

## MONEY MATTERS

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BENDERLOCH & N. CONNELL DRAMA CLUB

## Cinderella

6th - 8th December  
Corran Halls, Oban

For full details see page 31

# Black Lynn footpath to get flood barrier

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Christmas could be coming early after all for flood-fearing Hugh Carmichael with the good news that Argyll and Bute Council is to put up a flood prevention barrier near his home.

Earlier this week the 64-year-old, whose home was left nine inches under water after the Black Lynn burst its banks in October, told *The Oban Times* he was going to cancel Christmas because he had nothing to celebrate.

Flood water that lethally rose above plug sockets in his home off Soroba Road had left him begging the council for help and after no updates in the last two months, he was feeling 'ignored, made a fool of and left in limbo'.

With carpets still up and worrying that before the year was out his home could be flooded for the seventh time with the threat of heavy winter rains, Mr Carmichael was 'at breaking point', he

said. But when *The Oban Times* asked Argyll and Bute Council on Mr Carmichael's behalf what was happening to help him, a spokesperson revealed it had procured a low-level flood prevention barrier and was going to raise the threshold of the Black Lynn along the footpath near his home.

Mr Carmichael, who had called for the burn to be dredged to reduce the risk of flooding, said he was 'over the moon' but wished someone had told him sooner.

'I know it's not a guaranteed fix but it's better than nothing and I'm over the moon.'

'At least we can start looking round the house now to make a start getting things back to normal - even if it's just lino in the kitchen that we can quickly pull up if the water comes up again,' he said.

Mr Carmichael, who has arthritis, still wants to see the Black Lynn dredged. He says the narrowest part of it has

Continued on page 11



Linda and Marco MacGregor and Jaime and Alfie MacIntyre met Desmond the Dragon at last weekend's Winter in the Woods event. The enchanted woodland trail in Glencruitten was a special addition to this year's Oban Winter Festival. For more photographs, see pages four, five, six and seven. 17\_T48\_WinterFestivalSaturday17

## Police investigate missing funds

Police are investigating the whereabouts of £18,000 that was made from the sale of Dunbeg Village Hall.

The hall, on Etive Road, was sold in 1988 and was later knocked down to build the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses. However, after failing to find any trace of the money this year, Dunbeg Community Council has contacted the police.

A police spokesman said: 'On Monday November 5, police received a report of the theft of money from an organisation in Dunbeg.' Inquiries are ongoing.

## Apology over late mail deliveries

Royal Mail has apologised to customers in Oban who have experienced late deliveries.

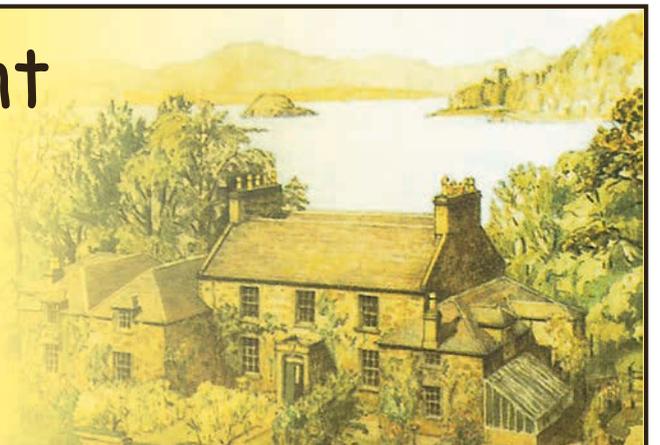
One Oban resident said letters were arriving every two to three days, instead of daily, which resulted in missed hospital appointments.

A Royal Mail spokesperson said: 'Unfortunately we have had some unusually high levels of sick absence lately. We have drafted in extra staff. As of today [Tuesday] normal service has resumed.'

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## Schools pipe band contest grows

A schools piping competition which is already the biggest in the world is set to grow further.

Organisers of next year's Scottish Schools Pipe Band Championships say they expect more than 150 schools to be represented.

Event organiser Patrick Gascoigne said the predicted boost is based on the number of pupils being taught in programmes run by the Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums Trust.

## Tobermory festive lights switch-on

Tobermory is getting ready for its Christmas Lights switch on and Christmas shopping night, which takes place tomorrow (Friday November 30).

With the annual event running from 6-10pm, it's one of the island's favourite events of the year, offering free festive nibbles, drinks and good cheer.

Meet at the clock at 7pm to see the magical Main Street's Christmas lights switched on.

# 'Unforgivable mistake' almost cost family much-loved pet

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A mum landed with a £2,500 vet bill has described how her much-loved Labrador narrowly avoided being put to sleep after what she says was a mistaken cancer diagnosis.

