day-to-day running of the company is also the author of *One Button Benny*. The picture book, which is illustrated by Chloe Holwill-Hunter, was



Alan Windram.

shortlisted for the Bookbug Picture Book Prize 2019 in August.

Other publishers shortlisted for the Emerging Publisher of the Year Award include Charlotte Brady (Canongate), James T Harding (Stewed Rhubarb

Press), Carolina Orloff (Charco Press), Heather Palmer (BHP Comics), Megan Reid (Canongate).

Alan told *The Oban Times*: 'I am absolutely thrilled to have been shortlisted for the Saltire Emerging Publisher of the Year Award 2018. It's wonderful to have been recognised for all the hard work that we put in to our small indie publisher producing high-quality picture books, working with amazingly talented authors and illustrators. I'm keeping my fingers crossed for the big night!'

Organised by the Saltire Society, a non-political independent charity founded in 1936 which celebrates the Scottish imagination, the awards are widely regarded

as among the most prestigious within publishing and supported by Publishing Scotland and Creative Scotland.

Sarah Mason, programme director at the Saltire Society, said: 'We would like to congratulate the writers and publishers who have been shortlisted this year. All of them have produced works that are testament to the wealth of talent in Scotland's literary scene today and I wish them the very best of luck when the winners are announced in November.'

The winners will be formally announced at a special ceremony at Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh on November 30, supported by Creative Scotland.

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Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



Celtic Connections show announced

Many of next year's Celtic Connections shows have been announced and are up on the festival's website. As always, I will write about a selection of the gigs in more detail nearer the time; but, for now, let me draw your attention to a concert hosted on January 26 at CCA in Sauchiehall Street by Ceòl 's Craic and Gaels Le Chèile as a celebration of the shared Gaelic culture of Scotland and Ireland.

The concert puts two very interesting bands together – Àrchú and DLÙ.

Àrchú are a collaboration of Irish artists and musicians who have been working together since 2015. Their diverse musical backgrounds bring influences of traditional sean-nós singing, post-rock and experimental electro-acoustic sounds, combined with Irish Gaelic spoken word. In 2018, the band recruited vocalist Anne Martin from the Isle of Skye to create new works combining

elements of Scottish and Irish Gaelic song while blurring the boundaries of traditional and contemporary Celtic music.

DLÙ are a modern trad fusion band from Glasgow. Their musicianship, eclectic musical influences, and youthful energy set them apart from their peers. The band met as pupils at the Glasgow Gaelic School and their name is derived from the Gaelic word 'dlùth', meaning tight-knit/close. In August 2018 they released their debut single Anmoch.

Doors open at 7.45pm.

Lewis and Harris Gathering

The big weekend for the Lewis and Harris Association is upon us and what a weekend it looks set to be. I am disappointed to be missing the gathering due to being on tour with Tide Lines at the moment. As I wrote last week, the line up for the concert on Friday night looks brilliant. Singers for the evening are



Arthur Cormack.

Arthur Cormack, Ainsley Hamill, Alasdair MacArthur, and Joanie Morrison. Donald Black will guest on the mouth organ and the association piper, Ross MacKay, will play throughout the night. The host is Donald MacLeod and tickets are £10 and available on the door.

The dance after the concert is to the music of Beinn Lee who have made themselves one of the most popular ceilidh dance bands in Glasgow in the past year since the release of their excellent album, Osgarra. I have a sneaky suspicion that I will be coming off stage in the

Brudenell Social in Leeds that evening wishing I was in the Glasgow University Union!

What's On

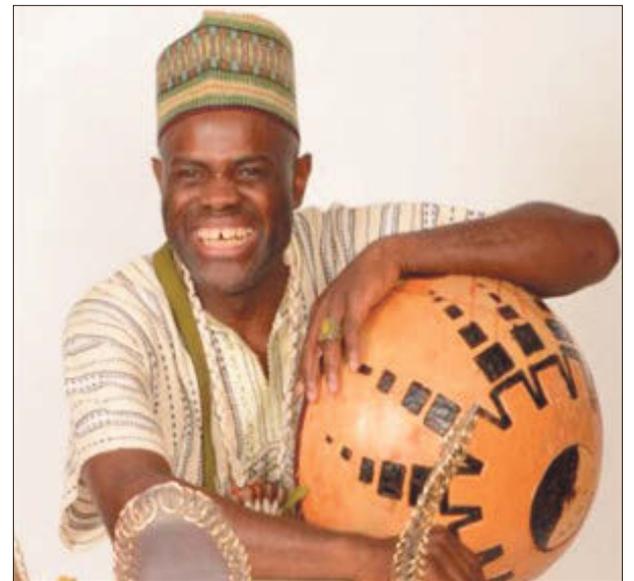
Thursday November 1: The Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association Chairman's Dinner at 7.15pm in the Pond Hotel, Great Western Road, at 7.15pm for 7.30pm

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

Saturday November 10: Gaelic Singing Workshop in The Church of the Holy Trinity and St Barnabas, Paisley, from 9.30am-1pm

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

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



Usifa Jalloh, aka the Cowfoot Prince was in Oban last week.

Storyteller pays 'princely' visit to Oban Library

Oban Library welcomed royalty when it got a visit from the Cowfoot Prince.

Usifa Jalloh, who was born in Sierra Leona, was special guest at the library's international storytelling event last week.

Usifa, who has worked in arts education for 20 years and is also known as the Cowfoot Prince, entertained

a crowd with his stories. He was also in Edinburgh and Helensburgh as part of the recent international storytelling festival.

Oban library supervisor Suzanne Nicholson said: 'What a fantastic evening we had last week with Usifu. He was simply brilliant and everyone was extremely impressed!'

Visit the showroom and order your Hot Tub NOW in time for Christmas.

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THE NORTH ARGYLL EVENTIDE HOME was opened by the people of Oban, in 1955, to provide a caring environment for the elderly of the area.

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If you would like to help or for more information please contact:

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North Argyll House, Connel Rd, Oban, Argyll PA34 5TG
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SOUTHORTH Europe

Oban and Islay distilleries get into the spirit of opera

A new opera entitled *Navigate the Blood* will be performed at distilleries in Oban and Islay.

Sian Evans has written a story set in a small family distillery about a couple whose son has disappeared in mysterious circumstances.

Performed against an industrial background, touring to regions where there is no accessible opera house, *Navigate the Blood* will give many people an opportunity to see live opera for the first time.

In a powerful new partnership, top Scottish indie-folk band Admiral Fallow have joined forces with composer Gareth Williams, pushing their collaborative boundaries in new creative directions to create the music for this opera.

Working with Gareth and Sian and classical opera

singers, they have embraced an intense writing process, resulting in an exciting first new work of modern opera by these talented and versatile musicians.

Distilling is an industry that employs, directly and indirectly, 41,000 people in Scotland. The past 10 years have seen a growth not only in the distilling of whisky but also a massive increase in the production of gin, with 70 per cent of the gin being produced in the UK now being distilled in Scotland. Two million tourists visited Scottish distilleries last year.

Told against this background of industry and employment, this new production of singing, music, theatre and storytelling has been created to reflect the lives of the distillery community in Scotland.

Touring to the traditional



distilling regions, it is designed to be relevant to the people living there and to welcome, engage and enter-

tain new audiences for opera in Scotland.

Navigate the Blood will be performed at Oban Distillery

on Thursday November 8 and Ardnahoe Distillery, Isle of Islay, on Sunday November 11.

Members of Admiral Fallow, who created the music for the opera with composer Gareth Williams.



Winter Warmer Menu

Our restaurant will be open on Saturday evenings only with a fantastic new menu on offer which will change each month. With a specific focus on locally sourced produce, this is a chance to sample some really different dishes.

Restaurant Menu
2 OR 3 COURSE OFFER

£30 for 2 courses £35 for 3 courses
Vegetarian: £19.50 2 course / £24.50 for 3 course

Starters

- Cullen skink soup served with warm soda bread*
- Pan fried Argyll lambs liver, caramelised onions and a potato salad*
- Warm goats cheese salad with honey and mustard dressing*
- Potted prawn and crab with toasted ciabatta*

Mains

- Tayvallich Estate venison bourguignon with garlic crushed baby potatoes, braised red cabbage and seasonal vegetables*
- 10oz Scottish sirloin steak on a bed of chargrilled asparagus with lyonnaise potatoes, onion rings and peppercorn sauce*
- Seared Tayvallich landed king scallops with crispy pancetta, chilli & white wine on a bed of linguine served with garlic bread*
- Pan fried Gigha halibut fillet with sautéed potatoes, green beans and sauce vierge*
- Oven baked aubergine stuffed with vegetable ratatouille served with green pesto risotto and steamed asparagus*

Desserts

- Kintyre gin crème brulee with homemade shortbread*
- Fruit crumble with crème anglaise*
- Sticky toffee pudding with Isle of Gigha ice cream and toffee sauce*
- Choice of Wee Isle Dairy ice cream or lemon sorbet*

We advise booking at least 48 hours in advance to avoid any disappointment.



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

For reservations contact us on **01546 870282**





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Energetic young trio to perform for Oban Music Society

Three outstanding graduates of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre, and Oxford University will make their way to Oban next month.

The Kapten Trio – Kristi Kapten, piano; Rachel Spencer, violin and Duncan Strachan, cello – formed in 2011 while students at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, where they were chosen as Young Artists in Residence.

They have since gone on to develop a reputation as one of the top piano trios in



The Kapten Trio.

the country, known for their energetic, passionate and

exciting performances across the UK and further afield.

In 2017 the Kapten Trio was selected as Ensemble in Residence for Enterprise Music Scotland, which they will hold until 2019.

The young musicians will play works by Beethoven, Debussy, Mendelssohn and Hatzis at the event on Sunday November 18 in St John's Cathedral, starting at 3pm.

Oban Music Society welcomes all music lovers to its concerts. Details of future performances can be found on its website obanmusicsociety.org

Come out of cold to Taynuilt winter warmer

Taynuilt is hosting a Winter Warmer in the village hall in December.

The two-day event is the brainchild of Melanie Currie.

The event will include a crafts, shopping, music, magic winterland, children's entertainment, with a wee bit of karaoke thrown in for the

grown ups. Evening entertainment will take the form of live music, and for those still hungry, traditional wood-fired pizzas will be available to buy.

The Brander Lodge will be providing festive cheer in the form of a fully licensed bar with delicious food, freshly prepared by a local chef,

available throughout Saturday. Warm the cockles with a glass of mulled wine and come in out of the cold.

The event takes place from 5pm onwards on Friday December 7 and 10am-11pm on Saturday December 8.

For more information and to book a stall, call 01866 822447.

WHAT'S ON IN OBAN

In partnership with Oban Town Diary bid4oban.co.uk



THURSDAY 1ST NOVEMBER

Oban Health Walk
Oban Congregational Church Hall
10am - 11.30am

Mike Denver
The Corran Halls, Oban. 7.00pm

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans
FREE JUKEBOX EVERY THURSDAY

FRIDAY 2ND NOVEMBER

Oban Dance Academy - Cheerleading
Glencruitten Church Hall. All Day

WHHA Friendship Club Meet Up
The Rockfield Centre. 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans

Sandra MacBeth & Lorna Thomson
Open till 2am

Live Music & Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar Oban
From 9pm. Free Entry

The Royal Hotel
Winter Céilidh and dance with Ceòl an Àire

Doors open 7pm

SATURDAY 3RD NOVEMBER
Oban Dance Academy - Cheerleading
Glencruitten Church Hall. All Day

parkrun
Ganavan Sands, Oban. 9.30am

Holly Tea
Glencruitten Road Church Hall
2.00pm - 4.00pm

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans
Jono. Open till 2am

Live Music & Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar Oban
From 9pm. Free Entry

SUNDAY 4TH NOVEMBER
Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans
Crooked Reel. Open till 2am

MONDAY 5TH NOVEMBER
Slimming World
Union Street/Argyll Street, Lochgilphead
5.30pm & 7.30pm

Tel; Rhona 07880 878906

Postcards to Absent Friends
The Rockfield Centre. 10.00am - 4.00pm

TUESDAY 6TH NOVEMBER
Postcards to Absent Friends
The Rockfield Centre. 10.00am - 4.00pm

WEDNESDAY 7TH NOVEMBER
Postcards to Absent Friends
The Rockfield Centre. 10.00am - 4.00pm

Under The Skin Camera Club
The Rockfield Centre. 6.30pm - 7.30pm

Now This Lousy War is Over WW1

St Conan's Kirk, Lochawe. 7.00pm

Slimming World
Glencruitten Church Hall, Oban
9.30am, 11.30am, 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Tel; Gillian 07796 040803

Live Music & Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar Oban
Lorne Pub Quiz. Starting at 9pm
£25 bar voucher prize and free pizza at half time

Events may charge. Please visit www.obanwhatson.co.uk for more details.

To list your event, please call **01631 568000**

WHAT'S ON AT YOUR LOCAL CINEMA THIS WEEK

Tel: 01631 562905 or see

www.obanphoenix.com for more details



If we are able to get screen 2 up and running by Friday there will extra films that people can find on the website - www.obanphoenix.com

FRIDAY 2	MONDAY 5
14:00/17:00/20:00 BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY 12A	14:00/17:00/20:00 BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY 12A
16:00 SMALLFOOT U	16:00 SMALLFOOT U
18:00 THE HATE U GIVE 12A	18:10 THE HATE U GIVE 12A
20:30 A STAR IS BORN 15	20:30 A STAR IS BORN 15
SATURDAY 3	TUESDAY 6
11:30 JOHNNY ENGLISH STRIKES AGAIN PG	14:00/17:00/20:00 BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY 12A
12:00/13:30 SMALLFOOT U	16:00 SMALLFOOT U
14:30/15:45/20:30 BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY 12A	18:00 A STAR IS BORN 15
17:30/21:00 A STAR IS BORN 15	20:45 THE HATE U GIVE 12A
18:30 THE HATE U GIVE 12A	
SUNDAY 4	WEDNESDAY 7
12:30/13:00 SMALLFOOT U	14:00/17:00/20:00 BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY 12A
14:30 A STAR IS BORN 15	16:00 SMALLFOOT U
15:30/20:00 THE HATE U GIVE 12A	18:10 THE HATE U GIVE 12A
18:00 A LOVE THAT NEVER DIES 12A	20:30 A STAR IS BORN 15
17:15/20:15 BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY 12A	
	THURSDAY 8
	14:00/17:00/20:00 BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY 12A
	16:00 SMALLFOOT U
	18:00 A STAR IS BORN 15
	20:45 THE HATE U GIVE 12A

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

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



Friday 2nd Nov 5-8pm
Saturday 3rd Nov 10am-3pm
Bishopton Road, Lochgilphead, PA31 8PY

Now This Lousy War is Over

WW1 (Part 5 -1918)
Local Stories and Songs
St Conan's Kirk,
Lochawe
Wed 7th Nov, 7pm
£8 (£7 Friends)
Refreshments

Winter Céilidh followed by Dance with Ceòl an Àire

Friday 2nd November
The Royal Hotel, Oban
Doors open 7pm
Dance starts at 9pm
Adult: £10 Child: £5

HOLLY TEA

Glencruitten Parish Church Hall
Saturday 3rd November
At 2.00pm
In aid of Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre, Oban
Donations at the door
Tea/Coffee - Hot Mince Pies - Shortbread
Also Home Baking Stall, Bric-a-brac, books and lots more
Please give us your support today

Comunn Gàidhealach an Òbain Autumn Céilidh

Saturday 10th November
7.30pm
Masonic Lodge, Oban
Local Artistes
Fear and Taighe:
Alasdair MacCuish
Usual refreshments and raffle.
All welcome

WIN A PAIR OF TICKETS FOR THE MOST FAMOUS BAGPIPE BAND ON THE PLANET



For your chance to win a pair of tickets to the Red Hot Chili Pipers at the Nevis Centre, Fort William on Friday, 14th December at 7.30pm, simply answer the easy question, complete the coupon and post it to The Oban Times, RHCP Competition, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Entries must be submitted by Monday 12th November 2018.

QUESTION: What date is the Red Hot Chili Pipers show at the Nevis Centre?

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

Red Hot Chili Pipers Competition

Answer

Name

Address

Telephone

Email

Please post your entries to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB. Entries must be submitted by Monday 12th November 2018. Normal Oban Times rules apply. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. No cash alternative.

M'ALBA

MY ALBA

DIARDAOIN 01 AN T-SAMHAIN THURSDAY 01 NOVEMBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 Binneas – Na Trads (rpt)
19.10 An Là - News
19.20 **UR | NEW:** Champions League – Glasgow City v Barcelona
21.25 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
21.30 **UR | NEW:** Eòrpa
22.00 An Sgrùdaire (rpt)
22.20 Dhan Uisge (Lochindorb) (rpt)
22.25 Leabhraichean-latha a' Chogaidh Mhòir (rpt)
23.30 Seòid a' Chidsin (rpt)

DIHAOINE 02 AN T-SAMHAIN FRIDAY 02 NOVEMBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
18.35 Machair (rpt)
19.00 An Là – News
19.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
19.30 Cearcall (rpt)
20.00 Fonn mo Bheatha – Maighread Stiùbhart (rpt)
20.30 Fuine S5 (rpt)
21.00 Farpaisean Chon-Chaorach (rpt)
22.00 Trapped 6 (rpt)
22.50 Dhan Uisge (Lochindorb) (rpt)
22.55 Lorient is Alba: Scotland's Year (rpt)

DISATHAIRNE 03 AN T-SAMHAIN

SATURDAY 03 NOVEMBER
16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
17.45 An Là – News
18.00 **UR | NEW:** Scottish Premiership – Hibernian v St Johnstone
20.00 Machair (rpt)
20.25 An t-Eilean (rpt)

20.55 **UR | NEW:** Na Worlds 2018
22.00 Leabhraichean-latha a' Chogaidh Mhòir (rpt)
23.00 Scottish Premiership – Hibernian v St Johnstone (rpt)

DIDÒMHNAICH 04 AN T-SAMHAIN

SUNDAY 04 NOVEMBER
16.00 **UR | NEW:** Women's Scottish Cup Final
18.30 An Là – News
18.45 Seachd La – News Review
19.45 Sgeul Seirbheis (rpt)
20.00 Eòrpa (rpt)
20.30 Dealbhan Fraoich (rpt)
21.00 Luther 500: An t-Strì Spioradail (rpt)
22.00 Na Worlds 2018 (rpt)
23.05 Trapped 6 (rpt)

DILUAIN 05 AN T-SAMHAIN MONDAY 05 NOVEMBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 An Lot (rpt)
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News
20.30 **UR | NEW:** Fuine S5
21.00 **UR | NEW:** Trusadh – Iolair Sùil na Grèine
22.00 **UR | NEW:** Ceòlmhor@ Piping Live!
22.30 Cumhachd a' Yoik (rpt)
23.30 An Sgrùdaire (rpt)
23.45 Sgeul Seirbheis (rpt)

DIMÀIRT 06 AN T-SAMHAIN TUESDAY 06 NOVEMBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 Vets: Gach Creutair Beò (rpt)

19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
19.55 Binneas – Na Trads (Doosa) (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News
20.30 Ceathrar air a' Chuiltheann (rpt)
21.00 Ceòl, Camanachd is Cogadh (rpt)
22.00 Trusadh – Iolair Sùil na Grèine (rpt)
23.00 Taghadh bho Na Trads (rpt)
23.30 Alleluia (rpt)

DICIADAIN 07 AN T-SAMHAIN WEDNESDAY 07 NOVEMBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 An Lot (rpt)
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News
20.30 Dealbhan Fraoich (rpt)
21.00 Gillean Grinn (rpt)
22.00 Seòid a' Chidsin (rpt)
22.30 Ceòlmhor@ Piping Live! (rpt)
23.00 Tormod – Na Bheachd Fhèin (rpt)

DIARDAOIN 08 AN T-SAMHAIN THURSDAY 08 NOVEMBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 Vets: Gach Creutair Beò (rpt)
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
19.55 Binneas – Na Trads (Doosa) (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News
20.30 **UR | NEW:** Eòrpa
21.00 Montecasino (rpt)
21.45 Dhan Uisge (Rubislaw Quarry) (rpt)
21.55 Belladrum 2017: Lucy May (rpt)
22.00 An Sgrùdaire (rpt)
22.15 Sgeul Seirbheis (rpt)
22.30 Leabhraichean-latha a' Chogaidh Mhòir (rpt)
23.30 Seòid a' Chidsin (rpt)



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Families sure to have magical time at Oban's Winter Festival

Enchanted woodlands, an igloo, plus a dragon and her eggs, a magician and hot chocolate and toasted mallows are just some of the exciting things lined up for families to enjoy at Glencruitten during the Oban Winter Festival 2018.

For three nights, the woods at Glencruitten will be transformed into an illuminated backdrop for all kinds of magic and adventure planned by the Oban Winter Festival to delight children on November 23-25 during the festival.

While organisers do not want to give away all the thrills in store for families, it is safe to say that if they go into the woods then they will have a great evening out that

children will remember for years to come.

The woods will be open from 5-7pm and access will be via a shuttle minibus from Oban town centre.

Once at the woods the events will take around one-and-a-half hours to enjoy before heading back to town on the minibus.

While there the children will help the dragon find her lost eggs, encounter forest creatures and characters, a magician and storytellers and join in the story themselves... to say more would be to give away some of the surprises, but do not be too surprised if it involves a wee igloo.

The advice is to dress appropriately for the weather and with sensible footwear.

The winter festival also has a larger igloo – this one will be at Mossfield and full of great music and entertainment. But more about that next week.

And another announcement for all snow boarders: there will be a snowboarding simulator at the festival; the first weekend it will be at Atlantis Leisure and the second in the town centre.

The printed programme for the winter festival will soon be available and traders are reminded to let the organisers know their final details for late night opening and special offers.

Entry forms for the festival competitions are available via the website and West Coast Motors office in Oban, Queen's Park Place.

Concert marks Poland's 100-year anniversary

Pianist Marek Kochmanski will be performing at a concert later this month marking the 100th anniversary of Poland regaining independence.

The remembrance day

event will be at St Columba's Cathedral in Oban on Sunday November 11 at 4pm.

Everyone is welcome. Mr Kochmanski will be joined by other performance artist

Lovisa Moreland. People are invited to stay and enjoy tea, coffee and cake in the hall afterwards.

There will also be an exposition devoted to Polish Independence.

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*All tickets are subject to the Oban Live terms and conditions which can be found at www.obanlive.com/ticket-tcs
Price will be 20% off the currently advertised early bird ticket prices. Whilst tickets last.

Hogmanay at The Nevis Centre

Bring in 2019 with music from Fergie MacDonald and a piper to bring in the bells

31st December 2018
Doors 8:30pm
Show 9:30pm - 1:00am
Over 18s only*
Smart Dress Code
Tickets £25
Tables of 8 Available
Phone 01397 700707 to book

*16-18s may be permitted if accompanied by parent/grandparent, please ask reception for more info



Clockwise from top left: Gráinne Brady, Claire Hastings, Dallahan and Josie Duncan.

Exciting line-up for Islay Sessions

The line-up has been announced for this year's Islay Sessions, which take place from November 23 to 25.

Kicking off the weekend of events on Friday November 23 will be Irish fiddler Gráinne Brady with an intimate concert in the Port Charlotte Hotel conservatory. Joined by Andrew Waite and Innes White, Gráinne will be launching her debut album, *The Road Across the Hills*.

The music explores the social themes associated with the mass immigration of the Irish to Scotland, particularly at the start of the 20th century. Taking inspiration from Donegal writer Patrick MacGill's novel *Children of the Dead End*, the music acts as a soundtrack to the story.

Playing at the Saturday night concert in Bruichladdich Hall will be Dallahan, Josie Duncan and The Dusk, and Brighde Chaimbeul.

Dallahan are among the most thrilling on the international folk music scene, with hugely diverse backgrounds and influences. They call on their mixed Irish, Scottish and Hungarian heritage to



Brighde Chaimbeul is one of Scotland's fastest rising stars.

create a unique and seamless musical montage, drawing in influences from jazz, funk, pop and classical music.

Josie Duncan is a folk singer from the Isle of Lewis. Having been immersed in Glasgow's fast-moving traditional music scene for the past few years where she studied at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, her crystal-clear voice is equally at home in Gaelic, Scots or English. Josie was awarded BBC Radio 2's Young Folk Award in 2017 alongside guitarist Pablo Lafuente. Josie Duncan and The Dusk consist of Innes White on guitar, Megan MacDonald on accordion, Brighde Chaimbeul on whistles and Signy Jakobsdottir on percussion.

Another winner of the BBC

Radio 2 Young Folk Award, Skye musician and piper Brighde Chaimbeul is one of Scotland's fastest rising stars, collaborating with the likes of Ross Ainslie and Aidan O'Rourke. She draws inspiration from a variety of piping traditions such as from Cape Breton, Eastern Europe and Ireland. Brighde will be joined on this occasion by guitarist Innes White.

On the Sunday evening in the Port Charlotte Hotel conservatory, singer Claire Hastings will perform a solo set with English and Scots songs accompanied by ukulele. Winner of the prestigious title of BBC Radio Scotland's Young Trad Musician of the Year, she has since delighted audiences at home and abroad

with her 'natural, effortless Scots voice'. Claire's second solo album, *Those Who Roam*, is due for release next year.

Alongside these many events will be informal trad music sessions in the Port Charlotte Hotel bar over the weekend, as well as a whisky tour for anyone wanting to sample some of Islay's finest exports.

The Islay Sessions are also involved with The Wayfarers Project run by the Traditional Music Forum. This project engages young people in Kirriemuir and Islay by running workshops before and during the festival, learning local material and creating and sharing new arrangements. Festival workshops are free for youngsters (though book to ensure a space) and will take place on the Saturday in Islay High School, Bowmore. There will also be workshops for adults.