Paulina Gorecka told *The Oban Times* she was heart-broken when she was told 10-year-old Lennox was 'only going to get worse' and it would be 'best' for him to be put down.

Lennox, who was a surprise gift from Mrs Gorecka's husband after she had a late miscarriage, had been prescribed antibiotics for a cough and breathlessness but his condition had not improved.

Worried Mrs Gorecka, who has a 16-year-old daughter and lives in Dunollie, took Lennox back to the vet who

x-rayed his lungs. 'He told me Lennox was very poorly and that his lungs were squashed. I started crying.

'He said it would only get more difficult for him to breathe because of the fluid around his lungs. He said he's 10 years old, he's in double figures and not young anymore.

'He said he was more than sure it was cancer, that he was only going to get worse and it would be best for him to be put to sleep,' she said.

Mrs Gorecka said it was 'hellish' news and she asked the vet to repeat his prognosis on the phone to her husband, who was ill in Inverness hospital at the time.

'We were devastated. We love Lennox like our child. He is my baby, he's so important to our family. I was desperate for my husband to see Lennox first. I took Lennox home



Paulina Gorecka with doted-on Lennox who is fit and well.

with me. The vet rang later to say he had double-checked with another vet who agreed with him that it was cancer. My heart was broken. I ended up on tablets from the doctor and got signed off from work with stress. I could not sleep or eat. I could not cope,' she said.

When Lennox seemed to pick up, a stunned Mrs Gorecka rang the vet to say she was not ready to have her pet put to sleep.

'I could not believe Lennox had cancer, he seemed fine. I rang vets in Glasgow for advice but they wanted to see him for themselves. When I asked the vet in Oban to make an appointment for us to go to

Glasgow for a second opinion he first refused because he said he was not sure Lennox would survive the journey. When I asked him again, he did make a referral,' she said.

After four hours in the care of Vetsnowreferral in Glasgow, Mrs Gorecka was given the good news that Lennox's lungs were clear apart from a little fluid.

A report from the Glasgow vet said Lennox had come to them for further investigation of a lung problem, 'pre-emptively diagnosed as a haemothorax'.

This is a collection of blood in the chest, one of the causes of which can be a tumour.

'The Glasgow vets said they

could not agree with the Oban diagnosis and Lennox was medically fine. Two days later they confirmed from blood tests there was no cancer. He needed no medication at all. We nearly lost him because of an unforgivable mistake,' she said.

Mrs Gorecka said the combined vets bill came to £2,500 which included a CT scan in Glasgow costing £1,500. The Oban bill amounted to £350. The bills will be covered by Lennox's insurance, but the ordeal has left Mrs Gorecka deeply upset.

'My advice is not to let your pets be written off because of old age, make sure you have insurance and get a second opinion if you can,' she said.

Mrs Gorecka lodged a complaint with the veterinary practice in Oban on November 16 and received a reply confirming the complaint would be forwarded to the vet in question and she should get in touch if Lennox fell ill again.

When *The Oban Times* approached Oban Veterinary Surgeons in Tweeddale Street, the surgery declined to comment due to client confidentiality.

The vet did invite Mrs Gorecka in for a meeting on Saturday which went ahead.

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## Crash scenario targets young drivers

Emergency services will stage a real-time crash scenario in Oban next week in a bid to reduce road deaths.

Rescue services and young actors will be at Mossfield Stadium on Monday December 3 from 2.15pm until 3.15pm re-enacting what happens at a crash scene, starting with a call for help to the police. The idea is to show

what the horrific consequences of speeding and lack of concentration in cars can be.

The crash scenario, being organised in partnership with Youth Services and the emergency services, was requested as part of a year of Young People 2018 consultation in Argyll and Bute after the area's younger residents put safety top of their list of

reasons why they love living and growing up here.

'The aim of the scenario is to make young people stop and think hard about their driving which will hopefully reduce future collisions and fatalities on Argyll and Bute's roads,' said Verina Litster, a road safety partner spokesman at Lochgilphead Community Fire Station.

## 2019 Oban flower show mothballed

Oban and Lorn Horticultural Society has mothballed next year's show due to lack of support.

The society's show in August saw an increase in entries after an appeal in *The Oban Times* but that interest has since wilted. Current secretary Sharon Black said notices of the annual general meeting earlier this month

were sent out to everyone who exhibited or had exhibited in the past but only four turned up. One apology was received.