For more, go to Facebook and Twitter (/IslaySessions) and www.islaysessions.co.uk. Tickets for all events are available on Eventbrite. www.islaysessions18.eventbrite.co.uk

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MONDAY: 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 9.00 Monday Morning with Stephen, 11.00 Ian Simmonds on Monday, 17.00 Drivetime, 19.00 Rosie's Highland Fling with Rosie Macoll, 20.00 John McLuckie's Show, 21.00 David Cullen show, 23.00 Station close down

TUESDAY: 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 10.00 Ken Hunter's Tuesday Morning, 13.00 Macky on FM, 17.00 Drivetime Jim Lynch, 19.00 Highest Praise - Stuart Chalmers, 20.00 Archie Darlings' Mix, 22.00 Clyde 2

WEDNESDAY: 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 09.00 Sound Scottish Repeat, 10.00 Comfort Zone, Doug Carmichael, 11.00 Comfort Zone, 12.00 Comfort Zone, 17.00 Drivetime with Campbell, 19.00 Country Meets Rock & Roll - Len + Ken, 20.00 Country Meets Rock & Roll, 21.00 Gordon's Grooves with Gordon Macintyre

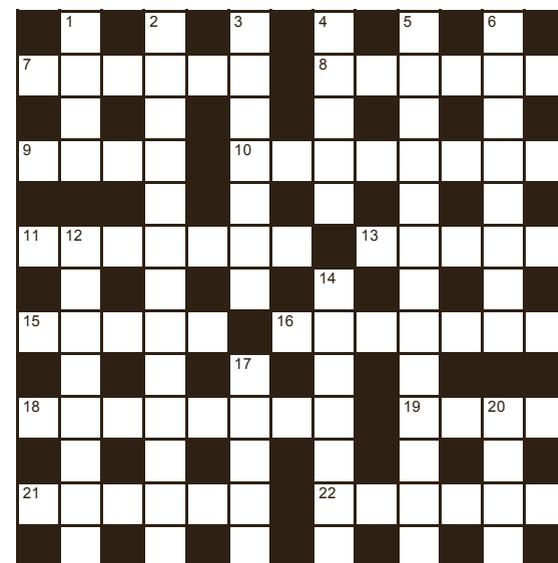
THURSDAY: 08.00 - 11.00 Breakfast with Andy and Sarah, 11.00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 13.00 Molly's Mix, 15.00 Drivetime with Stephen, 17.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 18.00 Drivetime with Stephen

McPhee, 19.00 Christines Collection, 20.00 Christine's CD Collection, 21.00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22.00 Margo Till Midnight, 11.00 Margo Till Midnight

FRIDAY: 08.00 Breakfast Show with Laura, 10.00 Teeny and Tiny, 17.00 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 17.30 Drive Show, 18.45 Sports View, 19.00 Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig, 20.00 Lewis Bingham, 21.00 Peter Rainnie

SATURDAY: 08.00 Breakfast Show with Stephen
10.00 Sat Morning Live, 11.00 Saturday Morning, 12.00 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crowsher, 12.03 Sat Morning Live, 12.05 Saturday Morning Live, 13.30 Clyde, 18.00 Sports View - Dream Team, 19.00 Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling, 20.00 Dave Lewis, 22.00 Margo Till Midnight
SUNDAY: 09.00 Sunday Morning With Breege, 10.00 Sunday Morning, 11.00 Sunday Brunch With Archie, 12.00 Sunday Brunch, 16.30 Archie Darling, 18.00 Ken's Friends - Ken Hunter, 19.00 New Country Show - David Entwistle, 21.00 Drum & Bass - Graham Scott, 23.00 Station Close Down

Crossword



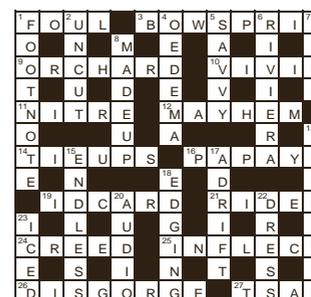
Across

- 7 Privilege (6)
- 8 Savage (6)
- 9 Hired car (4)
- 10 Overflowing (8)
- 11 Full of air (7)
- 13 Scorch (5)
- 15 Complete (5)
- 16 Aridity (7)
- 18 All there is (8)
- 19 (Run)wild (4)
- 21 Mild expletive (6)
- 22 Cool storage (6)

Down

- 1 Type of bean (4)
- 2 Welfare given by local authority (6,7)
- 3 Senior Roman magistrate (7)
- 4 To the rear of a ship (5)
- 5 Survey (13)
- 6 City for gamblers (3,5)
- 12 Partygoer (8)
- 14 Neat (7)
- 17 One to become a couple imminently (5)
- 20 Stove (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



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Visits help with autumn work

By Ewen Campbell, SRUC's Kirkton and Auchtertyre research farms' manager

It has been a while since our last column from SRUC's Kirkton and Auchtertyre farms, but there has been a lot going on.

In the last article, in August, I was hoping to take a second cut of silage (something which has not happened here in a long time, if ever) and this duly happened at the end of the first week of September.

We took a bit of a gamble and cut on Thursday September 6 when the weather was anything but settled. Indeed, there were a few showers going around as the fields were being cut. But things dried up on Friday and we managed to get it all baled and wrapped on the Saturday in fairly good condition.

We will be sampling and analysing it soon to see what

the quality is like. The extra 120 bales will make a big difference to the amount of fodder we need to buy in over the winter and the grass has grown again meaning that there should be plenty for flushing ewes at tupping time.

The SHX calves from our AAX cow herd were weaned at the beginning of October with an average weaning weight of 244kg, straight off the cow from the hill with no feeding. This equates to a daily live weight gain of 1.14kg/day, which is almost exactly the same as last year at 1.13kg/day. They were kept in the shed for just over a month before the bullock calves went off to SRUC Barony at an average weight of 292kg where they will be finished.

The heifer calves are due to go to SRUC Oatridge for wintering soon. Overall, we are very pleased with how



Dairy ewes near the communal shepherds' hut in the French Pyrennees at 1,700m altitude.

the calves have done and how the cows have performed this year.

We have also managed to wean all our lambs in the past couple of months, with all ewe lambs now away to their wintering and some tup lambs have been sent to the abattoir. So far, 150 lambs have gone to slaughter with the majority getting a grade

of R3L but we still have about 250 to go. So far they are averaging about £5/hd more than last year.

This year we decided to keep all of our Auchtertyre lambs to finish instead of selling them store and as usual our tup lambs are finished in the shed with ad-lib finisher pellets and straw. However, this year is a bit different as some of our lambs are being finished using our latest kit. These are a series of individual EID feed intake bins, which record which lamb is eating what. This detail of knowing how much

individual lambs have eaten will allow us to calculate their individual feed efficiency (ie, how much feed they required to get to the correct weight and fatness).

We have also just finished our stockdraw, where we check which ewes we should keep for the next season. We check their feet, udders, teeth, as well as past performance, to name a few. It is quite a long job, but necessary. The sheep are now back on the hill until we gather them again for pre-tupping next month.

We have had some help with the sheep – a PhD student from the University of Parana in Brazil, Vanessa Souza Soriana, who is on a placement at SRUC with colleagues in Edinburgh.

Vanessa was keen to see more extensive sheep production systems, so she stayed with us for two weeks, and was looking at animal welfare assessments on our flocks, following an EU project protocol called AWIN. Vanessa really enjoyed Kirkton, and it will be interesting to get her final findings.

As for myself, I had a very enjoyable trip to Mull last month to do a presentation on lamb finishing as part of a sheep resilience meeting.

The meeting was very well attended despite the foul weather and prompted a lot of discussion on topics like fluke control and condition scoring, after presentations by my SAC Consulting colleagues Heather Stevenson and Poppy Frater.

And to finish on a different note, two of my colleagues, Nicola Lambe and Claire Morgan-Davies, have just returned from a trip to the French Pyrennees, where they presented the work being done on mountain breeds here at SRUC's Kirkton and Auchtertyre.

Despite the differences in terms of production (dairy sheep) and landscape (dry mountain pastures), these areas face similar issues to ours (problem of access to labour, economic viability, remoteness and predators). These issues were common across all mountain areas in Europe.

Zetor Proxima 120HS 4WD, Brand New, c/w ZX3.1P Loader, 120HP.....	£41495
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Zetor Major 80 4WD, 2015, c/w Trima X21 loader, Only 844 hours.....	£24,495
Claas Celtis 446 RX, 4WD, 2008, c/w Quicke Q41 6ft bucket.....	£22,995
Case JX1090U 4WD, 2007, c/w Quicke Q45 loader / bucket.....	£21495
Massey Ferguson 5455, 4WD, 2004, 95HP, air con, 80% tyres.....	£18,495
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Kubota ME8200 4wd, 2007, c/w Kubota LA1251 loader.....	£18995
Kubota ME5700 4WD, 2008, c/w Kubota loader/bucket, hyd shuttle.....	£18495
Kubota ME5700 4WD, 2008, only 2700 recorded hours.....	£18495
Renault Ceres 335 X 4WD, 2002, c/w Maillieux MX75 loader.....	£16,495
Zetor 7341 4WD, c/w Quicke loader / pallet forks, 2004.....	£15,495
Zetor 5340 4WD, c/w Trima loader / bucket, 2003.....	£13995
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JCB 8014, 2012, half cab, 90% tracks.....	£8495
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Honda Pioneer 700 side by side, brand new, half cab, in stock.....	£11,395
Honda Foreman 500cc, 2018, Brand New, full range in stock.....	from £7495
Honda Fourtrax 420cc, 2018, Brand New, full range in stock.....	from £5999

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AgriScot is a farming event not to be missed

AgriScot, 'your farm business event', will take place at the Royal Highland Centre, Ingliston on November 21.

AgriScot team member and Iona farmer John MacInnes, gives a sneak preview of what's in store this year. He said: "We have subtly changed the ethos of AgriScot this year. The event is no longer billed as "the farm business event" but instead, is now "your farm business event".

"We want to emphasise that AgriScot is for you and for your business. There is no other event with such a solid business emphasis. The whole day is geared up to showcase new products, new ideas and new thinking. We aim for visitors to leave having gleaned, learned or purchased something that will bring about future improvements to their farming business.

"We have once again filled every available trade stand space and added to the waiting list of would-be exhibitors. I must

thank these trade-stands, and our sponsors. Without their support we could not maintain AgriScot as a free-to-attend event.

"We are delighted that the Farm of the Year awards continue to go from strength to strength, with the addition of the arable title in 2017 a great success. These awards are a great way to showcase farms that we might all learn something from. I look forward to seeing the 2018 award winners announced in the main ring at noon. We have introduced a new any-other-breed class to our dairy cattle and hope to see breeds such as British Friesian and Dairy Shorthorn alongside our regular line up of top-class cattle.

"There is no doubt that, with Brexit fast approaching, we are moving into uncertain times and uncharted waters – more than at any time in my farming career. This is why AgriScot is such a key date on the calendar."

Candidates sought for NFUS positions

NFU Scotland is now taking nominations for the positions of president and its two vice-presidential posts.

The election for these key appointments within Scottish agriculture will take place at the union's council meeting at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Glasgow, on Friday February 8, 2019. The union's AGM and annual dinner will be staged at the same venue the day before.

Any NFUS member can be nominated for election, providing they are proposed and seconded by fellow NFUS members. The presidential position is held for two years and a president can serve a maximum of two consecutive terms. The vice-president initially serves for two years before the post reverts to an annual election.

Anyone wishing to stand should contact NFUS chief executive Scott Walker. The closing date is December 12.

Around the markets

Dalmally – on Friday October 26 United Auctions held a sale of 1,934 lambs and sheep at Dalmally Auction Mart. All classes of stock met with a keen enquiry with lambs averaging £33.69 (+ £5.45 per head on the year).

The entry of lambs consisted mainly of smaller long keeping sorts. Ewes maintained recent rates.

Principal lots and prices:

Lambs:

SUFFx: £39.00 – Achnacone.

TEXx: £55.50 – Ormsary Farmers:

£52.00 – Ledcharrie: £52.00 –

Couston Farm.

CHEV: £56.50 – Achnaconmore:

£54.50 – Glenshero

(Fort William): £49.00

– Achnaconmore.

CROSS: £45.00 – Inerlair (Fort

William): £45.00 – Ledcharrie:

£42.00 – Insh Farm (Spean

Bridge).

MULE: £59.00 – Ormsary

Farmers: £52.00 – Ormsary

Farmers: £47.00 – Dalrannoch.

BF: £45.00 – Auchreoch: £40.00

– Dunloskin Farm: £38.50 –

Blarmafodach (Fort William).

Ewes.

CROSS: £31.00 – Inerlair (Fort

William).

BF: £46.00 – Eden Taggart: £46.00

and £40.00 – Auchreoch: £38.00

– Boreland Farms: £38.00 –

Duncroisk: £34.00 – Dalrannoch

and Castles: £32.00 – Crannich

(Mull): £30.00 – Castles Estate.

Gimmers.

BF: £50.00 – Duncroisk.

Top prices per kilo.

Lambs.

SUFFx: 142p – Achnacone

TEXx: 159p – Ormsary Farmers:

152p – Ledcharrie: 152p

– Achnacone.

CHEV: 151p – Achnaconmore:

147p – Eastfield: 146p – Inerlair

(Fort William): 145p

– Achnaconmore: 142p – Inerlair:

141p – Glenshero (Fort William).

CROSS: 146p – Inerlair (Fort

William): 142p – Ledcharrie.

MULE: 147p – Ormsary Farmers:

142p – Dalrannoch.

BF: 154p – Dunloskin: 154p

– Auchreoch.

Fort William – Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd on October 22 sold 1,411 store sheep of all classes.

Lambs (878) sold to £46.50 for a pen of Beltex crosses from Brin House, Farr.

Ewes (476) sold to £48 for crosses from Kinloid, Arisaig.

Feeding sheep (57) sold to £51 for a Cheviot ram from Kinloid.

Other leading prices per head:

Store lambs: BF – Moy Farms,

Banavie, £46, Breakachy, Laggan,

£42.50, £40.50; Suffx – Ardochy,

Whitebridge, £41; Cross –

Ardochy, £40, £38.50, Ockle,

Achateny, Argyll, £38; Chev

– Torlundy, Fort William, £38,

Glenfintaig Estate, Spean Bridge,

£37.50, Keil Farm, Ardgour, £35;

Ewes: Chev – Kinloid, £45,

Torlundy, £39; BF – Insh Farm,

Spean Bridge, £36; Cross –

Ardochy, £35, Brin House, £31;

Lleyn – Glenquoich, Invergarry,

£33, £30; Feeding sheep: Cheviot

gmr – Kinloid, £46; BF ram – 3

Torr-Na-Faire, Lochaline, £38.

Islay – Caledonian Marts Ltd on Friday October 19 sold 187 cattle, and 253 sheep at their annual autumn sale on the Isle of Islay.

A feature at the sale was the consignment of 81 calves from Ardtalla Estate where they sold a Charolais bullock which topped the sale at £1,020, purchased by Andrew Dunn, Redhall. Ardtalla's Charolais bullocks averaged £723 (+£117, OTY) with their heifers averaging £570 (+£30, OTY)

The top price heifer at the sale was consigned by M McMillan, Balliemartin for a pen of three Limousins at £720.

Leading prices:-

Bullocks:

Lim £820 and £800 Balliemartin;

Lim £740 Auchnaclach; Lim £630

Ardtalla Est; Char £790 and £740

Ardtalla Estates; AA £700 and

£680 Dail Saler £550 and £460

Ardtalla Est; Shorthorn X £360

Persabus

Heifers:

Lim £640 Balliemartin; Lim £580

Ballulive; Lim £570 Auchnaclach;

Lim £540 Ardtalla; Est Char

£630 and £620 Ardtalla Estates;

Shorthorn X £400 and £380

Persabus.

Lambs:

Suff £60 Balliemartin;

Cross £45 Ballulive;

Tex £38 Persabus.

Ewes:

Tex £33 Balliemartin;

BF £28 Ballulive.

Dingwall – Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd on October 26 sold 285 rams at its second continental ram sale of the year. Beltex (15) sold to £650 gross for a shearling from Overhouse, Orkney.

Charollais (7) sold to £380 gross for a shearling from Ankerville, Tain.

BFL (22) sold to £850 gross for a shearling from Nether Aucharnie, Huntly.

Suffolks (66) sold to £700 gross for a shearling from Ankerville.

Texel (100) sold to £1,200 gross for a shearling from Veltigar, Tankerness.

Cross (63) sold to £750 gross for a Charollais cross shearling from Overhouse, Harry.

Lleyn (3) sold to £450 gross for a two shear from 6 Blaich, Fort William.

South Country Cheviots (5) sold to £250 gross for a two shear from Langdale, Strathnaver.

Zwartbles (4) sold to £100 gross for a ram lamb from Culnaskeath, Evanton.

Other leading prices:

Beltex – Upper Auchenlay, Dunblane £550, Overhouse, £520.

Charollais – Ankerville, £300.

Blue Faced Leicester – Nether Aucharnie, £800, Whitebog, Rosemarkie, £550 twice.

Suffolk – Stonyford Farm, Tarland, £650, £600 five times,

Ankerville, £600, Stonyford Farm, £550.

Texel – Veltigar, £1,100, Clyth Mains, Occumster, £1,000,

Burnside Croft, Jamestown, £900, Kennachy, Forss, £850, Veltigar, £850.

Cross – Overhouse, £650, £580, £550, Veltigar, £600 twice,

Balmaglaster, Spean Bridge, £550, Upper Auchenlay, £550.

Stirling – Caledonian Marts Ltd on Thursday October 25 sold 163 cattle comprising 88

prime bullocks, heifers and young bulls, 65 OTM cattle and 10

calves.

A better show of cattle for quality met a similar trade.

Prime bullocks averaged 218ppkg.

Prime heifers averaged 222ppkg.

Beef cows averaged 108ppkg.

Dairy cows averaged 85ppkg.

Heifers sold to 258p for a

Limousin from W Dandie and

Sons, Learielaw, Broxburn,

purchased by Robert Alexander,

Butcher, Port Glasgow and to

£1,750 from C Smith, South

Flanders, Kippen.

Bullocks sold to 248p for a

Limousin from DS and RC Taylor,

Easter Ochtermuthill, Muthill to

Hugh A Black and Sons, Stirling

and to £1642 from C Malone,

Pitcairn, Cardenden.

Leading prices:

Heifers per kg: 252p (Three Times)

Brockwoodlees and Learielaw;

248p Faskine and Easter

Ochtermuthill; 245p Borlick,

Faskine and Easter Ochtermuthill;

242p Strathview (McNicol);

238p Bogleys; 232p Pitcairn and

Borlick; 230p Broadleys.

Bullocks per kg:

242p Learielaw; 240p (Twice)

Knockhouse, Learielaw and

Brockwoodlees; 238p Easter

Ochtermuthill; 235p Borlick; 230p

(Twice) Knockhouse and Faskine.

Also forward were 65 cast cows

and bulls.

All classes of cows were dearer on the week, and many more could have been sold.

Beef cows averaged 108ppkg selling to 170p on two occasions from W Dandie and Son, Learielaw,

Broxburn and A Galbraith, Upper Kinneil, Linlithgow and to £1,320 gross from Learielaw.

With a larger show of dairy cows forward again, all classes sharper compared to last week, averaging 85p selling to 104p from W and M

Wyllie, Broompark, Torphichen and to £760 twice from J Brown and Son, East Gartmillan, Airdrie,

and Broompark, Torphichen.

Other leading prices:

Beef cows per head:

£1,300 Upper Kinneil; £1,120 Highflat; £1,080 Kirkton; £1,050

North Moorhouse Cottage; £1,000 and £980 Highflat.

Beef cows per kg:

150p Upper Kinneil; 148p East Kerse and North Moorhouse

Cottage; 135p Pitlessie Mill; 134p Kirkton.

Dairy cows per head:

£730 Meldrum; £720 and £710 Solsgirth; £700 Broompark.

Dairy cows per kg:

103p East Gartmillan; 100p Meldrum and Solsgirth; 98p and 97p Solsgirth.

Clean cattle and cast cows required on a weekly basis. For more information please contact

Oliver Shearman on 07730 046252.

Also forward were 10 calves. Despite being a smaller show, calves still sold away to favourable rates.

Top price of the day went to A Hamilton, Mid Forrest Farm, Cumbernauld for a Charolais

heifer calf fetching £340.

Other leading prices:

Heifer calves:

Limousin £150 Mid Forrest.

Dairy bred bull calves:

Hereford £260 (Twice) Drumglass; Holstein Friesian £100 Mid Forrest.

Next sale of calves will be held on Thursday November 8.

Morris Leslie

PLANT AUCTIONS

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Backhoes - 2010 Terex 880, 2010 Terex 860, 2009 CAT 432E

Tractors - 2013 Case Puma CVX, 2001 Case CS150, 4x Muir Hill Tractors (2 with gravel carts)

Telescopic Fork Lifts - 2013 JCB 535-95, 2013 JCB 520-40, 2013 7m Manitou

Others - 2012 Bergman 12T Dumper, Mitsubishi Tracked Gravel Cart, Trenchless by Inter Drain, 2015 Herron Plant Trailer, 2016 Stewart GX15CM Dump Trailer, 2008 NC Dump Trailer, 1999

Terex TA25 6x4 Big Hook, Volvo 860 6x4 Dump Truck, Marston Dump Trailer, 7T Hyster

Forklift, Fast Tow Fuel Bowsers, Tipping Skips, Water Pumps, Benford Roller

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It is great to attend AgriScot each year to keep up to date with innovative thinking, products and services that can make a real difference to the bottom line profitability of LFA farms like Torloisk and to exchange the latest news and knowledge with other farmers and agricultural professionals."

Claire Simonetta
Torloisk Farm, Isle of Mull

Photography by Angus MacKay

We would like to keep in touch. Please sign-up via our website to receive all the latest AgriScot news.

www.agriscot.co.uk



DISCOVER WHAT AGRISCOT CAN DO FOR YOUR BUSINESS

MOTORISTS URGED TO TICK ALL THE BOXES THIS WINTER, SAYS 'THE MOTOR OMBUDSMAN'

WINTER MOTORING



• Drivers advised to look out for The Motor Ombudsman logo when choosing a garage to get their car ready for winter.

• Downloadable winter ticklist introduced on The Motor Ombudsman website to guide motorists through the key points to consider when taking their car to a garage.

• The Motor Ombudsman's online Garage Finder allows consumers to easily check for a business' accreditation to the Service and Repair Code and for any seasonal garage promotions.

As the mercury drops, and the days get shorter in the run-up to winter, The Motor Ombudsman, the automotive dispute resolution provider, is urging drivers to look out for its widely-recognised logo at their local independent garage or

franchised dealer when getting their car ready for the cold weather. A business displaying the Motor Ombudsman badge on their website and premises, which is centered around a prominent blue tick as a symbol of reassurance, means motorists can have the peace of mind that the retailer is committed to providing the highest level of care and workmanship.

With the end-of-year season traditionally bringing tougher conditions on the road, making sure a vehicle is fully roadworthy, whether for the daily commute or for the holiday getaway, is essential to staying safe. The Motor Ombudsman has therefore introduced an online ticklist that can be downloaded from its website. The handy, one-stop resource guides motorists through key considerations when having work done at a garage including if any quotes and invoices are

easy to understand, or whether components such as tyres, lights and wiper blades are all functioning correctly.

Furthermore, the Garage Finder (TheMotorOmbudsman/garage-finder) is another useful tool available to drivers. At the click of a button, it allows consumers to see all garages within a specific area or postcode that are accredited to its Service and Repair Code of Practice, of which there are thousands across the UK.

Motorists can also read the latest customer reviews, find out about the latest winter offers and make a direct booking for any maintenance via a business' profile page.

Bill Fennell, chief ombudsman and managing director of The Motor Ombudsman, said: 'All-year round maintenance of a vehicle is critical.

However, winter is particularly a time to make sure everything is working as it should and that any repairs are undertaken by a garage that adheres to recommended practices. Therefore, we have put together this useful download on our website where vehicle owners can check in one place that they have the main bases covered when it comes to any seasonal maintenance, as this could ultimately make the difference.'

For the next two weeks, starting today, social media users can enter The Motor Ombudsman's winter competition on its Facebook (www.facebook.com/TheMotorOmbudsman) and Twitter (@Motor_Ombudsman) pages to be in with the chance of winning a winter car care kit.

To view and download The Motor Ombudsman's winter ticklist, visit TheMotorOmbudsman.org/winter-ticklist.

IS MY CAR WINTER-PROOF?

- How much tread is left on my tyres?
- Are all tyres (including the spare) at the correct pressure for the load being carried?
- Do I need winter tyres, and if so how much do they cost?
- How much does it cost to change the winter tyres back to regular tyres?
- Are the brakes in good working condition and legal?
- What is the condition of the battery?
- When was the battery last changed?
- Are the fluids topped up to the recommended levels (i.e. screenwash / anti-freeze, oil and air conditioning)?
- Are all front and rear lights working?
- Do the wiper blades leave the front and rear screen free of streaks?

AM I PREPARED?

- Do I have sunglasses (winter sun can be dazzling)?
- Is there an ice scraper and de-icer in the car?
- Do I have an emergency kit (i.e. a first aid kit, jump leads, boots, warning triangle and a blanket)?
- Do I comply with all the equipment requirements if I am travelling abroad?
- Have I got the right level of breakdown cover for where I am travelling to?
- Is my car insurance, MOT and tax up to date?
- Have I washed and waxed my car to protect it from the build-up of dirt and grime?
- Is there a charger and / or adapter in the car to top-up my phone?
- Is my satellite navigation system working?
- Do I have a shovel at home in case of thick snow?
- Do I have salt to spread on paths and driveways in the event of ice and snow?

WHERE DO I GO FOR A WINTER CHECK AND WHAT DO I LOOK OUT FOR?

- Is the business accredited to The Motor Ombudsman's Service and Repair Code of Practice?
- Have I read any reviews about the business? (e.g. on The Motor Ombudsman's Garage Finder)
- Do I understand the work that needs doing on my car, and has it been clearly explained to me?
- Does the invoice match the work undertaken and the price that I was quoted?
- Was I consulted before any additional work was carried out?
- Did I get a receipt for the work and any condition reports?
- Does the garage have any winter check offers or discounts?
- Do the replacement parts being offered to me meet my budget (e.g. tyres)?
- Can the work be done while I wait, or do I have to leave the car at the garage?



ADVICE FOR DRIVING IN HEAVY RAIN AND FLOODS



HOW TO PREPARE FOR DRIVING IN HEAVY RAIN

Firstly, it is always advisable to consider before you set off whether your journey is essential. If not, can it be delayed until after the rain has subsided? If so then plan your journey in advance, taking care to avoid areas which are prone to flooding, and factor in extra time to allow for slower speeds and potential congestion. It is also a good idea to let relatives and friends know your intended route and expected time of arrival and, where possible, travel with others.

How to drive in heavy rain.

Firstly, slow down. Reduce your speed and leave more space between you and the vehicle in front as stopping distances in rain are increased.

Use dipped headlights so that other drivers can see you more easily.

Don't use rear fog lights. They can mask your brake lights and dazzle drivers behind you.

Look out for large or fast-moving vehicles creating spray which reduces visibility.

Keep your air conditioning on as this will stop your windows from misting up.

You can read our full advice page on how to demist your windscreen in double-quick time.

Listen out for local news bulletins to keep up-to-date with road closures, flooding and forecasts.

If you break down in torrential rain keep the bonnet closed while waiting for help to arrive to avoid the electrical system getting soaked.

Driving too fast through standing water could lead to tyres losing contact with the road. If your steering suddenly

feels light you could be aquaplaning. To regain grip, ease off the accelerator, do not brake and allow your speed to reduce until you gain full control of the steering again.

Driving fast through deep water can cause serious and expensive damage.

Be considerate to other road users and try not to spray pedestrians and cyclists as you drive through water.

Heavy rain may lead to large puddles, areas of standing water and even flooding. In the event that you may have to negotiate these types of conditions on the road, read below for our advice on how to drive through deep puddles.

Stopping distances in the rain.

The Highway Code states that stopping distances will be at least double in wet weather because your tyres will have less grip on the road.

Reduce your speed and leave more space between you and the vehicle in front to account for greater stopping distances – remember the two-second rule? Well increase it to four if it begins to pour. How to drive through water and floods.

'Puddles' may conjure up an image of a small drop, but some can develop into sizable bodies of water.

Driving through these puddles incorrectly could cause serious damage to your car, not to mention cost an extortionate amount to repair.

As a result we've put together some top tips for driving through them:

Size up the puddle first. Even if it means you have to stop your car and get out, getting a bit wet is a lot better than being left stranded.

If the water is muddy you might not be able to see the bottom and gauge its depth. Try and find a stick or an object to find the lowest point.

If it's clearly too deep for your car, find another way to your destination. Modern vehicles' door seals are good and keep water out, but this can make a car buoyant, meaning it could begin to float if the water gets too deep, leaving you stranded. Even in this instance, the water will eventually find its way in.

If the puddle is shallow enough to drive through, try and spot any objects that may cause damage to your car's wheels, tyres or suspension,

potentially leaving you mid-puddle with a problem. This way you can pick a safe path across.

Once you've confirmed you can drive through the puddle and determined your route, keep your vehicle in a low gear (second is generally adequate) and engine revs up.

This will help you maintain momentum when you travel through the puddle, creating a bow wave so you don't get bogged down.

Once you exit the other side – and especially if the puddle is on the deep side – pause for a moment if you can to let any excess water drain away and flow back to where it came from.

If you can't, be aware that grip levels on the road ahead will be diminished, as fluid from the puddle is dropped along the road surface by

other cars. It's always worthwhile to gently brush your brake pedal on exit, creating some friction and therefore heat to evaporate off any excess moisture. Some luxury vehicles can sense when you've navigated a puddle and automatically do this for you, keeping braking performance as effective as possible.