Society chairperson Fiona Morrison said the decision to mothball the society and its show for next year had been taken. 'We were encouraged this year to see an increase in entries, especially children. However, the decision to

cancel next year was reached as we were unable to fill the roles of secretary, treasurer and vice chairman,' she said.

Anyone interested in finding out more about becoming involved in the society should contact show manager David Hodge or current secretary Sharon Black at kirvid@tiscali.co.uk. There are only four meetings every year.

## POLICE files

About 8pm on November 19, in Corran Brae, Oban, a man, aged 42, was arrested for breaching bail conditions. The man was charged, held for court and a report was submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

About 3.30am on November 21 at Albany Street, Oban, a 29-year-old man was arrested for behaving in an abusive manner. He was charged, held for court and a report was submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

About 10.30pm on Saturday November 24, in Stafford Street, Oban, two women aged 37 and 33 years were arrested after a man was assaulted. The 33-year-old woman was also charged with stealing alcohol. The women were charged and a report was submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

If anyone has information in relation to the above, call local police office on telephone number 101.

# Work starts on vital path through Ledaig

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Children cycling or walking to Lochnell Primary School from North Connel can look forward to a safer route to lessons next spring.

Work has started on a 2.5km path running through Ledaig Caravan Park which will complete a vital section along the National Cycle Network Route 78, known as the Caledonia Way.

Dr Andrew Henderson, a founding member of a petition group calling for the extension of Route 78 in Ledaig, said: 'The project will make it much easier for children, particularly from

North Connel, to cycle to school through a much safer and friendlier environment.

'The local community was able to add its voice and Sustrans was very supportive in listening to what we had to say. We are very encouraged. This is an excellent outcome.'

The link means the communities of North Connel, Ledaig and Benderloch will be connected.

Work has also started on another 3.5km link path between Dalnatrat and Duror near Appin, with about 2km of the stretch crossing the Highland Titles Nature Reserve.

In all, the latest work will see a total of 6km of traffic-free route created, being delivered

by Sustrans Scotland in partnership with Argyll and Bute Council, consultants Jacobs and contractors McGowan Ltd.

National Cycle Network Route 78 currently runs along a busy A828 trunk road and it is hoped the new paths, which are being funded by Transport Scotland through Sustrans Scotland's National Cycle Network development fund, means residents and visitors will be able to explore the area by foot and bike.

Sustrans Scotland Engineer and Project Manager Paul Cronin said the organisation will be working closely with community councils and access groups to make sure the development of the path is safe and attractive for everyone to use.

As part of the Route 78 projects, Sustrans Scotland and Jacobs have also started



Construction work starts on the Ledaig path.

delivering a programme of classes in primary schools based around science, technology, engineering and maths to encourage children to get involved with the new route and how they might use it.

Marylin Macdonald, associate head teacher of Duror Primary School, said the new

path will be 'a huge asset' to the school. 'We hope to use this for Bikeability Training and for our Daily Mile, and it will no doubt increase the number of children cycling to school by providing a much safer route,' she said.

The Ledaig and Duror paths are both expected to be completed by spring 2019.



The Dove Centre celebrated its first birthday last week. 17\_T48\_DoveCentre01

## Dove Centre celebrates first anniversary

An Oban support centre celebrated its one year anniversary last Thursday.

Oban Hospice's Dove Centre, on 24 Stevenson Street, offers 'friendly and informal' support to those with life limiting conditions.

As well as providing information and advice, the centre issues alternative therapy, specialist massages and bereavement support.

Oban Hospice chairman David Entwistle said: 'It has been great. Peter and Lucy Hind are the two employees that we have.'

'We have had a number of new groups developed over the last 12 months.

'Between 45 and 60 people

attend here every week. It offers people a relaxed informal atmosphere - something different.

'More importantly, it offers people hope and a place to come and have a bit of peace and quiet.'

Dove Centre manager Peter Darling said: 'We have been open a year, but I feel we have been open a lot longer than that - we are just so well established.'

'Myself and Lucy are employed here but we have a fantastic team of volunteers.'

One group Peter highlighted was the Men's Group which meets every Friday morning.

One attendee, Murdoch MacDougall, said: 'I lost my

wife four years ago, but because of this group I am able to talk about it.'

At first, Murdoch was reluctant to attend the centre. When advised by a friend, he said: 'I don't want to go and listen to morbid stories.'

After some persuasion, the former Barra man said he would go to keep him happy.

'I ended up staying for the whole morning and have been coming ever since,' Murdoch said.

'It's a group of guys who talk about everything but cancer. It's like going and talking to a group of guys in the pub.'

For more information, visit [www.obanhospice.org.uk](http://www.obanhospice.org.uk) or call 01631 561315.

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OT

# Thousands enjoy Oban Winter Festival

## ... and there is more still to come



Diane MacLean, Stevo Finlayson and Angela Anderson enjoyed the gig in the Igloo Dome. 17\_T48\_WinterFestivalFriday01



Neon Sheeba opened the music night at Mossfield. 17\_T48\_WinterFestivalFriday02

by David McPhee  
dmphee@obantimes.co.uk

Whether you were watching fireworks, attending Winter in the Woods, or dancing in an inflatable igloo, this year's Oban Winter Festival was one to remember – and there is still one weekend left.

The food and craft markets were as popular as ever, with around 4,000 people attending the event at Oban Distillery. The enchanted woodland trail in Glencruitten was a special addition this year and was deemed 'absolutely amazing' by attendees. Fireworks at McCaig's Tower made some spectacular scenes and an international audience enjoyed whisky paired with foraged food in the Corran Halls.

The festival is made possible thanks to committee members Pamela Lockhart, David Smith, Karen MacKie, Louis Barrow, and David Finlayson, with support from Eleanor

MacKinnon, as well as the whole community.

'It's very much a community thing,' explained a committee spokesperson. 'If you need any help, if you go to someone they help you straight away.'

About the festival as a whole, the committee spokesperson said: 'It was fantastic – the weather was great and the events were all well attended.'

'The Winter in the Woods was particularly popular. The feedback from that has been really good and people want it to happen again.'

'The finale parade was huge and everyone was happy. Everyone was coming into the distillery with a smile. The fireworks were great.'

In addition to the fireworks, Louis Barrow orchestrated a light show to take place at the same time.

'Another highlight was the Gary Goldie [foraged food and whisky pairing] event, which attracted an interna-

tional audience. There have been requests for this event to be repeated,' the spokesperson added.

'Thanks to all the volunteers. The festival could not take place without them or without the events.'

The celebrations continue this weekend as part of St Andrew's Day.

There will be a ceilidh in The View on Friday night from 7.30pm which will feature music from the Oban High School Traditional School of Music.

And on Saturday a Young Entrepreneur Market will take place at Oban Distillery from 10am until 4pm. Rockfield choir will be singing in the Perle Hotel at 2pm.

As well as this, there will be Gaelic conversations and Bookbug sessions taking place in the Corran Halls from 10.30am and Oban Phoenix Cinema will be showcasing a Scottish zombie film at 8pm.



'Keep calm and eat cake' say Marek and Agnieszka Kupszak. 17\_T48\_WinterFestivaSaturday03



Nicola Wilson and Kay MacDonald from Oban and Lorn Lions Club created and sold bespoke Christmas baubles. 17\_T48\_WinterFestivaSaturday02



The Oban Winter Festival Market in the Corran Halls. 17\_T48\_WinterFestivaSaturday04



Elio, Alfie, Marco, and Jaime show off the Christmas decorations they made. 17\_T48\_WinterFestivaSaturday05



Volunteers from the Rotary Club of Oban worked smoothly. 17\_T48\_WinterFestivalSunday10



A creative beach clean-up took place on Sunday, which involved answering questions and picking up plastic. 17\_T48\_WinterFestivalSunday02

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# Oban Winter Festival



Left: Alex and Edie Elliott were selling their products at the market in the Corran Halls on Saturday.  
17\_T48\_WinterFestivaSaturday01



Right: Ruaridh MacKechnie, Ella MacKechnie, and Esme Tosh attended the Rebel Writing Fair at the Rockfield Centre on Saturday.  
17\_T48\_WinterFestivaSaturday07



David Guerra entertained people who attended the food and craft market at the distillery on Saturday.  
17\_T48\_WinterFestivaSaturday06



Rona Dougall, Jamie Livingston, Kirsty MacDonald and Mara Dougall organised the pop-up art and book festival at the Rockfield Centre. 17\_T48\_WinterFestivaSaturday08



More winter festival photos on pages six and seven

Mary's Meals in Oban was graced by royalty on Saturday.  
17\_T48\_WinterFestivaSaturday09



Oban ensured the parade ran



Freya-Rose Files and Helen James met with Santa and Erin the Elf on Sunday in the Rockfield Centre.  
17\_T48\_WinterFestivalSunday01



John Ackroyd picks up the Golden Haggis on behalf of McCaskie Butchers from Keith Fisher from the Institute of Meat. 17\_T48\_WinterFestivalSunday04

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OT

# Glencruitten Woods



Amy Williams, Colin Oman and Natalie Pacitti, enjoyed the Winter in the Woods event. 17\_T48\_WinterFestivaSaturday11



Glencruitten Woods like you've never seen it before. 17\_T48\_WinterFestivaSaturday18



Desmond the Dragon and his assistant Den in Glencruitten . 17\_T48\_WinterFestivaSaturday13



There was a bear in the Glencruitten Woods. 17\_T48\_WinterFestivaSaturday15



Drew Lucas and Keri Treeby met Desmond the Dragon. 17\_T48\_WinterFestivaSaturday12

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Coolio waves goodbye to Oban Winter Festival for another year. 17\_T48\_WinterFestivalSunday08



Danny and Jack Baker with the Ice C...