Shallow puddles are not the most arduous obstacles to overcome, but it's still important to remember that on the other side of a puddle grip levels could be lower. Adjust your speed to suit the depth of the water, too.



"HELENSBURGH TOYOTA is delighted to welcome Fiona McLaren to the business as our new Business Fleet Manager".

Fiona joins the business with a wealth of experience having worked in Sales and Customer Experience for over 25 years.

At Helensburgh Toyota, we understand that managing the needs of your fleet can often be a challenge. We can help simplify fleet management with a range of fully tailored services and tools to manage your needs and business costs. No matter your fleet size or company car requirements, Fiona will be on hand to understand your business requirements and tailor solutions that work best for you. We have over 40 years' experience working with rural businesses covering the whole of Argyll & Bute, the Highlands and islands and regularly visit our customers as

we appreciate key services are not always easily accessible.

Speaking about her new role, Fiona said: "I'm thrilled to be joining Helensburgh Toyota, a family owned business that has a long traditional of putting customer needs first and looking after them.

Over the coming months, I intend to be out and about visiting small to medium sized businesses to find out what your requirements are and to find tailor made fleet solutions to suit your specific needs. I can help you find the perfect fleet vehicle from small hatchbacks to SUV's and vans. Please get in touch if you would like more information on how we can help with your business and if you would like to arrange a meeting."



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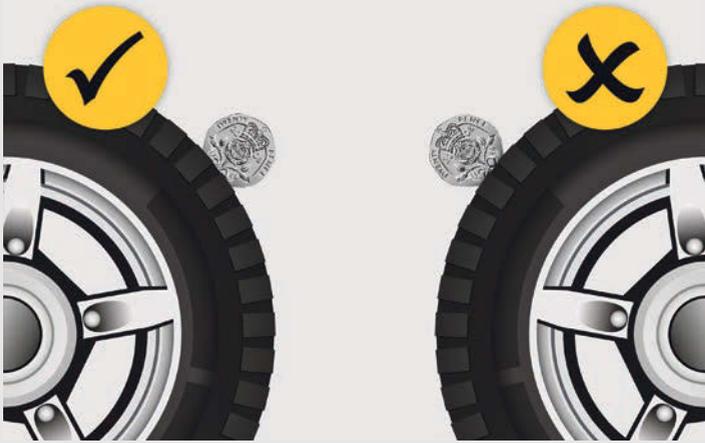
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We are proud to partner with a number of organisations offering exclusive membership discounts on all Toyota 4x4s including the new Hilux. If you are a member of the following organisations, contact us to find out how much money you could save:

- Anglia Farmers Ltd
- Bee Farmers Association
- Blackface Sheep Breeders Association
- BASC
- Country Land and Business Association Ltd
- Mole Valley Farmers
- National Farmers Union
- National Farmers Union Scotland
- Ringlink Services Ltd
- Scottish Association for Country Sports
- Scottish Gamekeeper Association
- Scottish machinery Ring Association

KEEP ROAD SAFE WITH THE 20 PENCE TYRE CHECK



TYRESAFE is reminding all drivers to ensure they're keeping their road risks to a minimum by practising #SafeTyreChecks.

November is typically cold and wet and coincides with the onset of chillier weather, a combination

which places high demands on the only safety feature of a vehicle which is in touch with the roads – its tyres.

Most drivers are unaware that each tyre's 'footprint' is about the same size as an adult's palm and,

with so much literally riding on them, it's essential to check they are in optimal condition.

'Drivers need to remember that brakes, steering and all advanced safety systems designed to help avoid accidents depend on the vehicle having a sure footing on the road – in other words, their tyres need to be in good condition,' said Stuart Jackson, chairman of TyreSafe.

'As we're now facing an increasing number of cold and wet days, to stay safe we need to be even more attentive to tyre maintenance.

'Air pressure, condition and tread depth must be checked regularly, especially if you're planning a break using a car laden with your most prized possessions – your family.'

Many drivers are aware that recommended tyre pressures for a vehicle vary to suit the weight of the load it is carrying, but far too many are complacent and don't

take the time to make this important adjustment before they set off with their families.

Typically, the unladen and laden pressures are on a plaque either inside the fuel filler flap or in the door, but they are sure to be found in the handbook. Incorrect pressures not only increase wear and decrease fuel efficiency but also make the tyre more vulnerable to sudden deflation.

A tyre's tread depth is a particularly important factor in cold and wet conditions as the more worn it becomes, the longer your car will take to stop.

Checking is easy and takes just a few minutes using the 20p test as the outer band of a 20p piece is 1.6mm, which is the minimum legal tread depth.

To check how close you are to that limit, place the 20p in the main grooves in the centre section of your tyre: if you can't see the outer

band above the tread, then check at two other points across the width and repeat at two more places further round the circumference.

If you can see the 20p's outer band at any point or are unsure, you need to get the tyres checked by a professional as the tyre maybe illegal and dangerous.

If you find something in the grooves, like a stone, remove it if you are able to do so.

While you're checking the tread depth, you should also ensure the tyres are in good condition, looking out for cracks, lumps, bumps or embedded objects.

Tyre manufacturers don't produce tyres with bulges or screws in them, so if you see anything suspiciously out of the ordinary, get it checked by a professional.

TyreSafe recommends these checks are done at least once a month and before long journeys.

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Driving in the dark - tips on how to stay safe

The end of October signals the start of one of the most difficult times of year to be driving.

Data from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) shows each year when the clocks go back, there's a spike in the number

of vulnerable road users killed or seriously injured.

To help you and others stay safe, we've put together an essential guide packed full of advice on driving in the dark.

- Use your lights appropriately
- Don't stare at oncoming vehicles
 - Keep windows clean
- Watch out for children, cyclists and animals
 - Get your eyes tested
- Don't get behind the wheel when tired

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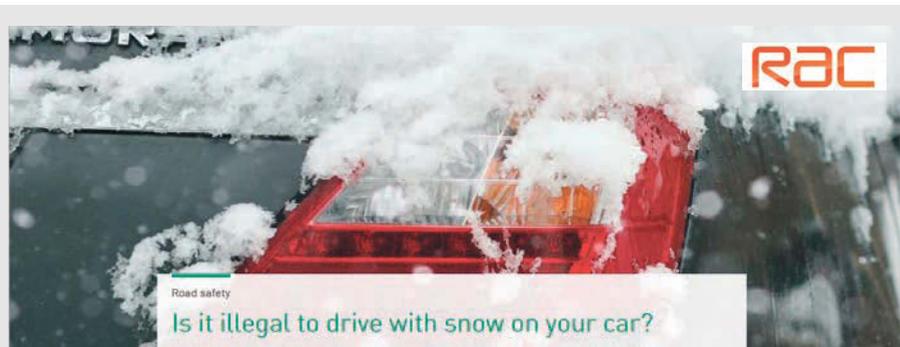
USED CARS

18 Dacia Duster DCi Lau, 4x2, Grey, 30 miles	£13,950
18 Dacia Stepway LAU TCe, Grey, 30 Miles	£10,750
66 Renault Captur, DYN DCi NAV, 120, Black, 18,00 miles	£12,250
66 Dacia Sandero Leu Dci silver 6,000 miles	£8,950
66 Renault Clio S Nav DCi-90 Mars red, 11,000 miles	£12,200
66 Renault Clio 1.2 Dyn Nav white, 14,000 miles	£9,750
65 Renault Captur TCe, DYN NAV, Cream, 18,500 miles	£10,250
65 Dacia Logan EST, LAU TCe, Blue, 23,000 miles	£7,500
15 Dacia Duster DCi LAU 4x2. Blue, 35,600 miles	£8950
64 Renault Clio DYN TCE Red 16,000 miles	£7,500
64 Renault Clio DYN NAV 1.2, Black, 32,000 miles	£7,150
64 Vauxhall Corsa SXi, 5 dr, Silver, 35,000 miles	£5,500
14 Skoda Rapid TDi white, 27,000 miles	£6,950
13 Renault Megan DYN DCi TOMTOM EST Car, Black, 75,000 miles	£5,750
62 BMW Series SPH 1.6, Black, 48,000 miles	£8,950
12 Nissan Micra Visia 1.2. Blue, 42,000 miles	£4,000
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You're late for an engagement or just need to pop to the shops in the car – but it's covered in snow and ice.

The bottom line is you need a clear view of the road before setting off, you can't make any shortcuts.

In the eyes of the law, you need to clear that snow before you go.

The law

There is no road law that says it is illegal to drive with snow on your car. However, the Highway Code stipulates that if driving in adverse weather conditions you must, by law, be able to see out of every glass panel in your vehicle.

This is supported by the section 41D of the

Road Traffic Act 1988, meaning it is a legal requirement to have a clear view of the road ahead before you set off.

Failure to do so could incur a fine, but more importantly could place your life, the lives of your passengers and the lives of those around you in danger.

This also means ensuring your windscreen is de-iced on the outside and thoroughly demisted on the inside.

As for the snow on the roof, while, again, there is no law stating it is illegal to drive with snow on your roof, if it falls off onto your windscreen while driving or flies into the path of another car then you could be penalised for such offences as

'driving without due consideration' or 'using a motor vehicle in a dangerous condition' - again, not worth the risk.

Even if you're only making a two-minute journey, by not thoroughly cleaning your car of snow, ice or condensation - including all windows, lights and even anything that could fall off into the path of another motorists - you're breaking the law and leaving yourself liable to a run in with the police.

That means fully wiping snow or frost from every window (a quick once over with a credit card or CD case is not good enough!). Use a proper scraper and de-icer. It might cost a few pounds, but it works and will save you time.

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Ford Fiesta Zetec 1.2 15 plate, 5 door h/back (Metallic Bronze), 23,746 miles..	£7,395
VW Polo SE TSI 1.1 15 plate, 5 door h/back (Grey), 25,571miles	£8,995
Ford Focus Zetec (Auto) 63 plate, 5 door estate (Black), 35,100 miles.....	£7,900
Nissan Duke 64 plate, 5 door h/back (Red), 9,430 miles.....	£9,995
Nissan Note N-Tec 1.4 62 plate, 5 door h/back (Sliver), 9,682 miles.....	£5,950
VW Move Up 64 plate, 5 door h/back (Blue), 25,606 miles	£5,995
VW Golf Match Tsi 1.4 64 plate, 5 door h/back (Dark Blue), 23,241 miles.....	£11,995
Peugeot 208 Allure 65 plate, 5 door h/back (Orange), 7,187 miles.....	£8,950
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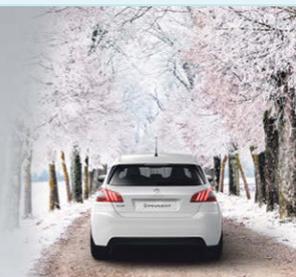


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Please apply by email with full C.V. and contact details to: ali@obantimes.co.uk
Closing date: 16th November 2018



Medical Receptionist required

Full Time Permanent Contract.

Taynuilt Medical Practice requires a full time receptionist. As the practice has three surgery sites at Connel, Taynuilt and Dalmally - transport is necessary. You will ideally have medical reception experience, although training will be given. You will work as part of a team, should have good communication skills and be able to work unsupervised. A knowledge of IT would be an advantage.

Please apply in writing with CV to Janice McGhee, Practice Manager, Connel Surgery, Connel, PA37 1PH or phone 01631 710229 for further information.

Closing date - Friday 9th November 2018.

Argyll Caravan Park

Inveraray, Argyll, Scotland

CARAVAN PARK GROUNDS PERSON / MAINTENANCE PERSON

Argyll Estates seeks a motivated person to join our team on their successful Caravan & Holiday Park. The job will include Ground Maintenance, Landscaping, General Maintenance. Driving Licence essential, Trailer Licence an advantage.

A full job description can be obtained from Argyll Caravan Park Reception or enquiries@argyllcaravanpark.com

Applications in writing, together with a CV should be sent to enquiries@argyllcaravanpark.com to arrive no later than 16/11/18

CAN YOU DRAW? ARTIST WANTED

Can you draw or paint or illustrate?

We want to hear from you if you can illustrate and are capable of producing attractive, colourful artwork for use on locally produced merchandise for the tourist market.

Excellent rates for the right person.

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**Box Number 33, c/o The Oban Times,
Lochavullin Industrial Estate,
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Applicants must be keen and experienced and willing to work to the highest standards as part of a small team.

See website www.benmoreestate.co.uk.

In the first instance please email CV and accompanying letter to:

sarah.pearson@tpradford.co.uk



University of the
Highlands and Islands
West Highland College

Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd
agus nan Eilean
Colaiste na Gàidhealtachd an Iar

Board of Management Vacancies

Dreuchdan Bàna air a' Bhòrd-stiùiridh

West Highland College UHI is a growing, dynamic and successful provider of higher and further education in the West Highlands and is currently recruiting for three new Board of Management members.

We are seeking individuals to help guide the strategic direction of the College and foster an environment which enables the potential of learners to be maximised. You will bring your expertise and skills used in business and in the community to support the management and staff as they continue the development and work of the College. Individuals with strong business and financial skills would be especially welcome at this time.

Time commitment is c. 15-18 days annually. Most Board meetings take place in the late afternoon. Board members are not remunerated but out of pocket expenses will be paid.

Closing date
8 November 2018
at midday

Interviews expected
to be w/b 26 Nov 2018
in Fort William

How to Apply

Application pack available at: www.whc.uhi.ac.uk/staff/vacancies

For further information, contact Secretary to the Board

Email: claire.wylie.whc@uhi.ac.uk Tel: 01397 874525

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.

Applications from women are especially encouraged since they are currently under-represented amongst the independent members on the College Board.



West Highland College UHI is a company limited by guarantee (SC153921) with charitable status (SC024193)



THE MAJESTIC LINE
WEST COAST CRUISES

The Majestic Line (Scotland) Ltd

The Majestic Line are pleased to announce the launch of our fourth vessel for 2019 season and are recruiting staff to fill the roles of boatman/engineer and Steward/ess for all our boats. Our season will run from April 1st – 30th October 2019.

Boatman/ Engineer

Good understanding of diesel engines and a mechanical/electrical mind is necessary experience in a marine environment is desirable. The job also requires people and hospitality skills and to be able to work as part of a team providing a high level of customer care.

Steward/ess

Assist with preparations for charters in liaison with the chef and responsible for hospitality duties throughout cruises. Assist with table setting, table service, clearing and dish washing and to ensure that the comfort and needs of guests are met. Experience in a marine/ hospitality environment is desirable.

For further details please apply to: info@themajesticline.co.uk or telephone Neil on 01369 707951

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Argyll and Bute Council

PLANNING

These applications listed below may be inspected between 09:00-12:30 -13:30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, your Local Customer Service Point and by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
18/01983/PP	Extension of detached garage and ancillary living accommodation to form a single dwellinghouse	Sonass House Erray Road Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA75 6PS
18/02251/PP	Change of use of restaurant (class 3) to form 2no. retail units (class 1)	38-40 George Street Oban Argyll And Bute
18/02278/PP	Extension to curtilage of existing dwellinghouse and change of use of existing agricultural building to ancillary accommodation (retrospective)	2 Eorabus Croft Bunessan Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA67 6DG
18/02182/PP	Installation of oil storage tank	Oil Depot Ledaig Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 1RT
18/02155/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of sewage treatment plant	Land North West Of Cnoc Na Creag Vaul Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute
18/02173/PP	Change of use of restaurant store room to facilitate additional restaurant/bar facilities and installation of bio-disc	The Old Inn Portnacraoish Appin Argyll And Bute PA38 4BL
18/02169/PP	Alterations to existing dwellinghouse and erection of dwellinghouse	Four Winds Kilmaluig Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute PA77 6XB
18/02116/LIB	Internal and external alterations including installation of 2 replacement windows and one external door	Kilninian Parish Church Torloisk Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA74 6NH
18/02122/PP	Installation of four boreholes and associated pipework infrastructure to provide renewable heat to ground source heat pumps as part of Iona Heat Network	Argyll Hotel And Knock Na Cross Isle Of Iona Argyll And Bute PA76 6SJ
18/02254/PP	Demolition of existing buildings and erection of dwellinghouse	Land North Of Strathlea Portnacraoish Appin Argyll And Bute PA38 4BB
18/01665/PP	Alterations and change of use of garages and storage to form self-catering unit and installation of air source heat pump	Coull Farm Bruichladdich Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA49 7UT
18/02241/PP	Installation of 6 kW wind turbine (18 metres high to blade tip)	Conisg Kilmeny Ballygrant Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA45 7QW

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Council's website.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:
www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



Argyll and Bute Council

CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982 TAXI FARE REVIEW

Notice is hereby given that Argyll and Bute Council, having consulted with taxi operators licensed by the authority, propose to make no amendments to the maximum fares and charges for taxis operating within the jurisdiction of Argyll and Bute Council as detailed below. It is proposed that these will be effective from 28th January 2019.

Any person wishing to lodge representations in respect of these proposals should do so by writing to the Head of Governance and Law, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RT by no later than 3rd December 2018.

Tariff	Description	Rate
Tariff 1	Hirings from ranks or "flag" Hiring between 7am and 10pm	£3.00 20 pence
	Initial charge (860 yards or part thereof) Subsequent charge (each 176 yards or part thereof)	
Tariff 2	Hirings from ranks or "flag" Hiring between 10pm and 7am	£3.60 20 pence
	Initial charge (860 yards or part thereof) Subsequent charge (each 150 yards or part thereof)	
Tariff 3	Tariff 2 also applies to hirings from ranks or "flag" between 6pm and 10pm December 24th, 6pm and 10pm December 31st and between 7am 2nd January and 7am 3rd January	£4.20 20 pence
	Hiring from ranks or "flag" between 10pm 24th December and 7am 27th December and 10pm 31st December and 7am 2nd January	

Soiling Charge - £100 maximum (with permission to display warning signs indicating that there may be an additional charge for any potential loss of earnings suffered as a consequence)

Waiting Time - 35 pence per minute commencement of journey, charged on a pro rata basis per second

Taxi called by means of telephone - 30 pence additional charge

Large Mini-bus type vehicles (carrying 5 or more passengers together at their own request) -

a) Where Tariff 1 would apply - charge Tariff 2
b) Where Tariff 2 would apply - charge Tariff 3
c) Where Tariff 3 would apply - Surcharge £1.00

Fee by negotiation - for all journeys commencing within but finishing outwith Argyll & Bute, in a place of the above charges, such fares may be charged as prior to the acceptance of the hire, were proposed to the hirer and accepted by him/her

Ferry Fares - The hirer shall be liable for the cost of a return ferry fare for any journey involving a ferry

Charles Reppke, Head of Governance and Law, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RT

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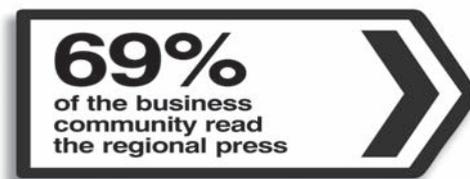


Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

PROPOSED APPORTIONMENT OF A COMMON GRAZINGS

David Rodgers is applying for an apportionment of part of the Galmore Common Grazings extending to 0.067Ha for the purpose of restoration of derelict croft house, diversity of letting accommodation and food preparation/ storage area for home produce.

Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8N, info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk by November 29, 2018.



Source: Business Choice II, The Newspaper Society



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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
18/04848/LBC	Kinloch Castle Isle Of Rum	Addition of roof slope ventilators
18/04879/FUL	Sealladh Na Beinne North Ballachulish Onich	Reconfiguration and alterations to self contained dwelling for holiday let
18/04925/FUL	Clevehurst Spean Bridge	Erection of house (Renewal of 15/03806/FUL)

Time period for comments is 14 days & 21 days for 18/04848/LBC

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

NOTICE OF PRE-PLANNING APPLICATION PUBLIC EXHIBITION

Proposed development on land at
Upper Achintore, Fort William,
accessed via Connachie Road.

Link Group intends to submit a planning application to The Highland Council for permission for a new residential development, including landscaping, access, and associated site development works.

The first of two public exhibitions of plans for the proposed development will be held at Lundavra Primary School, Lundavra Road, Fort William between 4pm and 8pm on 12th November 2018, where representatives will be available to discuss the proposal and answer questions. A second public event will be held in early 2019 and will be advertised separately. Further information may be obtained from Peter Brett Associates (PBA), 160 West George Street, Glasgow, G2 2HG. Tel. 0141 352 2360 or email glasgow@peterbrett.com. Comments can be left at the event or be made by email/postal return (contact details above) by Friday 21st December. Comments submitted at this stage are not representations to the council but will be considered by PBA in the preparation of the planning application.

If a planning application is subsequently submitted to The Highland Council, normal neighbour notification and publicity will be undertaken and formal representations regarding the proposal can be made at that time.

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATION

Isle of Rum Community Trust
Isle of Rum Croft 4, Small Isles
0.715 ha - Community Development
89958

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 29/11/2018. Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, info@crofting.gov.scot

The Crofting Commission takes the protection of your privacy seriously. To safeguard your personal data and make sure that it is accurate, we only collect and/or store the data necessary to carry out our functions as a regulatory body. You can find a copy of our Privacy Notice at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk/openness-and-customer-care.

Proposed Division of a Croft by Owner-occupier Crofter

Mrs Catherine Shaw McKinlay is applying to divide the owner-occupied croft at Loch Awe View, Stronmilchan, Glenorchy & Innishail, in the Parish of Glenorchy & Innishail into 2 new crofts.

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

TAYNUILT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY (FLOWER SHOW) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON THURSDAY 8TH NOVEMBER AT 7.30PM

IN THE VILLAGE HALL.

If this show is to continue then people have to come along to the meeting and show support. If support is not forthcoming then this important event will be lost to the village.

First Registration of a Croft

Miss Yvonne Lobban Gardner Cant has registered their croft Officially Port Ramsay, Port Ramsay, Lismore & Appin also known as 12 Port Ramsay, Port Ramsay, Lismore & Appin, C5445 on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 3rd June, 2019.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is A1383.

Argyll and Bute Council

Councillor Roddy McCuish (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)
Councillor McCuish will be holding a surgery on **Friday 2nd November 2018** in the **Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban** from **1.30pm - 4.00pm**
He can be contacted by email - Roderick.McCuish@argyll-bute.gov.uk and by telephone 01631 567854

Councillor Jim Lynch (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)
Councillor Lynch will be holding a surgery on **Friday 9th November 2018** in the **Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban** from **2.00pm - 4.00pm**.
He can be contacted by email - Jim.Lynch@argyll-bute.gov.uk and by telephone 01631 567893

Councillor Elaine Robertson (E.W. 5 Oban North and Lorn)
Councillor Robertson will be holding a surgery on **Friday 23rd November 2018** in the **Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban** from **10.00am - 12 Noon**.
Councillor Robertson can also be contacted by email - Elaine.Robertson@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Councillor Sir Jamie McGrigor (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)
Councillor Sir McGrigor will be holding a surgery on **Friday 23rd November 2018** in the **Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban** from **2.00pm - 4.00pm**.
He can be contacted by email - Jamie.McGrigor@argyll-bute.gov.uk and by telephone 01631 567853

Councillor Kieron Green (E.W. 5 Oban North and Lorn)
Councillor Green will be holding a surgery on **Monday 16th November 2018** in the **Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban** from **2.00pm - 4.00pm**.
He can be contacted by email - Kieron.Green@argyll-bute.gov.uk and by telephone 01631 562 444

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BIRTHS

RUSSELL-STRANG - Welcome to Harris Blair arrived October 26, 2018, brother for Hayley, Lewis and Noah. Another blessing for the grandparents, Billy and Sandra and Alan and Mary, Oban.

PEARL WEDDING

MACKINNON - TURNBULL - John and Mary were married at St Columba's Cathedral Oban on October 29, 1988, by Fr. Sandy Culley and assisted by the late Rev. John MacLeod. Present address: Dalnabreac, Kilmore, By Oban.

GOLDEN WEDDING

MACCALLUM - FERGUSON - Alistair to Christine on November 1, 1968 in Kilcalmonell Church, Clachan. Service conducted by Rev A. Lawson. Present address: The Old School, Cairndow.

DEATHS

CHERRY - William Angus (Bill). It is with great sadness that Josephine announces the death of Bill, her beloved husband, and father of Rosemary, Audrey, Caroline, Lesley and Ailsa. Funeral service at Cardross Crematorium on Monday, November 5 at 3.15pm.

DENNISON - Neil Cameron. Suddenly at his home, after a short illness faced with courage and dignity on Friday, October 26, 2018. Neil, aged 40 years, devoted son of John and Maisie, dearly loved brother of Calum and brother-in-law of Elaine, much loved uncle to Molly, Archie and Isla, dearest nephew, work colleague and good friend to many. Funeral service at Kilmallie Free Church, Caol on Wednesday November 7 at noon and thereafter to Glen Nevis Cemetery. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Lochaber Branch Macmillan Nurses and Cat Protection Fort William Branch.

DINGWALL - Colin Dingwall suddenly passed away peacefully on October 18, 2018, much devoted

husband of Rae Dingwall, beloved father to Alan and Jackie. Grandfather to Derek Jack, Lorna, Dawn, Christopher, Gary and Courtney. Will be sadly missed, never forgotten.

MACCORMICK - Peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban on October 26, 2018, Mary Carmichael McFadyen Black, aged 84 years, beloved wife of the late James MacCormick, Killandrist, Lismore; much loved mum of Linda and Kate and mother-in-law to John and Robert; loving grandmother of Jason, Cheryl, Lynsey, Jade and Ryan and great-grandmother to Lilly Jane. The funeral will take place at 1 pm on Friday, November 2 at Lismore Parish Church. Family flowers only with donations, if desired, to Oban Lifeboat.

MACDONALD - Ian (Edinburgh / Acharacle). Peacefully, on Saturday, October 27, 2018, Ian, much loved dad of Leona, Ailsa and Kirsten and loving grandpa to Elidgh, Erin, Niamh, Hannah, Rachel, Charlie and Struan and a dear father-in-law, brother and uncle. A service will be held at Warriston Crematorium, Cloister Chapel, on Wednesday, November 7 at 12.30pm. Family flowers only please but a retiral collection will be taken for RNLI.

MACGILLIVRAY - Mary, (Kilchoan), passed away peacefully at Invernevis House, Fort William, on Monday, October 29, 2018, aged 90. A dear wife to the late Dougie, a much loved mum to John, Teen, and the late Duncan, a special sister, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral service to be held in Kilchoan Community Centre on Tuesday, November 6 at 12:30pm.

MITCHELL - Suddenly but peacefully at home surrounded by her family on Wednesday, October 24, 2018 aged 79 years, Margaret (née Johnston) much loved mother of Brenda and Margaret loving mother-in-law, granny and 'GG'. Sorely missed.

RODGERS - Peacefully at home, in his 70th year, surrounded by his loving family after an illness fought

with great courage and dignity, Ian (Nena), devoted husband of Catherine, cherished dad of Kevin, Tracy and Ian, much loved father-in-law of Kirsty, Stacey and Ian and proud granda of Shanna, Kaitlynn, Katherine and Billy. Sorely missed.

WARNOCK - Peacefully at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on October 24, 2018, aged 80 years, Catherine Warnock, wife of Thomas (deceased), mother to Graeme (deceased), Fiona and Euan, grandmother, great-grandmother and sister. Funeral will take place at Cardross Crematorium, Main Road, Cardross on Friday, November 2 at 1.15pm. Family flowers, donations will be collected for Macmillan Cancer Support.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

GALLOWAY - Elma and Sandra would like to express their sincere thanks to relatives and friends for the many expressions of sympathy, by way of cards and letters, telephone calls and flowers, received in the recent sad loss of Ella, a much loved mum, mum-in-law, gran, great gran and great great gran. Five generations together in her lifetime. Special thanks to Rev William Crossan and organist David McEwan for their contribution to the service of celebration and thanksgiving at Campbeltown; to Kenneth Blair for his sensitive and efficient handling of funeral arrangements; and to the Ardshiel for the lunch and all their caring hospitality. The family also thank everyone who very generously donated £400 to Mary's Meals.