Funky Chicken entertainers perform with fire at Oban Distillery. 17\_T48\_WinterFestivalSunday09



Oban High School Pipe Band led th Street. 17\_T48\_WinterFestivalSunday07

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# come alive

Jamie and Amy Barr met the Ice Queen at the end of the festival at Glencruitten Woods.



The festival ended with a bang. 17\_T48\_WinterFestivalSunday12



Queens. 17\_T48\_WinterFestivalSunday03



This table enjoyed their VIP gin and tea experience.

17\_T48\_WinterFestivalSunday05



Another table who enjoyed their teapot filled with gin.

17\_T48\_WinterFestivalSunday06



The finale parade through George



Right: The food and craft market at Oban Distillery.

17\_T48\_WinterFestivaSaturday16

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# SMILE DESIGN

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OT

# Hania's art wins safari park trip for her class

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk



Young Hania Loboda is popular with her Caol Primary School primary four classmates but even more so now, after her artistic talents secured a trip to Blair Drummond Safari Park for her entire class.

More than 100 primary pupils from Fort William and Oban entered the recent competition to draw an oil tanker, organised by the firm Oilfast.

Oban councillor Roddy McCuish had the tough task of choosing just one winner out of all the entries from Caol primary and pupils at Rockfield school in Oban.

'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.



Hania Loboda receives her award of a glass trophy and day out to Blair Drummond Safari Park for her whole class, from Dail Beattie, area director, Oilfast, Oban.

The challenge was for youngsters to draw an Oilfast tanker and Hania'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 help keep them safe when they walk to school.

Oilfast has been based near

Oban Airport for almost two years and the company's Graeme Edment said the competition came about because Oilfast believed it was its duty to support the communities that in turn supported its business.

'As a result of this ethos, we created the Draw a Tanker competition. This was de-



signed to promote health and safety with the chance to win an educational prize, but in a fun way that engaged and energised the local kids,' Mr Edment said.

'We discovered that the pupils from Rockfield primary and Caol primary are required to wear hi-vis jackets to and from schools in order to stay safe on the roads, but these are usually paid for by the schools. To alleviate the schools' budget, we gifted each participating pupil with a hi-vis jacket.'

To make things more fun, the winning class also scoops

an educational class trip to Blair Drummond Safari Park, fully funded by Oilfast. And Hania also received a £30 book voucher and an engraved glass award as a personal gift.

Oilfast received more than 100 entries from pupils across both schools and the standard was nothing short of impressive.

Mr Edment commented: 'I am still truly amazed at the talent of each and every one of these young pupils from around the area. We would like to thank all the pupils who have participated in the competition as you have truly strengthened our ethos at Oilfast and hopefully inspired more local businesses to do more for their community.'

'And a big thank you also to all of our loyal customers who allow us to continue helping our local community as without your support, it would not be possible.'

## Rockfield waiting 'for new life'

Oban Communities Trust is working hard to complete the project for the Rockfield buildings to become a community centre, writes Jack MacGregor.

The past year has seen 8,400 hours donated to further progress the project.

A spokesperson for Oban Communities Trust said: 'The volunteering that goes on behind the scene to allow lots of events to happen is amazing and we cannot thank enough all the volunteers who step forward when asked to assist.'

The tender process is almost complete and the trust plans to announce a contractor soon. The spokesperson added: 'So far in place there are advisory groups for heritage, arts/culture and well-being. This brings in really practical experience and learning which is then fed back to the board to influence and support user space development in the main building.'

The main building is 'dry and stable, just waiting for its new life to begin'.

## Hollywood to Haiti: film star Gerard shares a Mary's Meal

Hollywood actor Gerard Butler has learned a lesson in love from Dalmally-run charity Mary's Meals.

The Scottish film star has been visiting Haiti to highlight the work of the charity, still overseen by its founder Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow from a shed near his home.

The celebrity, whose home was partially destroyed in the recent Californian wildfires, said it had been 'an eventful couple of weeks' but he had been 'cheered up to no end by these beautiful souls who, despite living in a country that has gone through so much hardship, have nothing but love to give. A real lesson for me right now.'

He tweeted that Mary's Meals' work transformed communities and it was such a simple idea that worked really well.

Mary's Meals feeds more than 40,000 children in Haiti every day with volunteers preparing a nutritious school meal of rice and beans with a tasty sauce made from vegetables and fish.

Gerard shared a meal



Gerard Butler in Haiti with Mary's Meals.

with pupils at Ecole Communautaire Saint Michel de Morne Mouton in the town of Mirebalais. He travelled to the Caribbean with Mary's Meals' founder and global chief executive Mr MacFarlane-Barrow.

Haiti is the poorest country in the Americas - three in every four people struggle to survive on less than \$2 a day and more than half the population does not have enough to eat.

In total, the charity feeds 1,361,586 children every school day in 17 countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America, Eastern Europe and the Caribbean.

Mr MacFarlane-Barrow

said: 'It's been a very moving few days meeting the children of Haiti whose lives are being changed by Mary's Meals. It's been particularly special with Gerry coming out again, so many memories that the communities here won't ever forget, and neither will we.'

The promise of a tasty meal encourages children who might otherwise skip lessons to work, beg or scavenge for food to go to school and gain an education that can provide an escape from poverty.

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To find out more, visit [marysmeals.org.uk](http://marysmeals.org.uk).

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# Tragedy puts focus on risk in agriculture

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A Loch Creran oyster farmer who drowned at work was one of five agricultural fatalities in Scotland in just 12 months.

The deaths have prompted a warning from a rural expert urging farmers to be vigilant.

Latest figures from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) show that 33 people across Britain were killed in agriculture in 2017/18 – three more than the previous year.

Dunbeg businessman Hugo Vajk, 62, died in January.

He had been transferring oysters to a float when it drifted away. Mr Vajk was found face down in Loch Creran after wading out to retrieve equipment.

Mr Vajk, originally from France, founded The Caledonian Oyster Company Ltd with his wife Judith, a family business that has been running for more than 22 years.

William Barne, of insurance firm Lycetts' Edinburgh office, said the increase in deaths across Britain in the past year cemented agriculture's reputation as the riskiest industry to work in. The total number of people killed in Scotland over a five-year period in agriculture was 34.

Mr Barne said: 'Agriculture's high fatality rate significantly outstrips that of other industries. It is more than five times higher than the second most-risky industry, construction, which really drives home just how hazardous an industry it

is. Farmers face potentially fatal risks on a daily basis, from working with unpredictable animals to potentially dangerous machinery, so protecting personal and employee health should be top priority.

'There have been great strides with regards to health and safety over the past decades, with the number of fatal injuries to workers in agriculture falling by around half since 1981 but we still have a huge way to go.'

Of the 33 deaths in the agricultural sector this year, four were members of the public, two of whom were children. Other agricultural deaths in Scotland included a 76-year-old self-employed farmer crushed by a bull when trying to move him.



Teenie Wilson looks on as children on Lismore get to grips with photography.

17\_t48\_LismorePhotographyClub

## Teenie's focus is on new children's club

The winner of the #myargyll photography competition has started a children's club on Lismore to help youngsters develop their camera skills.

Teenie Wilson, who wowed judges with her photograph of the sun setting over Glemsanda quarry, held a taster session earlier this month, which was well attended.

Teenie said: 'Following requests from a number of youngsters on the island, we were hoping to start a junior photography

club. We were fortunate, with the assistance of Lismore Community Trust, to be awarded some funding for the project.

'We had an excellent day. It went really well and the children loved it.

'They want us to start a regular club, so that will be the next step.'

Thanks to Wyvex Media and Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative, Teenie won a trip for two to Islay for winning the competition.

# WHAT'S ON @ CORRAN HALLS



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THUR  
06  
SAT  
08  
DEC



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Saturday 8th Matinee 2pm  
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Groups 10+ £8  
Reserved seating

SAT  
15  
DEC



**HIPSWAY**  
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Standing show

SAT  
22  
DEC



**SKIPINNISH**  
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## JANUARY

WED  
2  
JAN



**MANRAN**  
Doors 8pm Start 9pm  
All tickets £20  
+ £1 booking fee  
Standing show

FRI  
11  
JAN



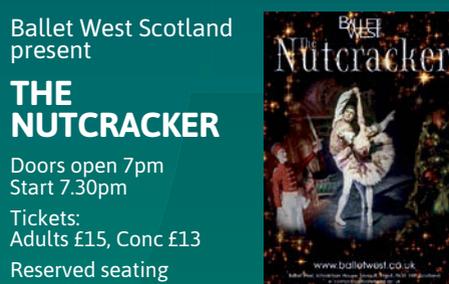
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OT

## Slow down and enjoy the season

Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

editor@obantimes.co.uk



I'm not sure if I'm coming or going just now. That's not unusual for me but this year everything seems to be going even faster so I've made a conscious decision to slow down and enjoy the season as it unfolds.