ELDER - The family of the late Alasdair John Elder wish to thank most sincerely all relatives, friends, neighbours and work colleagues of Alasdair's for all the kind expressions of sympathy shown to them in their recent sad loss. Thanks to Dr Rushworth and Dr MacFarlane at Cairn Medical Practice, Mr Coggins, doctors and staff at Ward 4A Raigmore Hospital. Also to Dr Keen, Charge Nurse Susan and other staff at the

Highland Hospice for all their kindness shown to Alasdair during his stay there. Thanks to Fr Piotr and Fr Michael MacDonald and all who attended masses in Inverness and South Uist. A collection in Inverness raised £ 254.00 for SSPCA, Inverness. Thanks to CalMac staff on the Uig to Lochmaddy run for their assistance. Thanks to Lachie and staff at the Dark Island Hotel, Benbecula for their excellent catering. Special thanks to Drew Green and Vicki Fraser at John Fraser & Son, Chapel Street, Inverness and Angus MacPhee at MacPhee Brothers, Benbecula for their professionalism, care and support with all the funeral arrangements in Inverness and South Uist.

MACDONALD - The family of Catherine Cameron Macdonald, known as Kitty, (Glenfinnan) would like to thank all her friends and neighbours for the kindness shown and their messages of condolence following our recent sad loss. Glenfinnan was the community that she felt she belonged to. The community gave so much to her, particularly over her last few years when age and frailty meant she needed help and support. Without it, her life would neither have been so long nor so fulfilling. We are also indebted to the staff at Erskine Home, Bishopton, who looked after her in her final two years. The care, compassion, patience and love they showed to Kitty was boundless, and without this it is doubtful that she would have made it to her 100th birthday in June of this year. Erskine Home is a truly wonderful place and we were very fortunate that she was able to live there. We would also like to thank Bishop Brian McGee for conducting a very moving and comforting service at The Church of St Mary and St Finnan at Glenfinnan and to Scott and Linnie at John McLellan Funeral Directors for their care and help with funeral arrangements. Lastly, thanks to the staff at the Glenfinnan House Hotel for providing catering after the funeral.

MACDONALD - Mary and families would like to thank everyone, families, friends, and neighbours for their cards, messages and support following the death of husband, dad, grandfather and great-grandfather, Alexander MacDonald. He died peacefully with family by his side on October 15 in Raigmore Hospital Inverness. A very special thanks goes to the nurses in the Coronary Care Unit in Raigmore. Also thank you to the staff at Mike McFall Funeral Directors for support and guidance and to Fr Stan for a lovely Requiem mass. The retiral collection taken amounted to £1050, was divided between Emma's Fund, Raigmore Coronary Unit and Morar Parish. A sincere thanks to everyone who travelled far and wide to pay their respects to Alex (Baitch).

SCOTT - Campbell, Jacqui, Iain, Fiona, and family would sincerely like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy following their recent sad loss. The family would also like to express their thanks to the Stroke Ward at Raigmore Hospital for the care and compassion shown to Campbell and his family during his time there, to Rev Bryson for his comforting service, to David M. Ellen Funeral Directors for their professional and understanding funeral arrangements, to all those who attended the service to pay their last respects, and to those that were unable to attend the funeral service but sent their condolences. The sum of £500 was collected at the service from generous donations and has been sent to the Stroke Ward at Raigmore Hospital.

WOOD - The family of the late Margaret Wood would like to thank all family and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy and support during this sad time. A big thank you to Jamie, Beth and team at Mike McFall Funeral Directors for your kindness and compassion. Special thanks to all at Craig Nevis Surgery, especially Dr John Wallace, for attending Mum over the years. Special thanks to the nursing and medical staff of the C.A.U, Belford Hospital and ward 9, H.D.U. at Ninewells Hospital for all your care and attention. Thank you to Kim from Glencoe and Ballachulish Florist for the beautiful flower arrangements. Thank you to Rev. Richard Corbett for his comforting service. Many thanks to Ian, Annabel and team at Corpach Hotel for the catering. The sum of £260 was raised for the C.A.U. at Belford Hospital.

MEMORIALS

COOK - Rosalyn, died November 1, 2016. Missed, loved and remembered every day.

- John and family.
GRANT - John Duncan (Iain). As the tenth year approaches We miss you as much today as then

Treasured memories of a much loved brother, uncle and friend who so sadly left on November 4, 2008.
- Love Margaret, Neil and families x.

STURROCK - Captain William (Bill), who died November 2, 2016. Sadly missed Always in my thoughts - Your loving wife Ellen.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

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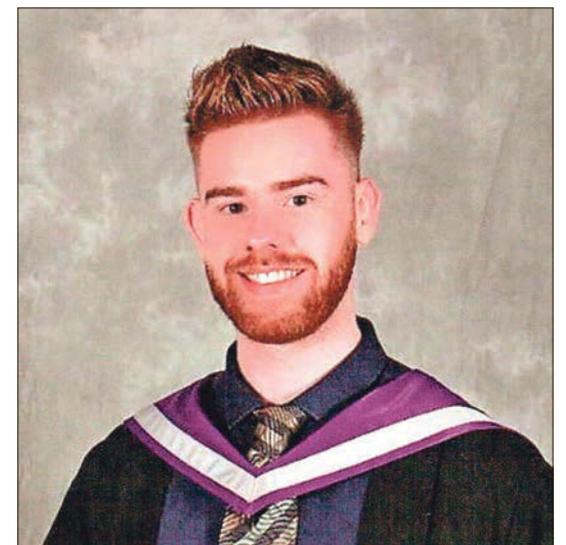
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GRADUATION



BENJAMIN WILLIAM ROBINSON

Recently graduated with a BSc (Hons) in Computing, from the University of the Highlands and Islands. Ben is the son of Heather and David Robinson, Oban and the grandson of May Buchanan, Oban. A former pupil of Rockfield Primary School and Oban High School.

Oban Otters swim along to Sunday screening

Young swimmers from the Oban Otters club this week enjoyed a change from Sunday evening pool training with a trip to Oban Phoenix Cinema's monthly musical – Grease.

There was lots of singing along from parents and a mood of nostalgia for 1978, as they were happy to share a blast from the past with the younger generation.

Monthly musicals are organised by Marco Pacitti, who said: 'A big thank you to the Otters Swimming Club and the community in general for their support of this new event at Oban Phoenix Cinema.'

'The next monthly musical is on Sunday November 25 but the film hasn't been chosen yet – so if there are any special requests out there, please don't hesitate to ask.'



Mums and dads loved the nostalgia of Grease while the young Oban Otters swimmers had a great time.

THOUGHT for the week

Everyday Saints

Hallowe'en – part of the autumn ritual, but what's it about? Trick or treat? Scary stories? Spooks and witches on broomsticks?

Hallowe'en, October 31, comes from the original term 'All Hallows' Eve', like Christmas Eve, the day before Christmas. Because November 1 was originally called 'All Hallows' Day', the date when saints were hallowed, or honoured, and All Hallows' Eve the day when people celebrated the triumph of good over evil.

Now All Hallows' Day is more commonly known as All Saints' Day, followed on November 2 by All Souls' Day. Saints with a capital 'S' are those notable Christians throughout history who have been recognised as outstanding. For example our local St Columba, and St Benedict, St Augustine, and very recently, Oscar Romero.

'All Souls', who are remembered on November 2, are everyone else – ordinary human beings who never made history. The early church made no such distinction.

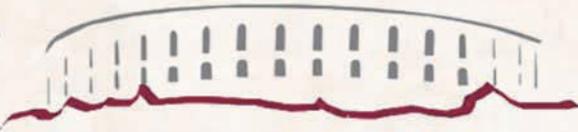
Paul's New Testament letter to the Philippians begins: 'To all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi', and similar references to saints is to be found in other letters. We often say 'Oh, I'm no saint', and we speak of people who have helped us along the way as 'saints'.

Yet the Bible assures us that all of us who falteringly try to follow Jesus are, in God's eyes 'saints' – everyday saints. Now there's a thought to comfort us when we stumble, and to inspire us to become just a little bit more like those great and famous names from the past, or the good folk we meet or hear about every day.

So at this season of All Saints, or All Hallows, let us remember with thanksgiving both the great names and the unsung heroes, past and present, and recognise the God given potential within each one of us.

Rev Joyce Watson, Isle of Iona

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SHINTY NEWS

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Kyles Athletic sealed second place in the Marine Harvest Premiership, Skye Camanachd U17 and Fort William U17 will meet in the London Shield Final and Dunadd Ladies sealed the WCA Marine Harvest South Division 2 title following the shinty action on Saturday October 27.

Marine Harvest Premiership

Kyles Athletic v Glenurquhart – points shared

Kyles Athletic clinched second place in the Marine Harvest Premiership after they agreed to share the points with Glenurquhart from their match at Tighnabraich.

Kyles Athletic's goal difference was such that they only needed a point from the match to finish ahead of Kinlochshiel and Lovat and they take the runner-up spot for the fourth successive season.

This counted as Glenurquhart defender Ally MacKintosh's final match of a three-game suspension.

Kyles now begin the search for a new first team manager after boss James Perlich announced his decision to stand down.

James occupied the hot seat for two seasons and had a number of years as first team coach prior to that.

Glenurquhart, who didn't record a league victory all season, now look forward to life in the Marine Harvest National Division and they too will be under new management next term.

Iain MacLeod previously intimated he won't be in charge next season and the club has already advertised for a new boss.

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Kilmallie walk-over v Beaulie

The Kilmallie second team were given a walk-over when the Beaulie second team was unable to raise a side for their trip to Canal Parks.

Kilmallie were awarded the points and this completes their season.

The Beaulie colts were to travel to Spean Bridge this Saturday to finish their campaign against their Lochaber counterparts but they have conceded that game too, bringing the 2018 shinty league fixtures to an end.

WCA round up

The Women's Camanachd Association league fixtures are drawing to a close with a couple of matches taking place on Sunday October 28.

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Lochaber 1 Inverness 5

Inverness overcame the Lochaber second team 5-1 in their 1.30pm throw-up at Spean Bridge.

Kira MacDonald scored for Lochaber but five-goal Katie McMillan and a Melissa MacKay strike gave Inverness victory.



Dunadd ladies celebrate being crowned Marine Harvest South Division 2 champions.

Marine Harvest South Division 2 play-off

Ardnamurchan 2 Dunadd 5

Dunadd were crowned Marine Harvest South Division 2 champions following their 5-2 play-off win over the Ardnamurchan second team in their 1pm throw-up at Taynuilt Sports Field.

The sides finished the league campaign joint top of the division and with goal difference not counting, a play-off ensued.

A goal from Grace Drummond and doubles from Eilidh Cameron and Leone Airlie gave Dunadd a title clinching victory.

Hannah MacDonald and Aine O'Rua scored for Ardnamurchan.

WCA Challenge Match

Scotland U18 3

Scotland Development 2

Scotland U18 twice came from behind to overcome the Scotland development squad 3-2 at Braeview Park.

Niamh Donnelly put the development squad ahead after five minutes, however, there was an instant reply from the U18s as Mairi Duncan levelled quickly.

Natalie MacDonald put Scotland Development back in front on 15 minutes and it stayed that way until the break.

The young Scots fought hard to get a leveller but the development squad stayed in front until the closing stages of the game when Leona Falconer made it 2-2 with a goal right at the death.

Referee Steven MacLachlan took the match into extra-time, during which a second Leona Falconer goal put the U18s 3-2 ahead – the first time they had been in front in the match.

The final whistle signalled success for an U18 squad coached by Ardnamurchan's Lyndsay Bradley.

Scotland development captain

Rhona MacIntyre called her squad up for their runner-up medals, whilst Scotland U18 skipper Emma Gordon led her team-mates to receive their medals and the trophy.

Youth shinty

London Shield semi-finals Skye Camanachd U17 7 Kingussie U17 0

Skye Camanachd U17 reached the London Shield Final with a 7-0 win over Kingussie U17 at Blairbeg.

Skye head coach Kenny MacLeod was without injured defender James Morrison, whilst his Kingussie counter-part Russell Jones was minus Dylan Borthwick who was unavailable.

Skye took the lead on six minutes following a flowing move which carved open the Kingussie defence and ended with Ross Gordon ham-

mering the ball over the keeper from the left of the 'D' despite Kieran MacPherson's efforts to block.

Taylor Matheson added a second three minutes later when he went one-on-one with Kingussie keeper George Taylor-Ramsay and slipped the ball home.

A Cameron MacKay shot from distance on 14 minutes made it 3-0 and Ross Gordon got his second a couple of minutes later. There was a melee in which Gordon felt he'd been impeded but when the ball broke to his side, he lashed it home.

William MacKinnon added another following a break from midfield which saw him flick the ball home to make it 5-0 at the break.

Skye's Ruairidh MacLeod played well throughout and he added a sixth straight from the restart with a waist-high shot from around the

penalty spot. Ross MacKinnon rounded off the scoring after a surging run forward from midfield saw his waist-high shot flying past the keeper to make it 7-0.

Brian MacKay was the match referee.

Fort William U17 4 Glenurquhart U17 1

Fort William U17s came from a goal down to reach the London Shield Final, defeating Glenurquhart U17s 4-1 at Castle Leod.

Donnie MacLennan gave Glenurquhart the lead on 31 minutes.

Davie Duncan equalised seven minutes later, the goal coming from a corner. The ball came into the danger area and came off Lachie Shaw's stick, dropping to Duncan just in front of the penalty spot and he steered it past the keeper on the goal's right side.

It was 1-1 at half-time but Marine Harvest National U17 player of the year Lachie Shaw put Fort William ahead four minutes after the re-start.

A good Paul Patterson strike produced a good save but, with the ball bouncing off the keeper's feet, Shaw was quickly on hand to slot the rebound into the net.

Lewis Clark made it 3-1 on 56 minutes.

Clark found the net from the left side of the penalty area with a low driven shot into the opposite corner of the net.

Fort William gave themselves a three-goal cushion just a couple of minutes later when Greig Kelly scored from inside the 'D'.

Referee Archie Ritchie's final whistle signaled another final for Fort William who have already lifted the MacTavish Juvenile Cup this season.

2018 London Shield Final preview

The London Shield Final between Fort William U17 and Skye Camanachd U17 takes place at Blairbeg, Drumnadrochit, this



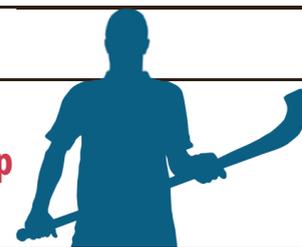
Skye's William MacKinnon, left, and Connor Gilpin with Bradley Harvie, Kingussie, during the London Shield semi-final which Skye won 7-0.

**Camanachd Cup
Macaulay Cup**

**MacTavish Cup
Celtic Society Cup**

**Sutherland Cup
Balliemore Cup**

**Strathdearn Cup
Bullough Cup**



Saturday, November 3. Both sides qualified for the semi-finals without dropping a point in their respective sections.

They have met once already this season, in the MacTavish Juvenile Cup semi-finals at Craighard at the end of May. Skye took the lead in that game through Ruaraidh MacLeod

but goals from Victor Smith and Lachie Shaw gave Fort William a 2-1 win, sending them through to the final where they defeated Kingussie 2-1 with Lewis Clark and Victor Smith netting.

Throw-up at Blairbeg is at 1.30pm and Steven MacLachlan is the match referee.



Cameron Leiper, Kingussie, and Ruaridh MacLeod, Skye, during their London Shield semi-final.

Ross Brown looks back on Scottish series victory

With a 2-1 series success over Dublin Ladies in the bag, Scotland Ladies co-manager Ross Brown took time to reflect on how the Scotland Ladies team has progressed over the last three years.

Having looked after the squad with Stuart Reid, Ross said: 'Stuart and I were both over the moon with the team. We knew it would be tough in the first half playing against the wind and with a camogie ball.

'We were fortunate only to be behind by a couple of points at the break, mainly due to resolute defending, particular from Laura McCafferty.

'Our use of a shinty ball and the wind in the second half worked really well and we got our rewards late in the second half with some nicely worked goals.

'We asked to the girls to increase their physicality in the second half

and they responded well to that. The Scotland squad has developed nicely over the past three years with most of the squad being involved every year. There have been some nice on-field relationships built up and that's promising going forward.

'The oldest player is 27 so time is still on their side to improve even further. I'm sure the WCA will be looking to make arrangements to secure opponents for next year. The Dublin series has been very competitive and they have been kind both as hosts and visitors.'

Ross is stepping down at the end of the series and he added: 'I have taken a step back now. The timing seemed right with the end of the Dublin matches and it was great to finish with a win.

'It's been a pleasure to work with the team and Stuart and I thank them all for the experience.'

Bute awards night as club goes national

Bute will mark a successful 2018 shinty season at their annual awards night at their clubhouse on Saturday November 10.

Bute finished the season Marine Harvest South Division 1 champions, edging out Lochside Rovers and the Kyles Athletic seconds in a title race which went down to the last game of the season.

The championship success also means Bute will play National Division shinty next year for the first time since 2014, after which they took a step down to regional shinty

with a plan to invest heavily in youth and grassroots shinty. This season has seen their efforts culminate in a title win. As well as the usual player of the year awards, first team players will be presented with their medals and the South Division 1 trophy.

There will also be a meal, a 'Deal or No Deal' game and a disco.

The night is open to all club players and their partners, sponsors and other invited guests.

Tickets are £15 and can be bought from Iain McDonald or John MacCallum.

Scotland manager reflects on exciting shinty/hurling win

'It was very exciting and very tense at the end,' said Scotland manager Garry Reid as he reflected on his side's thrilling 14-12 win over Ireland in the latest Marine Harvest shinty/hurling international at the Bught Park, Inverness.

The Scots went into the match with a game plan which involved getting the ball up to their forwards rather than them having to come deep but the elements on the day, and in particular a strong wind, meant both sides had to adjust their plans.

'The wind in the first half hampered us,' said Reid. 'Balls forward were falling short and guys were forced to come deep to get possession. I must say their full back line was very good and they started the game well. I had noticed that whereas in the past the Irish have started slowly and allowed the Scots to run up early points, the last few years have been different and they were really swarming our players from the throw-in.

'It was our preference to play against the wind from the start. We didn't expect the Irish to be quite so accurate though and there was little we could do about some of their early scores, mainly from deep positions. Our keeper Stuart MacDonald was aware of how difficult it could be in one particular goal during the second half as the sun goes down so we were keen to defend that goal in the first half, even if it meant playing against the wind.

'It was tough but we stuck in during the first half and quietened them down for a spell. The international game tests our boys to the limit. There's no game like it. We tried to replicate the pressure the players face in training as we have to adapt to tackling where their players are all over you, holding your stick and playing at a tremendous pace. Some commented afterwards that they had never been tested like that before.

'We had to change things because of how the game went in the first period. We took Greg Matheson, Glen MacKintosh and Evan Menzies off to save them for the second half when they would see more of the ball up top. Andrew MacCuish acquitted himself very well when he came on and he got a good point in the second half. Arran MacPhee also made an impact and rattled the Irish defence to the extent that the foul they committed on him late in



Scotland's Kevin Bartlett, left, and Shaun Nicolson deal with Damien Healy, Ireland, during the recent shinty/hurling international at the Bught Park, Inverness.

the half allowed Kevin Bartlett to get the two points in the first half that were to be so important to us in the end.'

The half-time interval is often where managers have to do their work and for Garry Reid, the message to his players was clear: 'At half-time, it was a case of telling the players not to panic, to stay calm and to stay focussed and, importantly, to keep our discipline and not move out of position by chasing balls all over the park. When the game restarted, we took advantage of the two-point opportunities as Kevin Bartlett normally does. We had to work hard for the fouls that gave us the frees. They were not given away easily by the Irish as has happened some years. Our players kept going and that was crucial, as was picking up single points such as the two from Greg Matheson.'

Reid emphasised the role the whole squad played: 'I said before the game we would need all 20 players to play their part and that's the way it turned out. I've already mentioned Andrew MacCuish and Arran MacPhee and Lorne Dickie is another example. He may have taken five minutes to settle in but when he did he really got into it and set up Greg Matheson for his first point. Lorne has such ability and the heart of a lion and we knew his passing would cause them problems.'

There were also fine performances from the usual stalwarts. 'Finlay MacRae showed, especially in the second half, what an exceptional player he is. Rory Kennedy also did

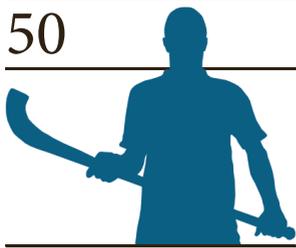
a real turn, coming back on after injury following Grant Irvine's head cut and he was excellent at half back. Grant received stitches on the sidelines and was desperate to come back on but there was no need as I always felt we had the squad for the job and I trusted every player.'

With the Scotland U21s still to play in Dublin next week, the shinty/hurling hybrid game is again in the spotlight.

Garry said: 'There's always a lot of discussion around the merits of the shinty/hurling international at this time of year. From my point of view, there are two factors which I hope are taken into account. Firstly, I hope there's recognisance of what a fantastic outlet this is for the 20 players who were selected and what it means to them. We should regard these games as a reward at the end of the season for our game's best players. For the first time this year, the players were presented with their Scotland shirts at the annual Marine Harvest awards on the Friday evening, which was terrific. They don't all have the opportunity to win medals each year, so the international is great recognition for what they have achieved over the season. We had 32 players desperate to be selected. I hear folk refer to a drop in standards, but no, not for me. These players' skill and fitness was not in question.

'Secondly, the international allows youngsters taking up shinty to set out with the ambition of playing for Scotland. Shinty has to compete

Continued on page 51.



SHINTY NEWS

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Craig Morrison Sixes in Stornoway

Stromeferry No Ferry United won the eighth 2018 Craig Morrison Stornoway Sixes.

Five teams took part in inclement weather in the annual memorial for Lewis Camanachd's Craig Morrison who died in 2009 when the club was in its infancy.

Stromeferry No Ferry United finished second in the league competition and went on to face league toppers Lewis B in the final. A goal from Rannal Finlayson, who was also the joint top scorer in the competition with Donald Lamont, took the trophy back across the Minch.

The trophy was presented to winning captain James 'Ach' MacRae by Craig Morrison's father Graham Morrison.

Later in the evening, Lewis Camanachd announced their Player of the Year awards at the Caladh Inn with Scott MacLeod collecting senior player of the year.

Donald Lamont was captain Peter Gomez's choice as captain's player of the year and Callum MacRitchie was youth player of the year.

John MacAskill awarded the Shaw Caman for manager's player of the year to Ronan Sinclair.

Ally Lamont will captain the side in 2019.

Shinty's Heroes in Newtonmore

A showing of the acclaimed Shinty's Heroes takes place at Newtonmore Village Hall on Friday November 2.

The show features photos and music to remember the men who fought in WW1 from shinty playing communities.

Narrated by shinty historian Hugh Dan MacLennan, the line-up features award winning musicians Gary Innes, Ingrid Henderson, Iain MacFarlane, Ewen Henderson and Duncan MacGillvray, who plays the pipes from The Battle of Festubert.

The show starts at 7.30pm and admission is £15 for adults and £10 for under 16s and over 65s. Tickets available at the door.

Skye Camanachd bonfire and fireworks

Skye Camanachd host their fifth annual bonfire and fireworks display at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree, on Monday November 5.

The fun starts at 6.30pm and there will be the usual refreshments and food in the Skye Camanachd Clubhouse. Admission is £5 for adults and £3 for under 16s. Everyone welcome.

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Scotland U21s look to go one better in 2018

Scotland U21 head coach Alan MacRae and his squad are looking to go one better than last year as they get set for their shinty/hurling meeting with Ireland U21 at the GAA National Games Development Centre, Abbotstown, Dublin, this Saturday, November 3.

A strong Irish squad came from 10-6 down at half-time to win 19-15 in Inverness 12 months ago and given the Scots have managed just one previous success on Irish soil - in 2014 - this will be a stern test.

The squad travel to Dublin on Friday November 2 looking forward to playing at the excellent GAA National Games Development Centre in Abbotstown where the playing surface has been created as an image of Croke Park. The Scotland U17 development squad played there during their last two Ireland tours so the surroundings will be familiar to John Gillies, Ross MacMillan, Iain Robinson, Roddy Young and Daniel Sloss.

With the preparations all but complete, Alan MacRae knows what he wants from his players. He said: 'The commitment from players is paramount for me. I have to have that and I'm afraid if any players don't commit then they are not involved. We've had good commitment this year and that's pleased me with players travelling to sessions on Sundays, after their Saturday game from Glasgow, Oban and Skye. It's the same for the staff. It's been a big effort from everyone involved.'

The squad has previous experience at this level with only six additions to last year's 19-player squad. The new caps are Oban Camanachd's Daniel Sloss, Oban Celtic's Ross MacMillan, Jonnie MacAskill from Glasgow Mid Argyll, Findlay MacDonald from Lochaber, Newtonmore's Iain Robinson and Kingussie's Roddy Young. They come in for Fort William's Arran MacPhee, who made the step-up to the senior side this year, Skye's Ally MacLeod, Savio Genini from Kingussie, Glengarry's Nick Dalgety and Barry MacDonald from Lochaber.

Alan continued: 'We had a young squad last year which has allowed us a degree of continuation but has also allowed us to add a few players who showed up well in training and our practice matches against the seniors. A few players will have been left disappointed and it's always difficult to pick the final squad. But I've told players that just because I've not picked them, it doesn't mean they are not the best players. It's just there are others who I think are more



The Scotland Under 21 squad.

suitable to the shinty/hurling game. You have to be able to complete man-to-man over the full game. The game itself is so intense - so full on. I can recall a new cap coming on as a substitute last year and telling them that the game will be really fast from the beginning. Speaking to them afterwards, they said they'd never been involved in anything like that in their lives.

'We've taken six new players in, including forwards Roddy Young, Iain Robinson and Findlay MacDonald who give us plenty of fire-power.

'It's also hard to believe Oban Camanachd's Daniel Sloss is only 16 years old. What a talent he is and whilst, at first, I was wary of taking someone so young, he's a quality defender and that can't be ignored. In many ways he's an old head on young shoulders.

'Oban Celtic's Ross MacMillan has also had a cracking season. He's really knuckled down and been so committed to training. He's probably Oban Celtic's main man and sometimes I'm not sure he realises just what a good player he is. It's also a bonus that he's one of a number of players in the squad who is versatile.

'Jonnie MacAskill has done so well do. He joined GMA from Kinlochshiel at the start of the season and has really impressed.

'There's a bit of experience in the squad too. Caberfeidh's Blair Morrison captains the squad and this is his fifth year with the U21s. Skye's Will Cowie, winning his third cap, has looked sharp and he has been consistent this season.

'I was also really pleased to see Arran MacPhee make the step up to the seniors from last year's squad.'

The unknown at this stage is the Irish squad but previous experience supports the theory that they will

be nothing but tough opponents. Alan MacRae agreed: 'Hurling is so big over there and the Irish have included fine players in recent years. Waterford's Austin Gleeson and Clare's Tony Kelly have previously been involved in this fixture, whilst Sean Finn, who was last year's Ireland U21 captain, was right corner-back last August when Limerick won their first All-Ireland title in 45 years and he was nominated for an All-Star. Waterford pair Patrick Curran and Shane Bennett both also played last year and both have broken into the senior Waterford squad.

'It's also at coaching level. Willie Maher, who was previously involved with the Irish U21s and who was co-manager of the seniors this year and last, was very much in the mix for the Tipperary manager's job before it went to Liam Sheedy.'

Alan MacRae is clear where the international sits in the grand scheme of things. 'The international is something for the players to aspire to. You really see how big it is and how important it is when you're involved with it. It's a massive deal to everyone involved and you see how proud the Scots and Irish are to represent their countries.'

'It will be hard but we're all looking forward to it,' said Alan. 'The experience from last year will help, as will the experience the players have had playing for Scotland U17.'

'I said to the players a month ago that we should give it a final push and really go for it. They have been training hard and they are keen to go one better than last year.'

Alan MacRae will be assisted by Inverness manager Callum McLeod. Davie McVey is the fitness trainer, whilst Lorna Forsyth is the physio.

Scotland U21 from: Scott

MacLachlan, Inveraray; Lachlan Smith, Glenurquhart; Rory MacKeachan, Kingussie; Daniel Sloss, Oban Camanachd; Robert Mabon, Kingussie; Craig Ritchie, Newtonmore; Blair Morrison, Caberfeidh, captain; Iain Richardson, Newtonmore; Ross MacMillan, Oban Celtic; John Gillies, Skye Camanachd; Calum Grant, Kingussie; Danny Kelly, Lovat; Jonnie MacAskill, Glasgow Mid Argyll; Calum Shepherd, Fort William; Innes Blackhall, Kilmallie; Will Cowie, Skye Camanachd; Alexander MacMillan, Fort William; Findlay MacDonald, Lochaber; Iain Robinson, Newtonmore, and Roddy Young, Kingussie.

Throw-in is at 2pm and Camanachd Association Grade One referee Archie Ritchie is the man in the middle.

2018 Camanachd Association AGM

The 2018 Camanachd Association annual general meeting will take place in the Muthu West End Hotel, Fort William, on Friday November 30, from 7.30pm.

The agenda will be sent to all voting members by Friday November 16.



Kilmallie club celebrates at annual awards night

The Kilmallie player of the year awards were announced at the club's annual dinner dance and awards night at the Moorings Hotel on Saturday October 27.

This year the club won the Marine Harvest National Division, marking a return to shinty's top flight, and the Balliemore Cup.

Mark MacPherson was named Marine Harvest National Division manager of the year with club captain Liam MacDonald collecting the player National Division accolade.

Manager Mark MacPherson has recently stepped down and his

service to the club over the last four seasons was marked as he was given a black presentation caman and a team photograph, whilst his wife Lynsey received well-deserved flowers.

The Kilmallie player of the year winners were: First Team Player of the Year – Robbie McFadyen; Second Team Player of the Year – Connor McAlister; U17 Player of the Year – Cam Clark; U17 Most Improved Player-of-the Year – Connor McAlister; U14 Player of the Year – Aidan Love and U14 Most Improved Player of the Year – Kyle Nolan.

WCA annual general meeting

The annual general meeting of the Women's Camanachd Association takes place at the Cairngorm Hotel, Aviemore, on Sunday November 25. The AGM runs from 2.30pm until

around 4pm and all clubs should be represented.

The AGM will be preceded by the development league finals at the Aviemore Astro from 11am.

Exciting shinty/hurling win

Continued from page 49 with many other activities – sporting or otherwise – so it is important it is an attractive option for youngsters. The pathway is there at international level through development at U17 level to the U21s and then on to the seniors and we're not far from having it right.

It's not all one-way either, as Garry points out: "The Irish squad are very keen on the game too."

"Their players were on their knees in disappointment at the final whistle."

"They really wanted to win. The international also allows their players to represent their country and, as their manager Conor Phelan pointed out ahead of the game, it

provides the opportunity for their second and third tier players to mix and play with the elite players and that's a chance they wouldn't otherwise have.

"There will be discussions, and that's healthy, but I hope the Camanachd Association and the GAA recognise all of these points."

"It's also important that the two associations continue dialogue regarding the rules of the game so they suit both parties."

"Some of the rules were relaxed this year such as moving feet at frees and that, coupled with the Irish referee who did very well, helped make the match a great spectacle."

"The international was a fitting end of a good shinty season."

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £750

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

Easy to enter

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

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

Competition rules

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

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

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

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

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

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Winners agree to have their photograph taken for publicity purposes.

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



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

Name

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Please tape your £1 coin here (only if posting)

Results

Saturday October 27

Marine Harvest Premiership

Kyles P v P Glenurquhart
Points shared

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Kilmallie P v P Beaulie
Beaulie unable to field a team.
Points to Kilmallie.

Youth results

Saturday October 27

Marine Harvest National Under 17 League - London Shield semi-finals

Fort William 4 v Glenurquhart 1

Skye 7 v Kingussie 0
Beaulie unable to field a team.
Points to Kilmallie.

Fixtures

Saturday November 3

Marine Harvest Under 21 Shinty Hurling International

Ireland v Scotland
Abbotstown, Dublin.
Throw in 2pm

Marine Harvest North Division Two

Lochaber P v P Beaulie.
Beaulie unable to field a team.
Points to Lochaber.

Youth fixtures

Saturday November 3

Marine Harvest National Under 17 League - London Shield Final

Fort William v Skye
Drumnadrochit
Throw up 1.30pm.

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

M Shaw
Lochgilp
D McAulay
Strachur

MOTO3

Connel rider finishes 14th – one second behind race winner

John McPhee finished 14th in the Australian Grand Prix last weekend, however, less than a second separated the first 14 riders.

McPhee, who led the race with five laps to go, said he was disappointed with the result, but would focus on winning in Malaysia this weekend.

The Moto 3 rider said: 'I'm disappointed with today's result. After leading the race with five laps to go, the final position didn't credit the hard work both I and the team put in. But that's racing.

'I finished 0.9 off the win which is very close but down in 14th position. My focus is now on Malaysia and I look forward to challenging again for the win.'

McPhee's sponsor Cipmoto said: 'John did a good race fighting with the first group, but in the last laps he lost some positions finishing 14th and 0.9 seconds from first place. We're ready to fly directly to Malaysia for the last overseas race, before coming back to Europe for the last race of the 2018 season.'

The Connel man finished 0.989 seconds behind race winner Albert Arenas.

QUAD BIKING

**Lorne finishes quad bike season as one of Britain's best**

An 18-year-old quad bike racer from Connel has finished the season as one of the top riders in Britain.

Lorne Sinclair, above, finished fourth in the ATV MOTO X British Championship Under 21 category and second in the Scottish and Northern England championship class.

Lorne works at PMG Services and his boss, Peter MacGregor, who also competes in quad racing, finished second overall in the Scotland and Northern England adult qualifier class.

Peter said: 'Young Lorne Sinclair is quickly becoming one of the best riders in Scotland, England and on the British scene.

'He suffered a bad knee injury this year at a round of the British Championship and that knocked his pace back, however, he has serious talent and will be the one to watch next season.

'Lorne has been on the scene now for six years and was the British and Scottish number one in the 250cc class.

'Riding these bikes at these speeds takes a lot of dedication to training, constant maintenance and upgrading the bikes.'

Speaking about his career in the sport, Peter added: 'I started in 1997 and did it on and off for about three years. I then returned in 2008 and did the Scottish championship in the adult qualifying class finishing fifth overall.

'That qualified me to enter the Scottish championship class, however, I took a year off work and travelled the world and never followed it up until last year when I bought a standard bike.

'I started rebuilding it to race standard. I completed the bike earlier this year then started racing.

'After realising the speed and talent these young boys have, I had to modify and upgrade the bike after each event to stand a chance.

'The pace is very fast these days and these boys should have a pilot's licence as well as a race licence as the air time these bikes are doing is insane.'



Owen McDonald offloads. Photographs: Stephen Lawson.



Lorne Sinclair evades a tackle.

Oban back on track

Oban Lorne	71
Clydebank	7
Tennent's West Division 2	

Oban Lorne Rugby Football Club welcomed mid table Clydebank to Glencruitten on Saturday for the first time in more than four years on a glorious autumnal day.

Oban were looking to get back on track after last weekend's disappointing defeat away to promotion rivals Uddingston and knew that Clydebank were going to be a difficult test as they had been on a decent run of results.

Oban only made a couple of changes from the previous week's defeat with Finlay Carmichael returning to the starting line-up at stand off and Eric Roberts returning to the boiler room in the second row.

The home side started brightly and were on the scoreboard within the first two minutes. The kick off was received well from the start and passed to Calum MacLachlan, who took off down the centre of the pitch bouncing people out of the way left, right and centre. No-one could tackle the big prop and when he was eventually halted a couple of yards out from the line, the ball was popped up for vice captain Stephen Povey to cross for

Oban's first try of the game. This was duly converted by Finlay Carmichael to give Oban a 7-0 lead.

Oban were on the front foot straight from the kick off with the ball being shipped wide for Craig Wright to sprint down the wing for the first of his tries of the afternoon.

The men in green were rampant at this stage of the game and two further tries were scored in quick succession with Oban crossing for the bonus point score after only 15 minutes of the game played.

Oban were breaking the line with ease and once in behind the Clydebank defence were unstoppable. Four further tries were scored in quick succession.

The main talking point of the match came about five minutes before halftime when Calum MacLachlan was taken out beside the ruck and in attempting to remove himself from the illegal tackle was alleged to have stamped on the opposition player. This led to an almighty brawl with a number of punches being thrown.

When things had calmed down the referee sent off MacLachlan and the Clydebank number six for the punches before the half time whistle to give a half time score of Oban 45 - Clydebank 0.

This was the performance the team had been searching for the last few weeks with fast mini rucks and accurate passing into space making it hard for the defence to get organised.

Half time changes saw the second row combo of Kyle Graham and Eric Roberts replaced by Matt Walker and Lorne Sinclair and the introduction of Callum Murray onto the wing in place of Roddy Morrison.

Oban struggled to match the intensity of the first 40 minutes and allowed Clydebank into the game with a soft score from a short range lineout.

This galvanised the Oban team which were soon back to their try scoring feats with a further four tries in the second half. Some outstanding tries were scored with Oban mixing play between forwards and backs to great effect.

Craig Wright was to finish with four tries for the day bringing his total for the season so far to 19 tries (95 points) in eight games, a fantastic achievement and not even half way through the season.

There was an early contender for try of the season when, after some great interplay between the forwards, young Lorne Sinclair broke free from inside the Oban 22 and

broke a couple of tackles to take play to halfway and then offloaded the ball to Stanley Lister who sprinted in to score a great try. The prop showed he has lost none of his back row pace after being moved into the front row this season.

There were some outstanding performances from Oban players on the day including Calum MacLachlan, before his red card; Stanley Lister, the second row pairing of Roberts and Graham showing a lot of promise, massive shift from the back row with Owen McDonald pulling the strings and Stephen Povey leading from the front with some fantastic broken field running. The halfback partnership of Divers and Carmichael and the threat out wide from Craig Wright also impressed.

Man of the match though was Lorne MacLachlan, who chased and harried and turned over a lot of the Clydebank ball. The challenge for places in the back row is such that no-one is guaranteed a start and this appears to be bringing the best out of the players.

In the end, a convincing 71-7 victory for Oban Lorne which seemed to be the theme for the weekend with the U18s and U16s both involved in high scoring games away to Strathaven.

Great things are on the ho-

Good run for U16s and U18s continues at Strathaven

Oban Lorne's U16 and U18 teams recorded big wins in their respective leagues over the weekend, building on what has so far been a successful season for youth rugby at the club.

On Saturday, the U18s made the trip to Strathaven with a large squad also involving players from Lochaber RFC.

After a slow start, conceding 20 points in the first 15 minutes, the boys upped their game to run out eventual 59-36

winners in an entertaining match that included five sin bins between the two sides.

The result lifts the U18s into third place in the league but they still have two games in hand over Stewartry and Marr RFC, who are sitting above them.

It was a double header with Strathaven at the weekend as the U16s took to the field on Sunday.

Oban were bolstered with a couple

of players from Isle of Mull RFC and ran out impressive 82-69 winners in an extremely high scoring fixture. The U16s also occupy third place in their West League and remain unbeaten so far this season.

This Saturday, the U16s and U18s welcome Stewartry RFC to Oban. Both fixtures kick off at 2pm with the U16s playing at Glencruitten and the U18s playing at North Connel.

rizon, with the conveyor belt starting to turn.

A number of players have already broken through into the senior side this year and there are at least another half dozen or so really good players waiting in the wings to come through.

Oban Lorne had extra reason to celebrate as the club was awarded the Scottish Rugby Club of the Month award for August/September, a fantastic achievement for everyone at the club.

This Saturday, Oban Lorne are at home again when they welcome fourth placed Bishopston RFC to Glencruitten. The teams

have not met in more than a decade with Bishopston only being recently promoted into the division. The 'Bish' lost out 48-0 to Uddingston at home last weekend meaning this should be a winnable game for Oban Lorne.

Kick-off this Saturday at Glencruitten is 2pm, along with the U18s and U16s who are also at home against Stewartry RFC.

The Wales v Scotland autumn international will be shown live in the clubhouse on Saturday.

All local rugby supporters are welcome to come along and enjoy Saturday's busy day of rugby at Glencruitten.

Dalriada festival results

Kintyre RFC hosted the latest Argyll and Bute Dalriada Festival on Saturday at the Meadows Playing fields in Campbeltown.

Teams from Mid Argyll, Oban Lorne and Etive Vikings joined hosts Kintyre on a stunning autumn day.

Games were played at P4/5 and P6/7 level at Minis while Mid Argyll and Kintyre also played fixtures at U14 boys and U15 girls age levels.

Scores from Saturday's mini rugby fixtures were:

P4/5 - Oban Lorne 1 Etive Vikings 6; Kintyre 3 Mid Argyll 8; Etive Vikings 6 Kintyre 1; Mid Argyll 4 Oban Lorne 6; Etive Vikings 6 Mid Argyll 4; Oban Lorne 5 Kintyre 5.

P6/7 - Kintyre 5 Mid Argyll 3; Oban Lorne 1 Etive Vikings 2; Mid Argyll 3 Oban Lorne 3; Etive Vikings 8 Etive Vikings 3; Oban Lorne 8 Kintyre 4; Etive Vikings 6 Mid Argyll 1.

This Sunday Oban Lorne RFC host games at Glencruitten with matches for mini rugby age groups along with U14 boys. Kick off is noon.

With four rounds of festivals played so far this season, the overall tables have Etive Vikings RFC leaders in both age groups.



Young rugby players enjoyed the Dalriada Festival games hosted by Kintyre RFC at the weekend.

Oban men's hockey team travelled to Glasgow on Saturday to take on the well-drilled Uddingston who currently sit top of the table.

The first half started well, despite the challenges of the fast pitch, fast opposition and playing into the bright east Glasgow sunshine. However, the Oban defence was finally broken down towards the end of the first half and Uddingston took a 1-0 lead.

Oban made a slow start to the second half with continuing strong pressure from the Uddingston forwards. As the second half progressed, the Oban mid field rallied and started to put together some good passes. Oban finally broke through the Uddingston defence in the last quarter with Stuart Head scuttling a sweep shot across the opposition goal line.

Oban sealed the game with a second from Alistair Burton who slid in a goal on his

HOCKEY

reverse stick with just 10 minutes of the game remaining. A great win for the team.

Stand out players on the day were Andrew Hodge, Lorne Binnie and Dannie Onn. Man of the match was goal keeper David Love who showed great leadership.

Thanks go to Donald Hinstead who stepped in as an umpire for the day.

Next weekend's game will be another tough away fixture in Glasgow as the team take on Clydesdale.

On Sunday, a mixed team from Oban travelled to Taynuilt to take on Lochaber in the West Coast Hockey League.

Despite the sunshine and valiant Oban effort in the hard fought game, Lochaber won 3-2. Man of the match was Theo Andrews, with a special mention to Lorne Binnie.

Successful season for Oban equestrian pair

Talented rider Rebecca Scott has achieved Oban High School's first equestrian success at a top championship in Bedfordshire.

The 17-year-old and her 11-year-old gelding Dinozzo culminated an outstanding season by taking part in the National Schools Equestrian Association Championships at Keysoe in Bedfordshire representing Oban High School for the first time in its history.

The pair jumped double clear in the warm up and show jumping classes, finishing individual fourth in the arena eventing, fourth in the BE eventing points league and fourth in the BE points league mixed height championships.



Rebecca Scott and Dinozzo.

Rebecca, from Oban, and Dinozzo were also part of the Scottish dressage team for the Nations Cup with their team finishing second.

In British eventing, the duo qualified for the Scottish championships at Blair Castle Horse Trials in August and the regional championships

in September. They also represented North Argyll Pony Club at the UK PC Championships in Cheshire in August finishing third in their novice eventing section and then in September they represented Oban and District Riding Club at the Scottish Saddle Up Championships where they won the individual metre horse trials class.

On the theory side, with her eye on her future world of work, Rebecca attained Pony Club B Test and BHS Stage 2 Exam.

'All in all a good beginning to a new partnership in Rebecca and Dinozzo's first year together,' said Rebecca's proud mum Susan Scott.

Cyclists show their grit in endurance races

A Taynuilt cyclist battled against the best, as well as the weather, in a 24-hour race in Fort William.

Nicholas Charlton, who owns The Rusty Cycle Shed, finished 13th in the 152-mile bike endurance race.

Nick was in the elite category with the world's best from more than 10 countries. The event was organised by World Endurance Mountain Bike Organisation.

The Rusty Cycle Shed owner traversed the eight-mile lap 19 times. Speaking about the race, Nick said: 'I enjoyed every minute of it. Sometimes

with these things there is a point where you ask why am I doing it and you think about stopping, but in this one I never got that. Thanks to the boys from North Argyll Cycle Club who came to help.'

Nick gave a special thanks to Gavin Blainey and Michael Bossard who helped him throughout the race.

Gavin said: 'At one point Nick was almost hypothermic and needed a full kit change and lots of hot tea, continuing with his quest after 20 minutes. Nick paced himself wonderfully and we watched him climb the leader board as



Tim Brand.

other competitors could cycle no further.'

Another North Argyll Cycle Club member who had a successful weekend was Tim Brand, who works at



Nicholas Charlton.

the Scottish Association for Marine Science.

Tim finished fifth in his age category in the European Triathlon Championships in Ibiza.

Lochnell FC's delight at rain jacket donation

Lochnell Football Club's 2009 and 2010 teams are hoping that the generosity of a local business will protect them against the elements this winter. Local Chartered Accountants and Business Advisors R A Clements donated a set of rain jackets to the club and at a recent training session one of the firm's partners, Andy Newiss, presented the jackets to the players and their coach Colin Campbell. Lochnell FC meets every Wednesday at Lora View pitch, North Connel, and is open to children of primary school age. Membership enquiries can be made through the club's Facebook page.



OT

GOLF



Robert MacIntyre. Photograph: Bounce Sports.

MacIntyre in line for European Tour card

Continued from page 56
stranger to play-offs, having finished second to Kim Koivu at the Vierumäki Finnish Challenge in August, when the Finn lifted his second title of the season. Despite not triumphing in either play-off, MacIntyre, who only turned professional at the end 2017, could complete his dramatic rise to the European Tour with a strong finish in Ras Al Khaimah this weekend.

The second place in China saw him leap from 34th to 13th place on the Road to Ras Al Khaimah, which

builds on his recent run of results during his rookie Challenge Tour season

The 2017 Walker Cup player finished tied 47th at the Hainan Open a week earlier and began October with a share of fourth at the Monaghan Irish Challenge.

At the start of the month he occupied 42nd place in the rankings, but has rocketed into the top 15, and is now looking to hold on to that coveted spot with the prospect of graduating to the European Tour at the conclusion of the Ras Al Khaimah Challenge Tour Grand Final.

OBAN SAINTS YOUTH FOOTBALL

Results and fixtures

Last Sunday's results: Under 13s 5, Whitecraigs 1. Scoring for Saints were Aidan MacDonald (2), Duncan MacEwan (2) and Gabriel Tidser; OLM 0, Under 14s 5. Scorers for Saints were Kyle Cooper (4) and Ross MacKay. Drumchapel Amateurs 3, Under 15s 1; Dunoon v Under 16s, postponed. This Sunday's fixtures - Under 13s v Central; Under 14s v Thistle Weir; Under 15s no game; Under 16s v Greenock.

SCOTTISH AMATEUR FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Results and fixtures

Last Saturday's results: Premier Division - Oban Saints 4, Rutherglen 1; Goldenhill 6, Dunoon 0; Premier Division One - Campbeltown Pupils 5 v Neilston 7; Lochgilphead Red Star 1, Port Glasgow 4; Premier Division Two - Tarbert v Glynhill Moorcroft postponed.

This Saturday's fixtures: Scottish Amateur Cup, third round - Lowson United (Forfar) v Oban Saints; Premier Division - Rutherglen v Dunoon; Premier Division One - Easthall Star v Campbeltown Pupils; Kings Park Rangers v Lochgilphead Red Star; Premier Division Two - Tarbert v Busby.

Saints fail to impress all three points

Oban Saints	4
Rutherglen	1
SAFL Premier Division	

Oban Saints entertained Rutherglen on a bright, but chilly day at Glencruitten last Saturday and although eventually running out comfortable 4-1 winners in the end this was not a convincing performance from the D & K Lafferty-sponsored Oban outfit.

Co-managers Willie Gemmell and Donald Campbell named the same squad from the previous week's win over Uddingston with the addition of James Ford. They decided to freshen up the starting 11 with Dougal Graham starting at left back and Scott Maitland moving into midfield to partner Kerr Newbigging, who took over the holding role from Willie Gemmell. Donald Campbell and James Ford replaced Fraser MacFarlane and David Beaton in attack. A strong bench consisted of Willie Gemmell, Jamie Graham, Daniel Coarkin, Fraser MacFarlane and David Beaton.

The home side started brightly and it was fully 20 minutes before Rutherglen managed to get a touch of the ball.

Saints were knocking the ball about reasonably well but there was a lack of intensity



Saints' two-goal hero Lewis Cameron drives forward.

about their play with passes going astray and the wrong options being taken.

Saints have been passing the ball out from the back this season which has proved successful but on Saturday they seemed to be forcing the play failing to pass the ball into the midfield or strikers feet, which meant they were giving the ball away far too easily.

Saints took the lead in the 16th minute when after good play on the left Craig MacEwan crossed for an unmarked Donnie Campbell to slot the ball past 'Ruggie' keeper Eddie McArdle.

The visitors came back into the game and James McDougall came close with a good header that sailed inches over the bar.

At the other end a Lewis

FOOTBALL

Cameron corner was met by Kerr Newbigging and his effort also sailed over the bar.

Dene Cassells had a great opportunity to put the home side further ahead but mistimed his header without being unmarked at the back post.

Then it was Donald Campbell's turn to miss another 'sitter' in the 24th minute when he was put clean through by a defence-splitting pass from Craig MacEwan but Donald dragged his shot past the keeper's right hand post when clean through on goals.

Saints extended their lead in the 32nd minute when James Ford was upended in the box leaving referee Jimmy Litster, who had a good game, no option but to point to the penalty spot. Lewis Cameron took the kick and scored to give the home side a 2-0 lead.

This goal seemed to jolt Rutherglen into action and Kevin McBride came close with a good effort in the 35th minute.

The visitors were taking the game to Saints as the half time interval approached and they pulled a goal back when skipper James McDougall cut in from the left and fired a shot on goal which took a wicked deflection off Steven MacLeod and ended up in the back of the net.



Craig MacEwan and Rutherglen centre half Kevin McBride battle for the ball.

... but still pick up



Donald Campbell slots home Saints' first goal against Rutherglen during last Saturday's SAFL Premier Division match at Glencruitten. Photos: Stephen Lawson

This was no less than the visitors deserved as Saints had huffed and puffed their way through the first 45 minutes with a lack of zip about their play.

Although not up to the high standards the team have set this season, the second half was much better from Saints and they had Rutherglen pinned back for long periods in the second half with the visitors leaving Rafael Nguema to plough a lone furrow up front.

Kerr Newbigging, who had a good game in midfield, threaded a clever ball through for James Ford in the 47th minute but the Saints' front man was crowded out by the 'Ruggie' defence. Then, two minutes later, Ruaridh Horne made a great run down the right flank before cutting the ball back from the byeline for Craig MacEwan but the ball was slightly behind the Saints front man and the chance was missed.

Fraser MacFarlane, who had come on for Dougal Graham at half time, was unlucky to see a fine right foot effort beat the goalkeeper but come back off the post in the 53rd minute.

The visitors were dropping further and further back but to their credit were defending well.

Craig MacEwan and Donald Campbell combined in the

55th minute but Donald blazed a reasonable chance over the bar.

A neat one-two from the same players resulted in a chance for Craig MacEwan but his effort slid past the post.

Although well on top the home side needed a third goal to kill the game off and this came in the 74th minute when Dene Cassells got on the end of a Lewis Cameron corner to bullet a header past Eddie McArdle much to the enjoyment of the Saints management team who have been working on corner kicks at training.

James Ford then set up Lewis Cameron with a clever through ball but Eddie McArdle made a good save.

With 10 minutes remaining Saints put the icing on the cake when they were awarded their second penalty of the match when Lewis Cameron was unceremoniously up-ended in the box. Lewis got up, dusted himself down and drilled the ball home to make the score 4-1.

Saints dominated the second half with the visitors seldom seen as an attacking force.

The home side took off Lewis Cameron, James Ford and Ruaridh Horne replacing them with Daniel Croarkin, David Beaton and Jamie Graham.

David Beaton had a shot



James Ford and Donald Campbell take on the 'Ruggie' defence.

in the 84th minute then Donald Campbell and Craig MacEwan played a neat one-two but Craig saw his shot well saved by the keeper.

There was no further scoring with Saints running out 4-1 winners.

Although delighted with the result Saints co-manager Willie Gemmell was disappointed with the performance. He said: 'We've set ourselves high standards this season but we fell below that today which is not good enough. The players know themselves that was a below-par performance but on the plus side picking up the

three points and scoring four goals, while not at our best, is a bonus.'

Good news for the club on the injury front. Both Matty Kelly and Shaun MacIver returned to training last week and Myles McAuley is expected back this week. The only member of the squad still absent is Paul Carmichael.

Saints return to Scottish Cup duty on Saturday when they face the long trip to Forfar to take on Midlands Premier League side Lowson United in the third round. Kick-off is 2pm with referee Derek Folganan from Aberdeen in charge.



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WEATHER

Thursday
Light rain showers and a gentle breeze from the west
Temperatures
4°C to 9°C.

Friday
Light rain and a moderate breeze from the south
Temperatures
9°C to 10°C.

Weekend Outlook
Saturday
Light rain showers and a fresh breeze
Sunday
Light rain showers and a moderate breeze
Temperatures
7°C to 13°C.



TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday November 1, 2018** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

	05.22	1.5	11.30	3.2
Thur	18.33	1.7	***	**
Fri	01.24	3.0	06.41	1.5
	13.46	3.3	20.07	1.6
Sat	02.37	3.2	07.58	1.4
	14.49	3.5	21.14	1.3
Sun	03.29	3.4	09.03	1.2
	15.35	3.8	22.02	1.1
Mon	04.09	3.6	09.56	0.9
	16.13	4.0	22.43	1.0
Tues	04.42	3.8	10.42	0.8
	16.48	4.1	23.20	0.9
Wed	05.14	4.0	11.25	0.7
	17.22	4.2	23.55	0.8

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

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

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

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

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



INSIDE THIS WEEK:
Successful season for
Oban equestrian pair

**NORTH WEST
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AND TIDES - SEE PAGE 55

MacIntyre in line for European Tour card



October has been quite the month for Oban golfer Robert MacIntyre. With only the Ras Al Khaimah Challenge Tour Grand Final left to play, the Scot now sits inside the top 15 in the rankings for the first time following an eye-catching couple of weeks at the tail end of his debut season on the European Challenge Tour.

MacIntyre claimed the run-

ner-up spot at the Foshan Open in China, narrowly losing out to Victor Perez in a play-off. The 22-year-old started the weekend seven shots off the lead, but carded two bogey-free rounds of 64 and 65 to race up the leaderboard and put himself in contention.

A stunning holed-eagle putt from 80 feet on the 72nd hole initially gave MacIntyre a one

GOLF

stroke lead before Perez knocked down an equally impressive 40 foot birdie putt on the 18th to force a play-off. MacIntyre could not wrestle victory away from the Frenchman, who birdied the first extra hole to win.