It's so easy to miss out on things because you're rushing from one thing to the other and not taking time to enjoy what you're doing because you're already thinking ahead and I don't think I'm alone in feeling like this.

So I'm going to concentrate on where I am and what I'm doing, even if it's a cuppa with a friend or some Christmas shopping. I'm going to listen to what's being said and enjoy my tea. I'm going to look in the shop windows and appreciate the work that's gone into creating them and I'm going to be thankful I have friends and family to spend time with and money to spend in the shops.

It's a time to appreciate the wonderful community we live in and all the wonderful events that others put on for us like the Oban Winter Festival and be grateful for all that we have while remembering people that aren't as fortunate as us.

We're lucky enough to live in a community that looks after those who need it with places like Hope Kitchen and The Dove Centre but sometimes all it takes is a kind word or five minutes of your time for a chat and that's something we can all be part of.

### WHERE IS THIS?



This year St Andrew's Day is being celebrated with the #makesomeoneday, asking everyone to celebrate the day by taking time to be kind which is a fantastic idea and too good to be limited to one day. I think we should all start practising now and maybe by November 30 we'll be experts.

The photograph last week was of the door to The Oban Times building in John Street beside Oban War and Peace Museum and this week is another central old building.

# New direction mental health

by David McPhee

dmcphoe@obantimes.co.uk



An Oban mental health support group will transform itself before the beginning of the New Year.

Andy's Man Club Oban will change its name to Martyn's Monday Club, named after Martyn Cruikshanks from Oban who died suddenly last year.

In addition to this, a women's peer-to-peer support group will also be established.

Diarmid MacMillan, who helps run the club, said: 'We are changing it to suit the community. We see a way into the schools and the college here and you can't do that with Andy's Man Club.'

However, the 'Monday Club' is currently only open to those ages 18-plus.

Diarmid added: 'We are looking forward to the new direction. We have held a meeting of interest for the women, which was successful and well attended. We had 22 people and got 10 volunteers out of that. The other reason, Andy's Man Club would not provide any training. This way, we can



Diarmid MacMillan, Billy Ferguson, Lorraine MacCormick and F

17\_T48\_Martyn'sMondayClub01

get training for the facilitators such as mental health first aid. Choose Life is going to provide use with the training. It is talking about coming to Oban to try and get everyone together.'

Diarmid said more than 50 men had attended the meetings.

Robert Cruikshanks, Martyn's father, said: 'It shows that there is a real need for it in the town. We cover everything and there's guys from all walks of life. It's been amazing for me and we have made a change to people's lives. You are here to help your-

## Black Lynn footpath to get flood barrier

Continued from page one.

not been cleared for decades and previously claimed the council told him environmental agency SEPA would not give it a licence to do the job because it would interfere with wildlife.

'Fish can swim away, ducks can fly away but I can't do either. I'm stuck here. I need help to protect my home and our lives,' he said. Before being told the latest news about the barrier, he complained: 'I've heard nothing from no-one - not a soul. Either the council is ignoring me or they are making a fool of me. Not a single thing has been done. We have cancelled Christmas. How can we have people round here? The floorboards are still bare. It's just a question of when we will be flooded again but the council just keep fobbing me

off. I'm in limbo just sitting here waiting for the heavy rains to come again. We are heartbroken.'

However, an Argyll and Bute spokesperson said: 'An operational measure has been to procure some low level flood control barrier which will be used to help raise the threshold of the Black Lynn along the footpath close to Mr Carmichael's house. Earlier this year, we launched an Oban flood study, as part of our Local Flood Risk Management Plan and received invaluable input from residents at a consultation in June. The study will offer up suggestions for ways of improving future flood situations.'

SEPA said sediment management of the burn was one option that will be assessed by the flood study and con-

firmed it had already met with the council and its consultant to discuss proposals and options.

Councillor Jim Lynch, who met with Mr Carmichael along with councillor Roddy McCuish, said: 'It's encouraging to know something is happening now. I hope it brings Mr Carmichael a bit of comfort. We'll be keeping an eye to see how quickly it happens.'