The Glencruitten golfer is no

Continued on page 54



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Cheers as pupils take seats in new Strontian primary

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Pupils at Ardnamurchan High School formed a special guard of honour this week, clapping the youngsters heading for their first day at the nearby new Strontian Primary School, built and owned by the community.

Tuesday morning saw the primary's head teacher, Pamela Hill, make a special occasion out of locking up the old school to give the youngsters the chance to say goodbye and then, with a piper leading the way, the 28 children and staff made their way to the new school.

Costing more than £900,000, funding for the new school was raised through a community shares issue and grants.

The community opted for constructing its own school after parents rejected Highland Council's solution to sorting out their ageing 1970s-era primary.

The local authority had proposed making improve-



ments and adding temporary classrooms to the old school, before parents grasped the initiative to finance their own new school project.

Head teacher for the past three years, Ms Hill is now returning to her native Glasgow for a spell before hoping to work as a volunteer in India,

but she stayed on specially for this week to see the pupils settled into the new school.

'I think everyone had smiles on their faces this morning - pupils, staff and parents,' she told the *Lochaber Times* following Tuesday's official ribbon cutting by solitary P1 pupil, five-year-old Fionn

Togher. 'There is a real buzz in the new school, with everyone very excited, as you'd expect.'

'I think what the parents and the local community have achieved here is phenomenal, something really very special, and I am so pleased I am able to be here for this week.'

The new primary, which was

built on land owned by the Highland Small Communities Housing Trust, has been leased to Highland Council.

The Strontian Community School Building Ltd project, however, looks beyond the four timber-clad buildings used as a school.

The four school buildings

Pupils and staff jump for joy on Tuesday as they celebrated the first day of classes at the new Strontian Primary School.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

were designed by Fort William-based architects, Kearney Donald Partnership, and built by S+K MacDonald of Acharacle, and in future, if ever their use as a school is no longer required, they have been designed in such a way as to allow them to be converted into affordable homes.

Acting chair of the Strontian Community School Building Ltd board Jamie McIntyre said it was fantastic to finally see youngsters taking up their seats in their two new classrooms.

'We didn't have any great speeches as such and just let the kids get straight into their school day.'

'But we had a lot of members of the community, including parents and all the members of our board, present to welcome them,' he said.

'It was really lovely to see the high school pupils out to cheer them into what we know will be a very happy school.'

For more photographs, please turn to page five.

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LT

Timetable changes hit local bus users

South Lochaber residents left at disadvantage

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Recent changes to the Fort William to Oban bus timetable could have a detrimental effect on South Lochaber residents, according to bus users.

Since the new timetable came into effect at the beginning of October, there are now just two bus services a day to Oban from Fort William, a morning service at 11.30am and a 5.40pm evening service.

Members of Lochaber Transport Forum discussed the timetable change at a meeting last Friday (October 26) with some bus users complaining that the new changes would have an adverse affect on employment opportuni-

ties for residents in the Nether Lochaber, Kinlochleven and Glencoe area.

'Two services a day to Oban - there needs to be more for the two biggest towns on the west coast,' said bus user Donald Stewart.

'Residents reliant on public transport... can't work in Oban'

'South Lochaber residents reliant on public transport can work locally or in Fort William but can't work in Oban and that is just not good enough, hence the requests for a better service.'

Transport Forum chairman Brian Murphy agreed with Mr Stewart that the two biggest towns on the west coast

should be better connected. 'I can't see how it wouldn't be profitable,' he said.

The Fort William to Oban route - operated by West Coast Motors and Citylink - used to run three times a day and is the only direct transport link between the two towns.

Representatives from either Citylink or West Coast Motors were not in attendance at the forum meeting.

Jo Cowan, Highland Senior Citizens co-ordinator for Lochaber, said the Fort William to Oban service should be improved due its importance to Kinlochleven and Glencoe residents not only for jobs but also as a link to the Oban ferry terminal and the town's Lorn and Islands Hospital.

Drivers clocked at over 100mph in Lochaber

Road policing officers have issued a warning about speeding after two vehicles were detected travelling in excess of 100mph in Lochaber at the weekend.

One motorist was stopped after allegedly driving at 100mph in the 60mph limit on the A82 near Letterfinlay on Saturday evening. As a result a 32-year-old man will be reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

Elsewhere a car was detected travelling at 115mph in a 60mph limit on the A830 near Kinlocheil on Friday evening. A 56-year-old man will be reported to the Fiscal

in connection with this incident.

Sergeant Ewan Calder of the Road Policing Unit in Fort William said: 'Motorists who think they can disregard the speed limits to this extent show a blatant disregard for their own safety, not to mention the safety of every other innocent person on the road.'

'The outcome of any collision at these speeds would have been catastrophic - the speed limits exist for a reason. Please slow down, respect the safety of other road users and if you're tempted to speed think about what the consequences could be.'

Town team thanks volunteers

The fantastic weather on Friday ensured Fort William was looking at its best when the SURF Awards judges visited the town - and it paid off, with judges impressed by everything that has been achieved in the last few years.

Final judging will now take place on December 6 as the

town vies for 'Scotland's Most Improved Place' award.

The team thanked volunteers who helped with bag packing in Morrisons and those who donated. More than £600 was raised.

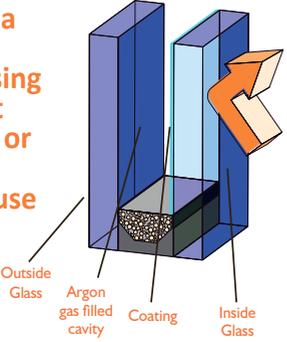
The next volunteer meeting is on Monday November 12 in the West End Hotel.

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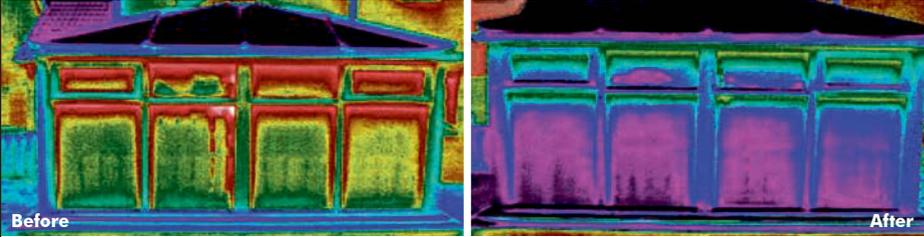
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Jacobite steam train season finale



Friday was the final day of this year's steam service, The Jacobite, running between Fort William and Mallaig. Photographer Trevor Gregg captured the two steam locomotives, which had worked the Jacobite service, climbing towards Corroun on Saturday morning, on the journey back to their base at Carnforth in Lancashire.

End of pipe dream for Fort William's Glen Mor band

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

The assets of one of Lochaber's most successful pipe bands have now been disbursed among local charities and organisations after it was wound up due to dwindling numbers.

Despite boasting a string of major competition successes in just 12 years since being founded in 2006, the Fort William-based Glen Mor Pipe Band said it had to call it a day due to a declining membership.

Back in 2006, with Lochaber not represented on the world piping stage, the decision was taken to form a new pipe band.

Organisers said they did not want to set up a rival to the already well-established Lochaber Pipe Band, but wanted to find a way of giving local pipers and drummers more opportunity to enhance their skills and test their ability in competition against other bands.

And so the Fort William-based Glen Mor Pipe Band was born to compete in the five major pipe band championships run by the



Glen Mor pipe band won a number of major competitions during the last 12 years.

Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (RSPBA). Due to its new band status, Glen Mor started in the lowest RSPBA ranking of Grade 4B. Seven years later and 2013 saw Glen Mor Pipe Band crowned Scottish champions of Grade 4B, as well as taking second spot in the British Championships and eighth in the World Championships, both in Grade 4B.

With less than six years of competing behind them this was no mean feat and the band was subsequently

promoted the following year to compete in Grade 3B.

But that glory was short-lived and after only one year in Grade 3B numbers in the band started to dwindle, and without the more experienced and accomplished players, maintaining this higher standard proved difficult.

The band took a year out from competing in 2015 and the following year requested a drop down to Grade 4A.

However, things still proved difficult, with members struggling to make practises

and the meteoric fall from grace was confirmed when it became apparent that the band would never be able to compete again due to lack of numbers.

In August this year, just lit-

tle more than a decade after it was founded, Glen Mor Pipe Band officially withdrew its membership of the RSPBA and dissolved its status with the Office of Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).

The band's pipe major, Willie Evans, said the decision to wind things up was a sad day, adding: 'Hopefully the experiences in the good times and bad have benefited our members then and now, and I look forward to Lochaber having a proper competition band once more.'

Among the other reasons put forward for the band's dwindling numbers were long travel distances to practise sessions for members, the financial costs for some and younger members leaving the area for university and work-related reasons.

And one local piping worthy claims there is a plethora of pipers and drummers

within Lochaber, all of varying degrees of ability, now currently sat on their hands with historical loyalty to one band or another preventing them from joining anyone else regardless of personal circumstances.

'That is how it will stay until a solution is found to 'unify the clans' and put Lochaber back on the map with the world-class pipe band it deserves,' he told the *Lochaber Times*.

The assets of Glen Mor Pipe Band have now been distributed, with Lochaber Schools Pipe Band, Isle of Skye Pipe Band and Fèisean nan Gàidheal all receiving equipment. More than £3,000 in monetary assets was also split between the Salvation Army (for the use of their hall) and The Buzz Project, Lochaber Music School and Cothroman Ceol Beul Aithriseach.



Queues for the ferry have been as deep as three lanes at Ardour.

Delays and long traffic queues at Corran Ferry

Motorists using the Corran Ferry have been experiencing long delays and tailbacks this week due to a smaller vessel being deployed on the route.

The Maid of Glencoul has been covering the Corran to Ardour service in place of MV Corran which was taken

off service last week to undertake its annual dry docking. The MV Corran will be out of action for around three weeks.

Despite the vessel constantly shuttling back and forth across the Corran narrows there are still long build-ups at either end of the crossing.

At some points, three lanes of traffic were queuing to board the ferry at Ardour.

Corran ferry operators have been warning passengers to allow plenty of time for any journey on the route and have apologised for any inconvenience caused.

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LT

Abellio boss misses Lochaber meeting due to train disruption

The head of business development at Abellio, the company which operates ScotRail, was forced to miss a meeting of the Lochaber Transport Forum last week after getting stuck in Glasgow because of train disruptions, writes Neill Bo Finlayson.

Scott Prentice was due to meet with members of the forum last Tuesday in a much-anticipated meeting to discuss the West Highland Line Review and the group's previous meeting with Alex Hynes, managing director of Abellio.

However, Mr Prentice faced long delays at Glasgow Queen Street which meant he was unable to take the

train to Fort William. He then attempted to use the bus service to make his way north but was refused on board as the bus was full and he had not pre-booked a seat.

The ill-fated journey meant that Mr Prentice could not attend the meeting in person, which then had to be conducted through the use of Transport Forum secretary Benny MacDonald's mobile phone on loudspeaker, with the group gathered round.

Forum chairman Brian Murphy said that Mr Prentice's failed travel experience was perhaps the most effective way of illustrating the forum's frustrations with the service.

Blar Mhor plans given green light

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Plans for 'one of the most important developments' in Fort William were approved by Highland councillors last week.

Members granted Highland Council's application to build a mixed use development at Blar Mhor to house a new replacement Belford hospital, an emergency services hub, and a science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) centre, 250 homes and a small retail unit.

At the south planning applications meeting last Tuesday, chairman Jimmy Gray welcomed the decision and said it was 'heartening' to see such a 'hugely important' development coming forward in Fort William.



The plans for Blar Mhor were approved by Highland Council last week



'It appears that everything is happening in Lochaber,' he said. 'It is an important period I think in what's happening here in Fort William.'

Caol and Mallaig councillor Ben Thompson said he 'wholeheartedly welcomes' the plans.

He said: 'The development at Blar Mhor is potentially more impactful for the residents of Fort William than the Smelter expansion, because almost everyone who lives in Lochaber will use this area given the hospital is moving there, the college is partly relocating and expanding onto the site and potentially there will be improved sports and commu-

nity facilities. This will be a huge impact on Fort William and it's really important we get this development right.'

However, Mr Thompson, echoing concerns made by Kilmallie Community Council, warned that he wanted to see a higher quality development with higher standards of quality assurance than previous years. The Lochaber councillor said that he was 'tired of having to defend' new builds in the last five years that 'are not up to scratch'.

'We need to start requiring houses that are cheaper to heat, don't suffer from drafts and mould and damp because those are the issues

that come up in my ward particularly with the new houses, which is really disappointing,' he added.

'While I am not proposing changes to this masterplan - I fully welcome it because it's a fantastic opportunity - but I really wish we were more ambitious and I will continue to pursue the quality assurance issue.'

Kilmallie Community Council did not object to the application but did raise a number of concerns, including the impact on peat as a result of this development, the impact of the development on traffic and the cohesiveness of the site layout.

Frighteningly good fun at Claggan Hallowe'en party

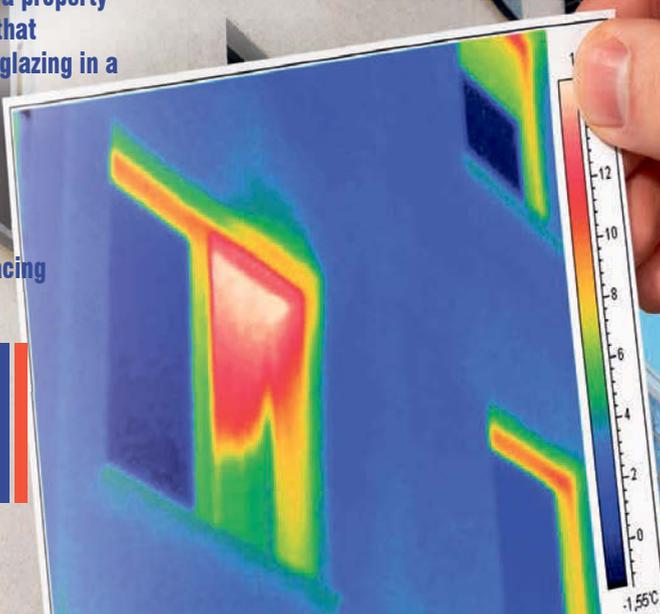


A Hallowe'en party organised by Claggan Residents Association in the NUPE Club at Claggan Park, Fort William, on Saturday saw about 40 children enjoying the spooky fun and games.

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Community joy as pupils welcomed to new school

For months when he walked to his school nursery, young Fionn Togher watched as Strontian's new community primary school took shape, writes Mark Entwistle.

As he waited to move up from nursery to becoming the solitary primary one pupil once the new school opened, Fionn, aged five, decided the new school was being built just for him.

And so it was on Tuesday morning that as the youngest pupil and representative of the first primary one class to take a seat in the new community built and owned school, Fionn was given the honour of cutting the ribbon to mark the occasion.

'Fionn had seen the new school being built and did think it was especially for him, which was really sweet,' said head teacher, Pamela Hill after the official ceremony to open the school.

'And so it was fitting that as the youngest pupil in the school – and the only pupil representing primary one – that he was asked to cut the ribbon today.'

It was in 2016 that the local community had proposed building its own school after parents rejected Highland Council's solution to sorting out problems at the existing and ageing 1970s-era primary.

The result was the setting up of the Strontian Community School Building Ltd project, a first for Scotland, with a unique model created whereby the cost of the school – more than £900,000 – was funded through a community shares issue and grants.

Land owned by the Highland Small Communities Housing Trust adjacent to Ardnamurchan High School at Strontian was purchased for the new school, which has now been leased to Highland Council.

The four school buildings were designed by Fort William-based architects, Kearney Donald Partnership, and built by S+K MacDonald of Acharacle, and if in the futures the buildings are no longer required

as a school, they have been designed in such a way as to allow them to be converted into affordable homes.

Acting chairman of the Strontian Community School Building Ltd board, Jamie McIntyre, said everyone involved with the project had been thrilled to see the youngsters finally making their way into the new premises.

'The head teacher had made it a really nice occasion, locking up the old school as a way of the children getting to say goodbye to it, before making their way with staff and a piper to their new school,' he said.

Although the Highland Small Communities Housing Trust had been unable to send a representative to Tuesday's opening, parents and other members of the community were joined by a representative of architectural firm Kearney Donald Partnership.

There has been widespread praise for the community and its achievement – a first in Scotland – with the creation of the new school.

However, Mr McIntyre explained: 'The school project didn't come out of nowhere. When the community company was first set up, it was determined to be ambitious in what it wanted to do and that's how the new community hydro power scheme came about.'

'That cost around £1million and the experience gained from that project gave the wider community the confidence to think about something even bigger.'

Mr McIntyre says the model created which allowed the community to build its own school had the potential to be recreated elsewhere in the Highlands and Scotland.

'Hopefully, it means the next community which looks to do anything similar will perhaps find it a bit easier for them as a result of the lessons learned on this project.'



Primary one pupil, Fionn Togher, five, cuts the ribbon to mark the opening of the new Strontian Primary School this week, watched by head teacher Pamela Hill.



Members of the Strontian Community School Building Ltd board, left, are delighted at the school opening ceremony. Photographs: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos



The pupils are piped from their old school to the new by piper Iain Mitchie. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

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VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER



If you're in business, you'll no doubt spend a lot of time thinking about how to grow your enterprise and increase your markets.

But have you thought of developing your business internationally?

Increasing the 'internationalisation' of Scottish business is one of the Scottish Government's key areas for growth and it is not something that is just for big business. International trade is a huge area for growth in the Highlands and Islands across a wide range of industries and company sizes.

Whether goods or services, Lochaber has fantastic potential to grow our businesses into international enterprises.

This could mean anything from selling postcards online to exporting tonnes of timber: international trade is something that all companies can and should consider.

With this in mind, Lochaber Chamber of Commerce

is pleased to present the Navigating International Trade seminar during Lochaber Ideas Week 2018.

With Brexit now only months away, the seminar led by international trade expert Ewan Ramsay will consider the implications of the most likely forms of Brexit, explore the challenges and opportunities on offer and hear from local businesses which have already taken the plunge.

We'll also be joined by representatives from HIE, Enterprise Europe and the Highlands and Islands Local Export Partnership to make sure you are aware of the breadth of support available to all businesses in Lochaber.

This free event is open to everyone.

Find out more and book your place at www.lochaber-chamber.co.uk.

Lochaber Ideas Week is presented in partnership with Developing the Young Workforce West Highland.

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Crash dad praises medics for saving

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

A father, trapped in his car for an hour near Laggan while emergency services frantically tried to pull him from the wreckage earlier this year, has sent a heartfelt letter to the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) crews who saved his life.

Matt Jones, 40, from Northampton, was driving on the A82, just south of South Laggan, with his eight-year-old son Jack in the back seat when his vehicle collided with another vehicle.

Mr Jones has now spoken for the first time about the accident, praising SAS for saving his life.

In the letter, he wrote: 'I can't really begin to describe the gratitude I feel, and will always feel, to you for what you did for myself and my son Jack on that day. There are times in



Matt Jones and his partner, Lisa.

life where words can't really convey enough. You did an amazing job and I am stunned, having seen photos of the car, that I wasn't killed outright.'

And he continued: 'I wish all of you the best of luck in all you do and every success in life. I am forever indebted to you for this second crack at life - it's the greatest gift I've ever received.'

Mr Jones had been taking

Jack to see his parents (Jack's grandparents) in Glenelg.

Speaking about the crash on May 27, Mr Jones says all he recalls is waking up in hospital the following day.

He explained: 'We got to Fort William about 3pm and that is literally my last memory of the day. The first week in hospital was a blur - I was on very strong painkillers.

'My memories of the day are

very hazy. I went from never having broken a bone in my body to breaking an awful lot.'

Mr Jones broke his right ankle, his left femur, his pelvis and seven ribs. He also burst his spleen, the metacarpal bones in his left hand and the right humerus in his shoulder was also badly shattered.

His young son in the back seat 'got off lightly', only suffering a cut to his cheek.

Several ambulance crews were dispatched to the scene, including paramedic team leader Andy Davidson and paramedics Gary Blackmore and Clare Macleod, who are all based at Fort William station.

Mr Jones said that over time he has been trying to piece together what happened. He admitted that on seeing the wreckage of his car, he was 'horrificed'.

He added: 'I think seeing the car was when I realised

Kyle RNLI called to Broadford bay to aid

Kyle of Lochalsh RNLI's volunteer crew battled rough seas early on Friday evening to aid a yacht in difficulty in Broadford bay on Skye after its steering was disabled due to the extremely bad weather.

The lifeboat launched at 5.28pm and made best speed through heavy seas towards the vessel, arriving on scene at 5.45pm.

The 15-metre yacht, Fruit Cakes, which had one person on board, was stuck hard against the windward side



of Broadford pier and was in danger of breaking as it was battered by the high winds and

large swell. The lifeboat put a crew member aboard to assess the situation and it was quickly

PRACTICAL BASIC BOOK-KEEPING

A workshop that takes you through keeping financial records, understand the key components of book-keeping: purchase and sales ledgers, cashbook, produce a bank reconciliation and understand VAT.

Wed. 14 Nov 2018, Mull

BUILD YOUR OWN BUSINESS WEBSITE

Learn how to build and manage an attractive and effective website for your business. This course provides an overview of how to plan, develop and manage your website.

Tue. 20 Nov 2018, 0930-1630hrs, Lochgilhead

INTRODUCTION TO ONLINE TRADING

A workshop focussing on the basics required for trading online, looking at various tools, platforms and payment options and online marketplaces like Etsy and Amazon.

Thu. 22 Nov 2018, 1000-1600hrs, Oban

PAID FOR ADVERTISING

Learn what Paid for Advertising is, how to define your audience; explore the merits of each platform; how to optimise your ads, monitor and evaluate their success and ensure they are legally compliant.

Wed. 28 Nov 2018, 1000-1300hrs, Lochgilhead

VIDEO PRODUCTION FOR SOCIAL MEDIA

Learn why you should be using video and its importance; how it impacts your website SEO; what videos should you be making and how can you make them.

Thu. 29 Nov 2018, 1000-1300hrs, Oban

To book a place contact the Business Gateway team.

Call **1546 604030** or

email ig@argyll-bute.gov.uk



Fort police presented with new d

Police officers in Fort William and their colleagues in Dingwall have received training on the use of new defibrillators following a donation from the family of a Moray teenager who lost his life in a road accident in 2016.

Police Scotland accepted the defibrillators for use in the Highlands from the family of Keiran McKandie, who was just 16 when he died after a collision involving his bicycle and a car on the B9010 near Craigend in Moray.

The six devices have been donated by Keiran's parents, Sandra and Gordon McKandie, and will be kept in police vehicles and

used by officers based at the Road Policing Units in Fort William and Dingwall, operating across the Highlands and Islands area.

The family tirelessly raised money in Keiran's memory and this donation builds on a pilot scheme which began in February last year.

The new defibrillators were available for use from Monday in support of the Scottish Ambulance Service and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

Road Policing Chief Inspector Stewart Mackie commented: 'We are extremely grateful to the McKandie family for their

generous donation of this life-saving equipment which will now be carried in road policing vehicles operating in the Highlands and Islands.

'We look forward to building on the success of the scheme in the north east and working closely in partnership with ambulance staff to provide enhanced medical aid if required at the scene of serious incidents.

'Keiran's family should be commended for their dedicated fundraising following such a tragic event in their lives and I would again thank them for their generosity.'

Sandra and Gordon McKandie added: 'Keiran's

Fort life

how bad the accident was.' An outdoor instructor, Mr Jones has spent the past three months recovering. Initially on crutches, he can now walk freely on his own.

Mr Davidson, paramedic team leader at Fort William Ambulance Station, was first on scene, manning a single crew vehicle: 'His car had frontal damage and the patient was trapped in the driver's seat for about an hour. The whole front of the car had come forward to his legs. The compartment was crushed.'

Mr Davidson, 53, said once Mr Jones was extricated, he needed urgent medical help and was rushed to hospital.

He added: 'His condition was deteriorating. I was speaking to him but he probably does not recollect it.'

Mr Davidson said the quick response probably made a difference to saving his life.

yacht

decided to tow the stricken yacht to the sheltered side of the pier, out of the swell.

Manoeuvring the vessel around the pier in the rough weather was a challenge, due to the fact the yacht's rudder was jammed hard to port, and the large number of moorings in close proximity to the pier.

But by 7.10pm, the lifeboat had successfully towed the vessel to the sheltered location. The lifeboat then returned to Kyle and was refuelled and ready for service by 7.30pm.

efibrillators

Legacy, based in Moray, is the only registered charity in Moray whose aim is to save lives, improve and enhance education and provide recreational activities which improves the lives of the users for the population across Scotland.

'These defibrillators will provide personnel with more confidence, knowledge and enhance the 'can do' attitude.

'The introduction of these devices is a landmark moment in Police Scotland history and has involved many discussions, actions and time which has required embracing of change for this to become a reality.'



WIN A CHANCE TO HELP SANTA ON HIS SLEIGH

Santa needs help Can you write a Christmas card message from Lochaber?

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 24. 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, and to wave to the crowds who have gathered to watch the reindeer parade. Last year's winners were Kayla from Caol Primary and Faolan from Lundavra Primary.

If you would like to help Santa and to ride on his sleigh, all you have to do is write a message for a Christmas Card sending greetings to your friends and family. Your message should have between four and eight lines of prose or rhyming verse and the first line could be:- From Lochaber we send you Christmas cheer ...

Once you have composed your message, fill in the coupon below with your details and post the coupon and your message to: Santa's Message Competition, The Editor, The Lochaber Times, 22 High Street, Fort William, PH33 6AT to arrive no later than November 9. All the entries, including the winning two, will be displayed in the foyer of the Nevis Centre on the day of the Festival and we hope to include the winning two in a special Christmas card in the lead up to Christmas 2019.

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.

Santa's card competition

Message.....

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Name

Age.....

Address.....

.....

School..... Class.....



The Rotary Club of Lochaber (SC07767) in partnership with the Lochaber Times

LOCHABER IDEAS WEEK



12-16 NOVEMBER 2018

Presented by Lochaber Chamber of Commerce

In partnership with Developing the Young Workforce West Highland

MONDAY
THINK DIFFERENT: CREATIVE SALES & MARKETING
Sponsored by Marine Harvest
10am-12pm

Renowned sales presenter John-Paul Hughes will help unleash your sales potential! Learn creative techniques to help you connect with your business audience and turn prospects into customers.
Venue: The Moorings Hotel.

QUESTION TIME
2-4pm FREE

Join us for a lively discussion on the hot topics affecting Lochaber today. Come along to put your questions to our panel of political and business leaders.
Venue: The Moorings Hotel.

AN EVENING WITH MICHAEL 'EDDIE THE EAGLE' EDWARDS
Sponsored by HWEnergy 7-9pm
£15 (£6 for under-16s available on the door)

He may not have won in the ski jump (he came last), but 'Eddie the Eagle' remains one of the UK's most well-known and best-loved Olympians. Hear the amazing story of perseverance and courage from the man behind the legend!
Venue: The Moorings Hotel.

TUESDAY
AROUND LOCHABER IN 80 TABLES
Hosted by The Lochaber Times
10am-12pm

Fast and furious speed-networking for business! It's always great fun with plenty of time to chat. Whether you're new to business in the area or an established firm, come along and make some new business connections! This event fills up quickly so please book early.
Venue: The Moorings Hotel

NAVIGATING THE WORLD OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE
1.30-3.30pm FREE

Join us for a timely seminar and workshop on international trade. Whether you're already doing overseas business or you're keen to give it a try, this is the seminar for you! International trade expert Ewan Ramsay will host this session exploring the challenges and opportunities of international business and what the future may hold for trade after Brexit.
Venue: The Moorings Hotel.

WEDNESDAY
STRATEGICALLY SOCIAL - SOCIAL MEDIA FOR CUSTOMER CARE
9-11am

Social media expert Rene Looper will look at key trends and show you how to harness the power of social media to take your customer care to the next level.
Venue: The Moorings Hotel

BRIDGE TO BUSINESS WITH DEVELOPING THE YOUNG WORKFORCE WEST HIGHLAND
1-4 pm

This event is specifically designed for high school pupils. Through a mixture of inspirational presentations and hands-on seminars, Bridge to Business will show that anyone can start their own business - whatever your age!

DIGITAL TOURISM SCOTLAND
1-3pm FREE

The Future for Digital Tourism - find out all about what's next for tourism in the digital age. How will the internet of things, virtual reality and automation impact your business?
Venue: The Moorings Hotel

DRAGONS' GLEN
Sponsored by Twin Deer Law
5-8pm £6 SPECTATOR EVENT

Will the candidates have what it takes to impress the business dragons and win the £10,000 cash prize? Come along to watch the brave challengers pitch their big ideas to our panel of business dragons and have your say with the PEOPLES VOTE. The winner of the £10k prize will be announced on the night.
Venue: Ben Nevis Distillery

THURSDAY
UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL: HIGH PERFORMANCE SEMINAR
Sponsored by Liberty BA
9-11am

Learn effective ways to get the best out of yourself and your team with renowned high-performance coach Don MacNaughton.
Venue: The Moorings Hotel

SHAPING TOURISM IN LOCHABER
Presented by Nevis Range & Visit Scotland
1-4pm FREE

Panel discussion with key players in tourism industry (1-3pm) Join the debate on future trends in the Outdoor Capital of the UK. Followed by 'Welcoming Chinese Visitors' workshop with Fiona Alexander from Scottish Enterprise International (3-4pm)
Venue: The Moorings Hotel

CHARLES KENNEDY LECTURE 2018
Sponsored by Ferguson Transport & Shipping
6-8pm FREE

This year's lecture is delivered by author and broadcaster Alastair Campbell, who was a close friend of Mr Kennedy. His lecture will focus on the importance of friendship in mental health and addiction.
Venue: Lochaber High School

FRIDAY
MENTAL WELLNESS FOR BUSINESS
9.30-11.30am FREE

Mental health is increasingly important in business. Josh Quigley, the tartan explorer, will talk from his personal experiences of overcoming mental health issues. Plus Birchwood Highland presents a mental wellness 'toolbox talk' to help support employers and employees dealing with mental health issues. Lochaber Hope discuss their range of support services for businesses.
Venue: The Moorings Hotel

IDEAS WEEK GALA DINNER
Sponsored by RA Clement & Associates
7.30pm-12am

Join us for our gala dinner to mark the end of another great ideas week. Featuring after-dinner speech from inspirational tech entrepreneur Dale Murray. We'll round off the evening with live ceilidh music.
Venue: The Moorings Hotel



Tickets are available through the Lochaber Chamber of Commerce website www.lochaberchamber.co.uk or call 01397 705765



LT

Western Isles MP blasts Home Office

Western Isles MP Angus MacNeil is highlighting what he called 'the double standards of the Home Office' following press reports that non-European Economic Area (EEA) workers are employed in the offshore windfarm industry earning a fraction of the UK minimum wage.

Mr MacNeil said he was 'continually pressing the UK government to help the west coast fishing industry to allow non-EEA workers to

fill the gap in crew shortages. Despite having met six Tory immigration ministers, the Home Office refuses to help and boats are tied up due to lack of crew'.

Mr MacNeil said: 'The west coast fishing industry is crying out for crew and desperate to see the introduction of a scheme to allow non-EEA workers to fill the labour gap – a scheme which pays proper wages. However, this was rejected by the Home Office.'

Highland hotel rates capped

The Scottish Government has announced that hospitality businesses will have their rates capped for the next three years.

Hotels across the Highlands have already benefitted from a cap in 2017/18 and 2018/19, and it means that rates are capped at a maximum of 12.5 per cent in real terms each year until April 1, 2022.

It is hoped that last week's news will be welcomed by the tourism industry, which is critical to the Highland

economy, with B&Bs, hotels, pubs and restaurants among those set to benefit.

Kate Forbes MSP welcomed the news saying: 'This provides certainty, stability and a competitive business edge – not just for the next year but for the next three years.'

'I hope the rates cap enables businesses to make decisions with greater certainty, control their costs and invest in business growth at a time when hospitality is essential to the wider tourism industry.'

Traigh course teed up for book boost

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

A new book celebrating the most scenic golf courses in the British Isles will provide a welcome boost to the coffers at Traigh Golf Course, near Morar, which is listed in the publication alongside some of the most famous courses in world golf.

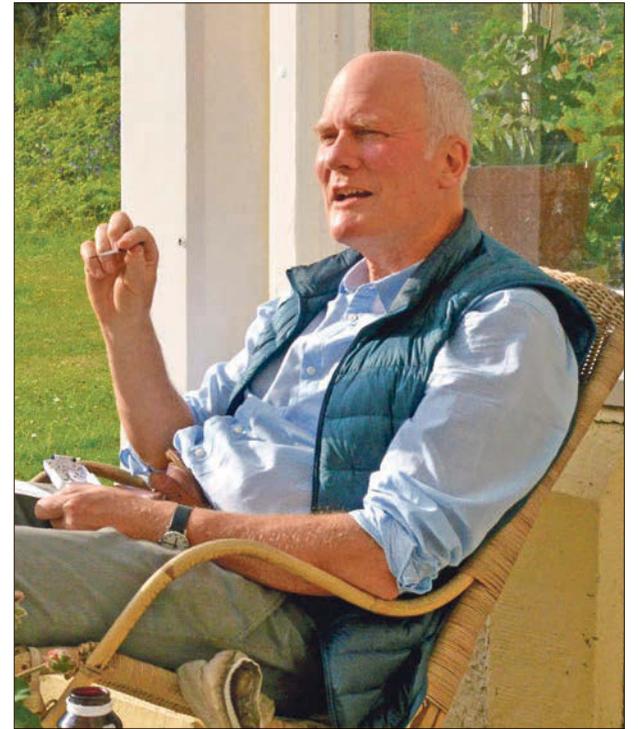
Written and illustrated by the joint owner of Traigh Farm and Golf Course, David Shaw Stewart, *Views from the Tee* is a handy illustrated guide to some of the most fun, interesting and challenging courses in Britain and Ireland.

The book will not only provide a boost to Traigh's reputation as a must-visit golf destination, but golfers at the west coast course can expect to see some benefit as all proceeds of its sales will be invested back into the running

of the course. David, now one of four joint owners of the course, along with his brother Patrick, after inheriting it from his father Jack Shaw at the end of 2013, described the West Lochaber course as his 'favourite course in all the world' and 'a delight in every sort of weather', albeit a bit challenging.

In an excerpt from the book, David wrote: 'The new course was my dear father Jack's great vision and I think of it as his memorial, giving a huge amount of happiness to the many golfers who have played there.'

The course, which looks out over Morar sands toward the Small Isles, Eigg, Rum and Muck, has been a home for golfers in the area since around 1900. It was originally a private course, only for the use of the owners and their friends, and it was cramped, with several fairways cross-



David Shaw Stewart pictured painting at Traigh.

Lochaber Gaelic Choir reflects on Mòd success

Almost two weeks after the closing concert, Còisir Ghàidhlig Loch Abar (Lochaber Gaelic Choir) have had time to look back on another successful Royal National Mòd for the choir, writes Neill Bo Finlayson.

The choir, now in its fourth year, has hit the ground running, having won the Margrat Duncan Choral competition three years running – last year being the most meaningful as the Mòd took place in Lochaber. Not content with their winning streak, the choir felt it was time for a new challenge and so entered the Mòd's premiere choral competition: The Lovat and Tullibardine Shield.

Lochaber was the last of 10 choirs to perform, closing the competition with its own piece arranged by Rachel Walker – Tuathal, by Alasdair Whyte, and Air Chall by Rachel Walker.

The choir was thrilled to be awarded fourth place in its debut year in such a high-profile competition and their thanks go to all of those who have supported the choir in

Còisir Ghàidhlig
Loch Abar



the community by attending concerts and taking part in fundraising efforts.

Choir members gave particular thanks to their Gaelic tutor, Colin Masterton, and conductor Rachel Walker.

Added to this, one of the choir's bass singers Ruairidh Cormack won the prestigious An Comunn Gaidhealach Gold Medal.

Conductor Rachel Walker was adjudicating the rural choirs competitions, the prescribed piece for which was one of Rachel's own arrangements – Maraichenan Cuantan by Floraidh NicPhail.

Member Robert Robertson took first place in the rural

choirs competitions with Melvich Gaelic choir, while Ninian Christie was singing with Tong Gaelic Choir. Two of the choir's sopranos, Carolyn Groat and Claire Frances MacNeil took part in the Traditional Gold Medal competition, with Carolyn finishing third overall.

A selection of junior Lochaber Gaelic singers were in action at the start of the week and on Tuesday Claire Delaney conducted the Bun Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar choir in its competitions. Having competed for the first time at the Mòd just last year, this year they came fourth in both of their competitions.

It's as
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Above, one of David's illustrations of Traigh Golf Course from the new book, right.

ing over each other. This all changed when David's father Jack redesigned the course in 1993 with the help of well-known Scottish golf architect Johnny Salvesen and Arisaig native Jimmy MacDonald MBE, who was head green-keeper at Royal Lytham and St Annes.

David, a passionate and oft-frustrated golfer, swung his first club at Traigh Golf Course and feels it is a 'privilege' to jointly own and maintain the spectacular

nine-hole links.

And now, thanks to the assistance of his wife as editorial caddy, his son Gus, who designed the website, and particularly his daughter Xa, who planned, edited and designed the book, David can share his love of the course with golfers around the country. He is thankful to Traigh Golf Club, and in particular club captain Chris Lemons, who have been very supportive of the book's publication.

The book is being sold through the website views-from-thetee.com with all proceeds going to Traigh Golf Course. It is also available at Traigh Golf course clubhouse and from Mallaig Visitor Centre, where Johnny Macmillan will ensure all proceeds go to the course.

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Like most professions, skills and attributes, it has long been recognised that music passes down the generations.

The piping world is well known for players whose abilities grew from the talents of their forebears. Last weekend this pattern was substantiated yet again when Finlay Johnston was crowned winner of the Glenfiddich Piping Championship 2018 held at Blair Castle in Perthshire.

Seen by many as the premiere prize of the entire piping scene, the Glenfiddich competitors are chosen based on their accumulated achievements in the year leading up to the championship. Winning among a field of the 10 best competing pipers in the world, is an outstanding achievement.

Finlay has pipe music in his blood. His mother, Anne Johnston (nee Sinclair), had a very successful solo piping career and was the first female winner of the Silver Medal at the Northern Meeting in Inverness. His father, Tommy, was a top pipe-band drummer and is a maker of very fine pipe reeds. Like Anne, Finlay's pip-

ing began under the tutelage of his grandfather, the late Alasdair Sinclair from Tiree.

When Finlay was eight years old he spent a summer on Tiree with his grandfather and this was when his road to winning the Glenfiddich began.

His own hard work, along with guidance from his mother and continued instruction from Ronnie McShannon, combined to grow a champion from that boy who first played the chanter under the watchful and encouraging eye of his grandfather more than 24 years ago.

The following sentence is an excerpt from a column I wrote covering the Tiree Songbook Concert at Celtic Connections in January 2016 at which Anne and Finlay appeared. I was conveying how the presence of the late forebears of those performing could be strongly felt and was envisaging how they might be reacting to the fine music being played and to the atmosphere of the occasion.

'As Anne and Finlay Johnston played Am Falbh thu leam a Ribhinn Og, their father and grandfather respectively, Alasdair Sinclair, was singing

along with a wide grin and a glint in his eye.'

Well, if Alasdair Sinclair could have witnessed his grandson hitting the very pinnacle of the piping world last Saturday, his grin would have been as wide as the open Atlantic behind his house and the glint in his eye brighter than the beam from Skerryvore Lighthouse.

Another of Alasdair's pupils was Pipe Major Gordon Rowan, who is the current director of the Army School of Piping in Edinburgh. With a grandson who has just been crowned as king of pipers for 2018 and another former pupil holding one of the most prestigious positions in piping, his influence on the contemporary bagpipe world is significant.

Alasdair Ruadh, as he was known, died in November of 1996 but, like many who pass on skills, knowledge, music and art, they render themselves and their memories immortal.

By winning the Glenfiddich, Finlay Johnston has added greatly to the immortality of his grandfather's memory and to Tiree piping lineage.

Well done, Finlay!



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LT



Fraser Cooper of Glencoe, second right, has been named as a finalist in the prestigious event.

Glencoe's Fraser finalist in Young Chef of Year

Glencoe chef Fraser Cooper is through to the final for Young Chef of the Year 2018.

The British Culinary Federation competition will take place on Monday, November 5 at University College, Birmingham.

There will be two heats followed by a dinner and

awards evening.

Fraser, who now works at the Devonshire Arms Country House Hotel in North Yorkshire, and the other 17 competitors will have two hours to produce their three-course meal highlighting British produce, with the starter being suitable for a vegetarian.

Weekend changes to gritting on Lochaber roads

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

The Highland Council says it is ready for winter and prepared to grit Lochaber's roads as its winter maintenance programme started on October 14.

Trunk roads in Highland are the responsibility of Transport Scotland and their operators Bear Scotland.

Changes to this year's winter maintenance policy include an equalisation of the gritting service at weekends.

The service will now begin at 6am on both Saturday and Sunday (previously 7am on a Sunday), with the same length of network treated on

both days. This will include treatment of all the primary routes, strategic secondary routes and difficult 'other' routes as resources permit.

And the council confirmed it has adequate salt stocks for the region of 45,000 tonnes for the start of the main winter season and that there are no concerns about future provision of deliveries from the council's supplier.

The total salt usage for last winter 2017/18 was 81,000 tonnes, which was around 32 per cent (£2.3million) of the overall cost of the service last year.

The winter fleet mobilisation programme is complete and includes vehicle servicing and calibration of salt spreading equipment.

The fleet includes 105 gritters, 42 footpath tractors and more than 200 staff providing winter maintenance services.

Following extreme freezing conditions on pavements

last winter – this season, assurance has been given by the council's director of community services that a formal escalation procedure will be adopted when severe conditions are forecast or experienced with immediate mobilisation of all available manual staff across community services to assist.

This year (2018/19) the council has made provision for the replacement of 18 vehicles in its heavy fleet; 10 of which have arrived with the remainder to be delivered by Christmas.

On completion of this latest order the council will have invested in excess of £9 million in its heavy winter fleet over the last five years.

The chairman of the council's environment, development and infrastructure committee, Councillor Allan Henderson, said the local authority has the supplies and resources in place to provide a winter service

this year in the Highlands according to the council's policy.

He said: 'The council will continue to do what it can within its resources and policy, however, I would encourage communities to come forward and apply for winter resilience assistance from the council that will provide them with salt in grit bins or heaps and other equipment to take action in their local areas that are important to them.'

Within its winter roads maintenance budget of £5 million for 2018/19, the council is ready to salt – according to its policy – the 6,744km of roads for which it has responsibility.



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WHAT'S ON in Lochaber

■ The Lochaber Local History Society welcomes its own Bill Cameron, a well kent teacher and polymath from Inverloch, to speak to his title of The Plaque above the Door.

Bill will present an illustrated history of a family plaque which stood above the door to Nether Lochaber Stores in Onich for more than 135 years.

The talk, at the Ben Nevis Hotel, Thursday November 1 at 8pm, will include royal connections, the creation of a new clan tartan, some history of Old Onich and an unlikely connection with San Francisco.

■ Friends of Nevis holds its AGM on Friday November 2 at Glen Nevis Restaurant at 6.30pm. The short meeting will be followed by a talk from a John Muir Trust representative. Everyone is welcome. Numbers in advance if possible to Rory at info@friendsofnevis.co.uk

■ Representatives of

Lochaber Sensory Care for sight and hearing support will visit Mallaig Medical Centre between 1.30pm and 3pm on Tuesday November 6. The Caol-based team of staff and volunteers will offer help and advice to those with a sight or hearing impairment. They will also re-tube and maintain NHS hearing aids and supply NHS batteries for these. Appointments are not required for this free service.

■ Fort William Accordion and Fiddle Club is holding a musical evening on Tuesday November 6 at 7.30pm at the Railway Club in Inverloch. The guest artist is the Michael Garvin Band. Everyone is welcome.

■ The AGM of the Nevis Landscape Partnership will be held at Voluntary Action Lochaber, An Drochaid, Fort William on Tuesday November 13 at 5.30pm.

■ The Kilmallie Christmas lights switch-on takes place on November 16 at 7pm at

Kilmallie Community Centre, Corpach.

■ Friends of Nevis invites anyone to join the Glen Nevis autumn litter pick and curling pond tidy up on Sunday November 18 from 10.30am–3.30pm. Meet at the Ben Nevis Highland Centre (Woollen Mill) at 10.30am. All safety and litter picking equipment provided, together with refreshments and lunch. Under-18s must be accompanied by an adult family member, and sturdy footwear and waterproofs are advisable. Come for a couple of hours or more. Register in advance by contacting info@friendsofnevis.co.uk or phone 01397 701088.

■ Lochaber Athletic Club's AGM will take place on Sunday November 18, 7.30pm at Lochaber Yacht Club, Fort William. This is a good opportunity to discuss the 'running' of the club, raise ideas and make suggestions.

Mallaig Pool and Leisure gains £10,000 for bike scheme

The first winners of the £2million Smarter Choices Smarter Places Open Fund have been announced by Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity Michael Matheson, and included is the Mallaig Pool and Leisure charity and social enterprise group.

Mallaig Pool and Leisure is to get £10,000 towards its 'On your Bike Mallaig' project, which involves the development of an active travel hub in Mallaig, along with the

delivery of organised bike rides and bike maintenance sessions to encourage more people to utilise cycling and walking for their everyday journeys.

Community awareness and engagement will be increased by targeting the communities of Mallaig, Morar and Arisaig.

The open fund provides match funding grants between £5,000 and £50,000 to public, third and community sector organisations that seek to transform people's

everyday travel behaviour to more sustainable modes of transport.

The scheme opened in June 2018 and so far 11 winners having been awarded a total of £210,000 across rural, urban and island locations.

The open fund is delivered in partnership with Paths for All, which continues to receive innovative applications which will encourage people to adopt greener and healthier travel options.

Mr Matheson announced

the first recipients of the money during the Transport Scotland Bus and Active Travel Summit in Edinburgh recently.

He said: 'I'm proud that the funding from this government has supported a variety of organisations across Scotland.'

'Even in its first few months the fund is already creating new opportunities for people to walk and cycle for everyday short journeys and to choose sustainable options for longer journeys.'

Spean Bridge business recognised by AA again



Glen Russell and Robert Bryson, of Smiddy House & Russell's Restaurant at Spean Bridge, with their recent 13th double rosette plate from the AA.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Police launch new initiative to help recruit rural special constables

Police Scotland is developing an initiative to recruit more special constables in the Highland and Islands.

It is being set up to make it easier for people from remote and rural areas to apply and train to become special constables.

Training would be deliv-

ered locally both face to face with officers and online, allowing students to access materials related to their role as special constables.

Deputy Chief Constable Will Kerr, of local policing, said: 'Volunteering has an extremely positive impact on people and we know

the benefits this can bring between local officers and local communities.

'We want to make people feel like they can volunteer with Police Scotland - regardless of where they live.'

'Very often travelling to the Scottish Police College in Fife for training is simply

not practical or appealing for an applicant in areas such as Skye or Stornoway.

'We recognise that Highland and Islands Division needs to have a different approach to the recruitment and retention processes in place to attract special constables.'

'This initiative is one of many we are implementing across Police Scotland to support local issues and the needs of different communities.'

Each area commander will be responsible for the recruitment in their area with the assistance of the

Highland and Islands Special Constables' coordinator. This moves away from a centralised recruitment policy at Tulliallan (Fife) and Jackton (East Kilbride).

All new N Division recruits will be selected and trained via the new local approach late in 2018/early 2019.

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LT

Ian Blackford MP has been involved in the campaign since his election in 2015.



MP urges support for WASPI women in upcoming budget

Ian Blackford MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber has written to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond MP, urging him to finally take action and support a large group of women who have been adversely affected by the acceleration in the increase of the state pension age.

The WASPI (Women Against State Pension Inequality) campaign, run by a group of women born in the 1950s, has been arguing for some time that the Pension Acts, passed by Parliament in 1995 and 2011, accelerated the rise in state pension age from 60 to 65 at too quick a pace, and that they received no notice to prepare for these changes. MPs across the UK have raised concerns about the extremely difficult financial circumstances that this has put some women in.

However, Mr Hammond made no provisions for WASPI women in his Budget speech on Monday, prompting

a small protest from a group of campaigners in the public gallery – which was met with applause by opposition MPs.

Recent research from the House of Commons shows there had been an increase of 210 per cent in women in Ross, Skye and Lochaber claiming Employment Support Allowance and a 50 per cent increase when related to Jobseekers Allowance or Universal Credit Claims. The research concluded that, 'pension age changes are likely to have played some part in this increase'.

Mr Blackford, who has been active in the campaign since his election in 2015, said: 'For years now there has been an appalling abdication of responsibility shown towards the impact these changes have had on women. There is no doubt there was a complete failure of communication by previous UK Governments, to at least allow these women to prepare for what was ahead.'

Thirteen new articles and 6,340 words about women on Skye were added to Wikipedia last week, writes Neill Bo Finlayson.

To mark 100 years of women's suffrage, ATLAS Arts hosted a two-day Wikipedia edit-a-thon in Portree with the aim to address the gender imbalance that exists on Wikipedia by focusing on women of Skye.

During the two-day event, which was led by Delphine Dallison of the Scottish Libraries and Information Service, was held in Portree Community Library and in conjunction with Skye and Lochalsh Archive Centre, 13 new articles were created, 14 new editors were trained (of which 13 were women). So far the new entries have garnered hundreds of views.

An example of a new entry includes, Dr Alexandrina Matilda MacPhail (June 3, 1860–November 6, 1946) OBE. Born in Knock, Sleat, in the Isle of Skye, MacPhail was a Scottish physician who graduated from the London



School of Medicine for Women. In 1887 she became a missionary and doctor in India, where she founded what would become a large hospital in Madras. During the First World War, she also worked for the Scottish Women's Hospitals for Foreign Service as a doctor in Serbia and France. In 1912 MacPhail received a silver Kaiser-i-Hind Medal for pub-

lic services in India from the Indian Viceroy, and in 1930 she was awarded an OBE.

The event was also about editing existing Wikipedia entries of women of Skye which demonstrated gender bias. This was the case for Mary MacPherson, or Màiri Mhòr nan Òran, where a new section was added to highlight the significance of her poetry work and her pub-

Dr Alexandrina Matilda MacPhail was one of the new entries on Wikipedia.
Credit: Wellcome Library, London.

lication – Gaelic Songs and Poems, by Mary MacPherson, 1891. Shona Cameron, ATLAS producer said: 'We are thrilled by how well the event went. The participants were enthusiastic and really embraced the challenge. It was wonderful to see so many new articles created and people leave with the skills to continue to edit and update Wikipedia entries. There are so many amazing stories of women of Skye who have been overlooked or erased from the history books – this was a small step towards addressing this issue and showcasing some of these incredible women and their work.'

'We are also really looking forward to seeing what the artist Kirsty McKeown comes up with in the form of a zine to celebrate the event.'

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MSP raises flights cancellation at first minister's questions

Eastern Airways' recent decision to withdraw its service between Stornoway and Aberdeen has been raised with First Minister Nicola Sturgeon by Alasdair Allan, SNP MSP for Na h-Eileanan an Iar.

The service ended on Friday and islanders were only notified four weeks ago, without consultation.

After raising the issue at first minister's questions in parliament, Dr Allan said the decision was at odds with previous statements from the company, which had historically outlined a commitment to the service and to island connectivity.

The company also announced an expansion to this particular service, with increased flights just seven months ago, in March.

In light of this, the announcement has come as a significant surprise said Dr Allan, who added: 'Given Eastern Airways' very disappointing decision to end this service, at such short notice, I felt compelled to raise this very important issue with the first minister.'

'I am pleased that the first minister offered her assurances that her government is committed to ensuring connectivity between Scotland's islands and the mainland, and has now



Alasdair Allan MSP

asked the cabinet secretary for transport, infrastructure, and connectivity to engage with the airline.

'Eastern Airways' decision to withdraw this service was done without consultation and with totally inadequate notice.

'Residents in our islands who work in the oil and gas sector will be disadvantaged by this decision, and it has come as a major shock, given the previous statements by the company asserting a commitment to this route, and serving our islands.'

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Angus Macleod annual lecture set for next week

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

The late Angus Macleod is well known for more than 30 years' service as a minister, but he is equally remembered as the most decorated Lewisman of the First World War.

This year the annual lecture given in his memory will be even more poignant, coming as it does on November 8, just days before Remembrance Sunday and the 100th anniversary of the armistice that saw the end of the Great War.

The lecture, to be held at Pairc School, Gravir, will be the 15th annual such event and will be delivered by Dr Macleod's nephew and namesake, Dr Angus Macmillan, formerly of Lemreway.

Entitled The Hero of Buzancy - Leading the Line, the lecture is open to all with free admission and starts at 7.30pm.

Dr Macmillan said that, apart from giving a brief narrative of his uncle's life,



The collection of medals awarded to the 'Hero of Buzancy'.

and particularly his heroic activities in the military, he will also consider some wider issues, such as the nature of heroism in the context of the military strategies of the time, and the impact of the appalling losses in the First World War campaigns on the community of Lewis.

The island lost proportionally more men than any other region of Britain.

For Lewis these losses included the Iolaire disaster:

'I want to look at how that became a literally unspeakable event, casting an impenetrable gloom on island life for many years,' said Dr Macmillan.

'Angus left four war diaries, a collection of talks given in the 1930s, and a further source of information is the book written by his son, Kenneth, titled The Hero of Buzancy.'

'However, there is much that is not included in

these sources, not least the contradictions implicit in a religious man - who later went on to become a minister - being caught up in the savagery and carnage of the Western Front.

'I am interested, as a psychologist, in trying to understand how he represented his own life in his writings - the matters he dwelt on and what remained unspoken.'

'He comes across as a very modest man with no interest whatsoever in the gaining of medals - it is in fact very difficult to glean from his diaries how or why he was awarded them, in becoming the most decorated soldier from Lewis in the First World War.'

'I have subtitled the talk Leading the Line, to touch on the two central domains in Angus's life - firstly, 'leading the line' in the military sense, and then in the sense of 'leading' and presenting a Gaelic psalm, to reflect the time in his life when he was happiest and found peace in his life. I will be reading a poem to reflect these themes.'

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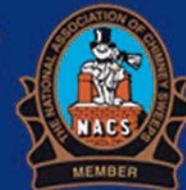
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LETTERS

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Strontian school is a lesson in community

Tuesday was a momentous day for Strontian, with the primary school children finally able to move into their new school, which was built and is owned by the community.

Headteacher Pamela Hill made a special occasion out of locking up the old school to give the youngsters the chance to say goodbye and then, with piper Iain Mitchie leading the way, the 28 children and staff made their way to the new school. There Ardnamurchan High School pupils formed a special guard of honour, clapping in the youngsters heading for their first day in the new classrooms.

The school's only P1 pupil, five-year-old Fionn Togher – who had come to the conclusion while in his final year of nursery that the new school was being built just for him – had the special task of cutting the ribbon.

The opening is a fantastic achievement for the small Ardnamurchan community, which in 2016 made the decision to build its own school after parents rejected Highland Council's solution to sorting out their ageing 1970s-era primary.

And not only have they achieved a first for Scotland with a unique model they created, they have also future-proofed the project, with the four school buildings designed in such a way that if ever their use as a school is no longer required, they can easily be converted into affordable homes.

Irony at its finest

Really, you could not make it up.

The news that Scott Prentice, head of business development at Abellio – the company which operates ScotRail – was forced to miss an important meeting of the Lochaber Transport Forum last week after getting stuck in Glasgow because of train disruptions, was irony at its finest.

While Mr Prentice's failed travel experience was a one-off, let us hope it has had the desired effect and brings much-needed improvements to the service for the travelling public – both locals and visitors.

Upgrade of road should not be at expense of hospital

I must respectfully take slight exception to the letter from Joanne Matheson of Acharacle in *The Oban Times* of October 18.

While I agree that the A82 itself is badly in need of an upgrade (particularly, I would say, on the 10-mile stretch between Inverarnan and Tarbet), and I'd like to see a bypass being built from Morrison's roundabout over the river to Blar Mhor to connect with the A830 at the Blar roundabout, I don't think that any such upgrade should be at the expense of anything much more needed, such as the new hospital.

Davie Kerr, Onich.

Strange sights on the road beside Loch Awe

I was most interested in your story about the strange happenings around Loch Awe ('Loch Awe road is one of Britain's spookiest', *The Oban Times*, October 18).

I was a bus driver working for Stewarts Coaches at Dalavich from 1997 until 2005. I would set out at 6.45am to do a school run from Eridine and quite a few times on the way would be flashed from behind by a Mark Three Cortina wanting to pass. I would pull in at the next passing place but was never to see it. Also, on several occasions a Vauxhall Vellux flashed to pass but never did.

I have never mentioned this to anyone except Tommy Stuart, who said he had seen these cars as well.

I also saw a man walking along the side of the road one morning around the same time just before the what was then Highland Heathers. He was wearing a three-cornered hat and knee-length trousers. He put his hand up and vanished.

I only mention this now as other people have felt and seen things too.

Thomas Middleton, Dalavich.

South Pier should be run by public authority

For nearly 100 years, the North and South Piers at Oban, and the defined harbour areas around them, were owned by the council and fell under its jurisdiction. The wider Oban

YOUR PICTURES



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

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

General Harbour Authority Area (which is still a legal entity) fell under the jurisdiction of the Oban General Harbour Authority, on which the council was (and is) a joint undertaker.

In 1988, the South Pier was forcibly handed over to Caledonian MacBrayne, despite a great deal of political opposition. That politically-driven decision was the catalyst for the insidious growth in CalMac/CMAL's dominance and self-serving influence over the management of Oban harbour since.

Whatever the original intention was for the handover, ultimately CMAL's stewardship of the South Pier has been detrimental to the economic benefit of the port of Oban.

Attempts by the council to develop the South Pier over the years have been thwarted by CMAL's vested interests, and while CMAL has been very happy to reap the benefits of the income it receives from the South Pier, it has spent very little on the infrastructure of the pier itself.

It is difficult to see why ownership of the



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DISTRICT NEWS

FORT WILLIAM

Fort William Community Council (FWCC) held a meeting on Tuesday October 16 at An Drochaid, Claggan.

The following matters were discussed:

■ **New Highland Council Buildings** – A discussion took place about the saving of the old school building by the partnership of FWCC, the Arts Development Group, members of the community, a number of Highland Councillors and the guidance and advice from the local area administration of the time. The group was spearheaded by the then Highland councillor Neil Clark.

Previous to the cessation of FWCC it was intimated that the name Lochaber House should be continued or the Alexander Ross Building, as a memorial to the architect.

The community council's suggestions, for whatever reason, were not put forward at the time of choosing a name. Members registered their disappointment, but said everyone must now move on but not forget the huge effort made by many in the community to save what FWCC saw as part of the town's heritage.

The group's aim that the history and memories of the old school building be retained for the community has come to fruition, although not fully as there is not as yet an arts centre.

■ **Proposed merger of FWCC and Inverlochy and Torlundy community council** – the secretary advised that she had completed the Highland Council (HC) community council (CC) scheme review questionnaire as directed, advising Alison Clark, HC acting head of policy, of the agreement of both CCs to request a boundary change. Alison and Dot Ferguson HC senior wards manager are both attending the Fort William Area Community Council Partnership meeting on November 14. The process and consultation requirements

can be discussed then.

■ **Area residents groups and associations** – the secretary now has contact details for the Plantation Tenants Association.

■ **A82 through Fort William** – continual 30-mile-per-hour speed limit being pursued with Police Scotland.

■ **Upper Achintore old school** – still no word of demolition. Upper Achintore – new housing – discussed with Councillor Baxter the need for provision of good quality community/play area space which retains an astro turf sports area. FWCC working on this with the Lundavra Community Action Group.

■ **Highland Cinema Project** – Angus MacDonald has been invited to attend the November meeting. A number of community councillors were able to attend the open days in Cameron Square and were impressed with the plans for the building.

■ **The next meeting of FWCC** is Tuesday November 20 at 7pm at An Drochaid, Claggan.

FORT WILLIAM

Nevis Landscape Partnership is looking for volunteers to help make and wrap Christmas crafts on Friday November 16.

The partnership is making sustainable Christmas crafts and decorations to sell at its upcoming events at the Rotary Club of Lochaber Christmas Festival as well as its own Christmas Fayre at the Ben Nevis Visitor Centre.

Times are yet to be confirmed but the event will be held during the day. Along with Nevis Radio and The Granite House, the group is also running Santa's Grotto at the Christmas Gathering in Fort William High Street. They expect to have around 300 to 400 children who will all be eager to visit Santa Claus, so lots of elves are needed to help wrap gifts.

If anyone can help the team, please sign up on the website nevislandscape.co.uk/local/events/

Seal trips raise hundreds for local charities



Calum Mackenzie, of Calum's Seal Trips in Plockton, organised a presentation ceremony on his boat Sula Mhor on Saturday afternoon (October 22) to present three organisations with cheques from money raised by tips on his seal trips. Each group received a cheque for £830. Pictured are the three recipients: Audrey Sinclair for Marie Curie, Pat Mucklow for Highland Hospice and Jessie Mackenzie for Macmillan Cancer Support. Calum and his crew are standing at the back.

LOCHABER

With the temperature dropping to minus two degrees on Saturday morning, the Rotary Club of Lochaber's Pop-Up Café, with its range of three hearty homemade soups, array of sandwiches and delicious homebaking, pulled in nearly 150 people to the D-Mac Hall.

It was the club's final pop-up café event of the season and it certainly hit the spot with locals, with a steady stream of visitors all day giving a good return for the crafters.

Club president Iain Johnston said he was pleased with the turnout and added: 'Just after 12.30pm there wasn't an empty table in the hall. We entertained people who had travelled in from Invergarry and Mallaig, as well as a number of tourists passing through the town.'

Mr Johnston continued: 'We raised



The pop-up café was very well supported on Saturday.

more than £300 for the club's charity budget and we are now heading for our principal event of the year – the Christmas Festival in the Nevis

Centre on Saturday November 24. 'Thanks again to my hard working rotary colleagues and the ever-generous Lochaber public.'

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LOCHABER

Lochaber Supports Refugees is calling for more clothing donations.

The group is looking for coats and jackets for all ages, especially children aged two to nine years. Trousers, joggers, jumpers, cardigans, shoes, boots, socks and underwear are also needed. In general, any warm winter clothing for all ages, birth up to adult, male and female, will be welcome – anything to help keep people warm and protected as much as possible from the elements.

The group will also welcome donations of blankets, sleeping bags, tents and tarpaulin.

Lochaber Support Refugees can be contacted through its Facebook page.



Chris O'Brien, left, CEO of Nevis Range with Rotary Club of Lochaber president Iain Johnston after his talk about the famous mountain resort to the club recently. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Skye and Lochaber projects receive share of £1.1million

Five projects around Lochaber, Skye and Lochalsh have been successful in attracting £1.1million of funding from the £3million available in the first round of the Scottish Government's Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund (RTIF).

Some of the RTIF funding will be used by Highland Council to create scenic layby viewpoints along the Bealach na Ba (Lochcarron North Coast 500). This project will receive £129,325 from RTIF and a further £55,425 from Highland Council.

To address the current issues at Storr, Skye, the council is investing £200,000 to expand the car park, with £200,000 from LEADER and an additional £128,571, plus £300,000 from the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund to improve the facilities that are currently available with the addition of public toilets, motorhome facilities, interpretation, visitor information and improved access to a wider public.

A John Muir Trust community project involving composting toilets and additional car parking at Blabheinn, Skye, was another successful application.

Additional money has also been invested by the council in the other iconic sites on Skye,

including the Fairy Pools (£100,000 from the council and £200,000 from LEADER), Quiraing (£90,000 from the council) and Neist Point (£65,000 from the council).

Glenfinnan in Lochaber secured £269,906 of funding for additional parking to cater for 100 cars and 10 motorhomes and buses. This will improve the visitor experience of the large number of tourists attracted to the viaduct and steam train after seeing the location featured in the popular Harry Potter films.

The Glenfinnan project is waiting to hear if it has secured match funding from LEADER, due to be announced yesterday, October 31.

Members agreed details of further projects would be shared with the council's tourism working group prior to submission to a second round of the Rural Infrastructure Fund. The council is planning to submit up to 20 expressions of interest although the final number may change if additional community projects are brought forward before the deadline.

Chairman of the environment, development and infrastructure committee, councillor Allan Henderson said: "This is good news for the Highlands and I would like to recognise the work of all the staff and community leaders who have driven these projects forward."

Retro Roamer

fort@obantimes.co.uk

More Roamerisms from the early 1990s

■ Some weather, eh? And, in the midst of the worst of the rain, poor George arrives at the office here, soaked to the oilskin, bearing a missive from Lochaber District Council. Copies of the document were also to be distributed to other parts of the High Street. So Dripping George went off to make the deliveries. I opened our envelope. The one small note inside advised that 'The relevant papers are exempt - and, therefore, are not for public viewing'.

■ I see that the Alex has been devising 'Designer Menus' for recent and forthcoming functions. For example, at the Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team dinner dance, the various courses were labelled in climbing order – The Ascent, The Lochan, The Ridge, The Range, The Descent, and – The Refresher. And the dishes included Glen Mist Soup, Steak Glen Nevis, Watt's Misty Cream Syllabus, and Fresh Ground Mountain Crag Coffee. Then, at the Belford dinner dance, the five courses were prescribed and described as The Pre-Med, Casualty, Theatre, On the Ward and Out Patients. The roast beef had incisions and sutures all over it. 'After Care Mints' followed. Oh, and for the 'Carriages' the instruction was 'Ambulances at 1.30am'. Aye, the guests certainly received some treatment.

■ Meanwhile, the Mallaigites held their annual Hallowe'en come Guy Fawkes party in the village hall. Organised by Mallaig Community Council, the fancy dress 'do' was, as always, well attended. And, indeed, some of the guisers embarked on the sincerest form of flattery. Thus, one of the principal prize winners, wearing dungarees, carrying a coil of electrical cable, and sporting a balding (slightly) wig was dressed as 'The King of Seagull City'. And, apparently, she didn't feel a right Charlie at all. Indeed, the chairman of Lochaber District Council's Environment Committee, Councillor Charlie King, a long-serving electrician in real life, was quite chuffed with the lady's impersonation.

■ Cameron Highlanders recalled. From the very early 1960s. Just prior to the amalgamation of the QOCH and Seaforth Highlanders in 1961, a troop train carrying Lochaber members of the Camerons and the local TA boys, double-headed off overnight to Catterick. On board there was drink taken. Which explains why, at two o'clock in the morning, a couple

of the An Gearasdan representatives were making their way along the darkened corridor. In true Skeesh and Allan fashion they were hollering, at the top of their voices 'Last call for dinner now, please!' The result was that a great number of Camerons (79 some say), came charging through the train, brandishing knives, forks and mess tins. Many of them were clamouring around the CO's sleeping compartment, demanding to know where the grub was. There wasn't any, of course, and in the cold light of day when all the men were duly paraded at Catterick the CO was furious. 'If I get the culprits who were shouting, 'Last call for dinner', it'll be their last call as a Cameron,' he bellowed. No names; no pack drill.

■ Spare a thought for the local van driver who was delayed on the A830. 'That's the second time this year I've been stuck behind a HOUSE on the Mallaig road,' he fretted. Previously he had been held up for ages at Craigag Bridge during chalet manoeuvres. This time he had been one of the victims of the Beasdale Bridge fiasco. Clearly, 'Chalets are not his darling'.

■ A Plantation housewife came home by taxi. Complete with offspring, pushchair, rolls of wallpaper and four carrier bags of messages. Up the stairs with offspring, push chair and wallpaper. Leaving the shopping on the pavement till she could come back down for it. But, as soon as she retraced her steps she found – what the locals still refer to as the 'dustcart' or 'ashcart' in the act of swallowing up her four carrier bags. However, as befits LDC's current policy the lads on duty were able to 'salvage' some of the shopping before it was too late.

■ AA patrolman Mickey Miller went down to the Glasgow Motor Show. 'It wasn't all that great,' he was telling me. And Mickey certainly wasn't impressed when a bloke came up to him and offered to sell him AA membership. 'I almost felt like telling him I was with the RAC,' Mickey said when he got back home.

■ Two related Caol worthies had a memorable Saturday night out on the bevvvy. However, they weren't so well shot that they hadn't forgotten to plank a half-full half bottle in the house to provide the hair of the Sunday morning dog. And so it was that they pocketed the half bottle, and took to the Canal Bank around 11am. Out it came. Followed by a hearty swig by the winner of the toss-the-coin elimination. Then a splutter. Next, a couple of swear words. It seems that the wily woman of the house had come upon the half bottle earlier that morning when she was doing a bit of a tidy-up. Emptied it down the sink. And half filled it with cold tea.

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EXPERTS IN THE FIELD

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GOLF



Robert MacIntyre. Photograph: Bounce Sports.

MacIntyre in line for European Tour card

October has been quite the month for Oban golfer Robert MacIntyre.

With only the Ras Al Khaimah Challenge Tour Grand Final left to play, the Scot now sits inside the top 15 in the rankings for the first time following an eye-catching couple of weeks at the tail end of his debut season on the European Challenge Tour.

MacIntyre claimed the runner-up spot at the Foshan Open in China, narrowly losing out to Victor Perez in a play-off.

The 22-year-old started the weekend seven shots off the lead, but carded two bogey-free rounds of 64 and 65 to race up the leaderboard and put himself in contention.

A stunning holed-eagle putt from 80 feet on the 72nd hole initially gave MacIntyre a one stroke lead before Perez knocked down an equally impressive 40-foot birdie putt on the 18th to force a play-off. MacIntyre could not wrestle victory away from the Frenchman, who birdied the first extra hole to win. The Glencruitten golfer is no stranger to play-offs, having finished

second to Kim Koivu at the Vierumäki Finnish Challenge in August, when the Finn lifted his second title of the season.

Despite not triumphing in either play-off, MacIntyre, who only turned professional at the end of 2017, could complete his dramatic rise to the European Tour with a strong finish in Ras Al Khaimah this weekend.

The second place in China saw him leap from 34th to 13th place on the Road to Ras Al Khaimah, which builds on his recent run of results during his rookie Challenge Tour season.

The 2017 Walker Cup player finished tied 47th at the Hainan Open a week earlier and began October with a share of fourth at the Monaghan Irish Challenge.

At the start of the month he occupied 42nd place in the rankings, but has rocketed into the top 15, and is now looking to hold on to that coveted spot with the prospect of graduating to the European Tour at the conclusion of the Ras Al Khaimah Challenge Tour Grand Final.

Jags held at home against league strugglers

SLT	2
Eastwood Parkmount B	2
Greater Glasgow Premier AFL	

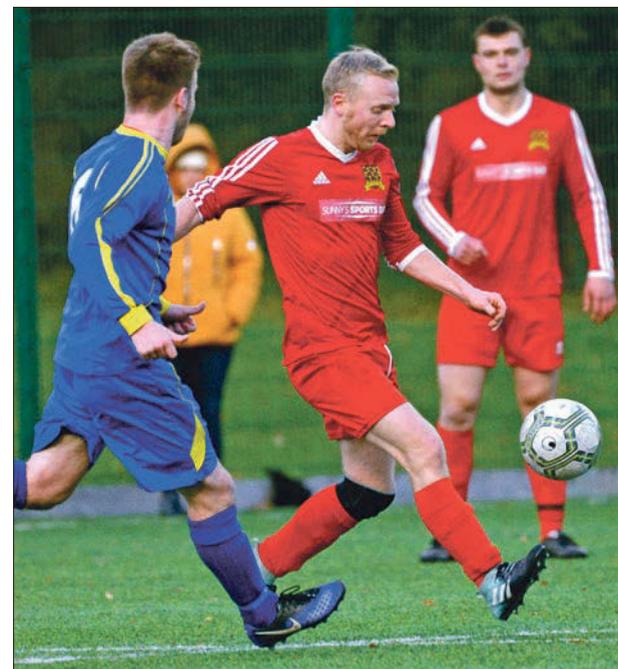
High flying South Lochaber Thistle were held to a 2-2 draw at home in a frustrating game against bottom of the league side Eastwood Parkmount B.

The Jags fielded a strong line up, which saw the return of stalwart Daniel MacIntosh to the attaching trident alongside impish wingers Sean Noble and skipper Martin Munro.

The game kicked off and saw Thistle immediately take control. The midfield of veteran Dave Forbes, Andy MacLean and Darren Duncan began moving the ball sharply with Forbes especially looking a cut above with several flicks and deft touches to open up space around the Eastwood midfielder.

However, it was the Muirend side who opened the scoring when a punted ball from their goalkeeper bounced over both the SLT midfield and back line allowing their front man to steal in and finish against the run of play.

Things were to go from bad to worse for the hosts as, mere minutes later, a similar ball caught the home side out again, this time allowing the Eastwood player to clip a tidy finish over the on-rushing Andrew Brown in the home side goal. Munro went close with a free kick, Noble had a strong penalty claim waved away by the referee and then Paul McFatridge had a promising header saved as the Jags continued to play decent



Darren Duncan launches an attack from midfield.

Photographs: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

football, especially in the middle of the park, but the game reached half time with the visitors still ahead.

The second half saw South Lochaber step up a gear and this was immediately rewarded as Munro capitalised on a slick series of passes to slot home with aplomb.

Thistle continued to press and were unlucky when Forbes was controversially adjudged to be offside as he turned in a Munro drive which the keeper spilt.

However, parity was restored soon after as Andrew Maclean powered in a header to level the scores at 2-2.

Frustratingly, that was how the game was to finish as Kieron Lopez, McFatridge and the full backs Shaun Hendrie and Keir Kennedy looked composed and accomplished at the back.

Thistle pressed for the winner but some solid scrambling defending kept Parkmount at bay and secured them their first league point of the season.

This Saturday, South Lochaber Thistle make the long trip south to play Division Three outfit Colquhoun United in the second round of the Bobby Thompson Challenge Cup.



Martin Munro out-sprints an Eastwood defender.

GETINTOUCH

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Fort William hit for six by Wick

Wick Academy	6
Fort William	0
Highland League	

Four second-half goals gave Wick Academy an emphatic win over league strugglers Fort William.

With the Fort travelling to Caithness with just one named substitute, it was always going to be a tough afternoon for the Lochaber club who remain on negative points this season after their nine-point deduction earlier this season.

Fort William started the match with gusto, typified by the captain getting booked after just 23 seconds.

Academy began to exert their influence on proceedings though and got the ball into the net but Gordon Macnab's effort was ruled offside.

Fort goalkeeper Mateusz Kulbacki was then called into action, pulling off a couple of great saves after 15 minutes before spectacularly saving Joe Steven's effort a few minutes later.

Wick finally got the breakthrough after 30 minutes from a Gary Manson penalty after Sam MacKay was fouled in area by Jordan Morrison. With Fort still reeling from conceding the first goal, Wick got a quick second for the Scories when Andrew Hardwick back-heeled a loose

ball into the Fort net.

Just before the half time break, Kulbacki saved Fort William again, this time denying David Allan who continued to rampage forward.

With the score at 2-0 the Fort would perhaps be the more content team at half time and were fending off the waves of Wick attacks well.

However, just 10 minutes into the second half, Hardwick scored his second and Academy's third. With just over an hour gone, Wick got their fourth after Davie Allan set up Joe Steven to effectively put the game to bed.

After Jack Halliday was hauled down in the Fort box in the 70th minute, Wick were awarded a second pen-

alty. Hardwick stepped up and dispatched the spot kick to secure his hat-trick and Academy's fifth.

The Fort endeavoured to make their own breakthrough but it never came, despite the efforts of John Treasurer and Joshua Knowles up front.

David Allan finished off the scoring for Wick on the 77th minute after netting from an Alan Hughes cross to make it six for the home side.

The win leaves Fort William adrift at the foot of the table on minus eight points, while Academy move up to eighth.

The Fort were in action last night (Wednesday) before the *Lochaber Times* went to press and will play Huntly at home at Claggan Park this Saturday.



Left to right: Mark McPherson, with his silver mounted caman presented in recognition of his achievements as manager; Cam Clark, under 17 player of the year; Aidan Love, under 14 player of the year; Robbie McFadyen, first team player of the year; Ally Macintyre, club chairman; Connor McAllister, most improved under 17 player and second team player of the year; and Kyle Nolan, most improved under 14 player.

Photographs: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Kilmallie celebrate shinty season success at annual awards night

Players, coaches and supporters celebrated the end of Kilmallie Shinty Club's season on Saturday at its annual awards night dance.

The evening topped off a great season for the Caol-based side which saw them clinch the National Division title to win promotion to the Premier League and narrowly miss out on a Camanachd Cup final after a dramatic penalty shoot-out in the semi final to the tournament's eventual winners Newtonmore.

Manager Mark MacPherson bows out as Kilmallie manager after guiding the first



Kilmallie manager Mark MacPherson with team captain Liam MacDonald.

team back to the top-flight. MacPherson followed up on his Camanachd Association National Division Coach of

the Year award by being presented with a silver mounted caman in recognition for all he has done for the club over the past four years.

John Stewart will take over the managerial reins this month.

Robbie MacFadyen won first team player of the year award, while Cam Clark, Aidan Love, Connor MacAllister and Kyle Nolan all won awards. Liam MacDonald was named the Camanachd Association National Division player of the year.

Ten-pin bowling league returns for new season

Lochaber ten-pin bowlers have recently started up their leagues again at the Nevis Centre in Fort William.

The competitions are again supported by Lochaber Building Supplies.

After the first week there are five teams, Alleycats, Council, British Legion Fort William, 'Old Spice' Girls and Retrovators at the top of the scratch division with the maximum five points.

In the handicap division 'Old Spice' Girls are the only team with the maximum five points followed by Alleycats, Council, British Legion Fort William and Triple 'B' all on three points.

Individually the best game in week one came from Brian Johnstone, Alleycats, with 188.

Also this week Gus Fraser, Council, rolled a 186 and Tony Weldon, British Legion Fort William, rolled a 175. Brian Johnstone also had the top two game scratch series with 322 and the best two game handicap series with 384.

Gus Fraser had the best handicap game of 220.

The best team scores of the week came from Alleycats with the top scratch game of 615, top two game scratch series of 1,154 and the top two game handicap series of 1,510 whilst Council had the top handicap game of 807.



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WEATHER

Thursday
Light rain showers and a gentle breeze from the west
Temperatures
4°C to 9°C.

Friday
Light rain and a moderate breeze from the south
Temperatures
9°C to 10°C.

Weekend Outlook
Saturday
Light rain showers and a fresh breeze
Sunday
Light rain showers and a moderate breeze
Temperatures
7°C to 13°C.



TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday November 1, 2018** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

	05.22	1.5	11.30	3.2
Thur	18.33	1.7	***	**
Fri	01.24	3.0	06.41	1.5
	13.46	3.3	20.07	1.6
Sat	02.37	3.2	07.58	1.4
	14.49	3.5	21.14	1.3
Sun	03.29	3.4	09.03	1.2
	15.35	3.8	22.02	1.1
Mon	04.09	3.6	09.56	0.9
	16.13	4.0	22.43	1.0
Tues	04.42	3.8	10.42	0.8
	16.48	4.1	23.20	0.9
Wed	05.14	4.0	11.25	0.7
	17.22	4.2	23.55	0.8

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

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

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

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

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



INSIDE THIS WEEK:
Kilmallie celebrate shinty season success at annual awards night

NORTH WEST MARINE
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AND TIDES - SEE PAGE 55

Fort FC close to £2,000 mark in funding push

After launching a crowd-funding campaign to raise extra cash for club funds, Fort William FC has raised almost 20 per cent of the total in just one week.

The club has begun a campaign to raise £10,000 to go towards paying for and providing the vital equipment and maintenance needed to improve the Claggan Park playing surface and to make it more resilient to the harsh Lochaber winters. In recent years, the number of call-offs to matches have led to fixture pile-ups and training cancellations which leave the squads stretched at a later stage in the season.

The club's campaign statement said: 'The harsh reality is this is year one and we are building all over from scratch again. If you would like to help with a donation it would go a long way to increasing our chances of remaining alive as a football club and more so competing consistently in the Highland League.'

Donations ranging from £10 to £100 and from as far afield as Australia and Canada have helped get the fundraising total up to just short of the £2,000 mark, just after a week of going live with the campaign. The club were on the verge of leaving the Highland League at the end of last season but the players and backroom staff voted to remain league members. The team were docked nine points earlier this season for fielding an ineligible player and currently sit on minus eight points and without a win so far this season.

To donate, visit the Fort William FC Crowdfunding page which can be accessed via the club's Facebook page.

Beaten at Banavie for first time this season

Lochaber's unbeaten home record comes crashing to an end

Lochaber	19
Glasgow Uni Medics	57
Tennent's West Division 3	

Lochaber's unbeaten home record came crashing to an end on Saturday as title challengers Glasgow University Medics swept aside the home side at Banavie.

The medics won both legs of this fixture last season but with Lochaber flying high at home in the league and the medics racking up a 100-point victory in their last outing against Moffat, Saturday's encounter was bound to be full of action.

But it was the visitors who were the first to get off the mark after a bright start to the match. The first point of the game came from some quick hands from the medics to get the ball out to their equally quick backs who were able to ship the ball out wide, cutting through Lochaber's defence twice to score two early tries, with Alasdair Davidson managing to charge down the conversion from the first try.

Lochaber hit back almost immediately after the medics' second try.

After a high ball, Lochaber pressed them deep in their own half and forced the mistake through a knock on.

A solid scrum from Lochaber allowed number eight Conor Taylor to pick the ball from the back of the



James Young, Alasdair Davidson and William Stewart descend on the medics in possession.

Photographs: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

scrum, with defenders falling off him as he made his way across the line to score with Jonathan McCook converting to make it 7-12.

Lochaber were struggling to contain a well-drilled medics team, who seemed to have endless support for the ball

carrier making it hard to defend against. The visitors ran in more tries in the first half, but Lochaber got their second try of the afternoon after being awarded a penalty deep in the medics' half - only the second time they had been in the medics' 22. This time



Lochaber centre Calum Boyd fends off his opposite number.

Lochaber set a penalty move straight from the training ground and once again it was Taylor who smashed his way through the medics defence to score in the corner. McCook converted from the side line to make it 14-38 at half time.

In the second half the neither teams could find a break though for the first 20 minutes before the medics eventually cut through Lochaber's defence to score. Lochaber got their third try with around 10 minutes remaining when some quick hands out left got captain Callum MacDonald on the ball. He still had a lot

of work to do but with his pace and strength he was able to brush a couple of tackles and stretched to score in the corner. Unfortunately in the act of scoring he dislocated his shoulder, which is a potential season ending injury. The medics scored a further two tries to make the final score Lochaber 19 - 57 Glasgow University Medics. This Saturday Lochaber travel to Hyndland where they will be looking for their second away win of the season after narrowly losing at the end of the game last season. Kick off is 2pm at Scotstoun Stadium.

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For further information:

Margaret Mulholland, Gaelic Team, Highland Council on
01463 702409 or margaret.mulholland@highland.gov.uk