The October floods also left some Oban businesses facing damage and losses towards £100,000. One of them was Hire & Supplies in Mill Lane. Its manager Mary-Ann Murray went on record in *The Oban Times* saying its equipment yard, rented from the council, was turned into 'a raging sea'.

Mrs Murray had also called for the Black Lynn to be

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# for Oban group



Robert Cruikshanks.

'It's been amazing for me and we have made a change to people's lives.'

'There's five questions that get asked.'

The first question is an introduction and a description about how your week is going.

This is followed by being asked to find something 'positive'.

The third question gives people the opportunity to get something off their chest and the fourth and fifth questions are designed to leave attendees feeling positive.

Diarmid added: 'We have to mention Hope Kitchen. Without Hope nothing would be possible.'

The last Andy's Man Club meeting will be held on December 17 at Hope Kitchen from 7pm and the first Martyn's Monday Club meeting will be on January 7 at the same time.

For more information, visit [www.MartynsMondayClub.com](http://www.MartynsMondayClub.com) or pop into Oban's Hope Kitchen on 2 Soroba Road.

self, but you don't realise you are helping everyone else too.'

Diarmid explained the concept of the group to alleviate any concerns people might have about attending.

'It's a really simple concept that works so well,' he said.



Hugh Carmichael lobbying councillors Jim Lynch and Roddy McCuish for support after the last floods.

dredged and for a meeting of affected businesses with top people at the council.

'It's like nothing ever happened. We've heard absolutely nothing from the council.

'We've not had one phone-call, email or visit showing any concern. We are open but are still clearing up in the back and are waiting to hear

from our insurance company. Our quotes are in.

'Every time I see a puddle in the yard it fills me with dread,' she said.

The force of water was so strong at the premises it lifted a 900-litre diesel tank, wrecked at least 12 machines and destroyed warehouse stock.

## A82 is voted the best road trip route in Britain

Who needs Route 66 when you have the A82?

The route from Loch Lomond to Glencoe has been picked as the ideal British road trip in a new study.

The trip featuring Bridge of Orchy and the gorgeous Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park was chosen by more than a quarter of drivers (26 per cent).

The scenic second place

routes were Barnstaple in Devon to Newquay in Cornwall and a trip around the New Forest, both of which picked up 13 per cent of votes.

No matter where people are driving, there was no doubt who the perfect passenger would be – their partners.

More than 85 per cent of the 5,000 British drivers surveyed by [webuyanycar.com](http://webuyanycar.com) would choose their beloved partner

for the road trip, ahead of a celebrity, no matter the star power.

Around a quarter would hire out a special set of wheels courtesy of credit cards to enjoy the road trip in style, while 42 per cent would take the journey in their own car, believing it's about the journey rather than the vehicle.

The most popular choice

for the drive was an Aston Martin (24 per cent), followed by a Range Rover (22 per cent) and then a Ford Mustang with 10 per cent.

Richard Evans, head of technical services at [webuyanycar.com](http://webuyanycar.com), said: 'Scotland boasts so many areas of outstanding natural beauty, we can certainly see why the drive from Loch Lomond to Glencoe came out on top.'



## Finfish aquaculture Consultation information event

The finfish aquaculture sector relies on Scotland's high quality environment and abundant freshwater resources. However, medicine used by Scottish salmon farms is significantly impacting local marine environments.

We have set out firm, evidence-based proposals for a revised regulatory regime and are consulting on a sector plan for finfish aquaculture.

Have your say and enrich the decisions we take every day to protect and enhance Scotland's environment.

Community drop in events will give you the chance to speak with a range of SEPA staff, find out more about the proposals and answer your questions. No booking required.

**Date:** 5th December 2018

**Time:** 2.30pm – 7.30pm

**Venue:** Isle of Mull Hotel & Spa, Craginure, Isle of Mull PA65 6BB

[sectors.sepa.org.uk](http://sectors.sepa.org.uk)

OT

## On-going Oban linkspan disruption

CalMac Ferries has apologised for disruption to its services as a result of on-going issues with its Oban linkspans.

Linkspan one, which is due to be replaced at Oban Pier in February 2019, currently has a weight restriction of 8.5t per axle. All commercial customers have been contacted to discuss options because departure times might have to be altered to accommodate the weight.

A CalMac spokesperson said: 'This restriction was imposed at the end of September and will be in place until the linkspan is replaced by CMAL in February. It will affect all routes and vessels operating from Oban. The normal weight is 11.5 tonnes.'

## Lorn Lunch Club welcomes shadow finance minister

Lorn Lunch Club welcomed Murdo Fraser MSP to its November meeting at The Regent Hotel in Oban.

Mr Fraser is the shadow finance minister at Holyrood and a former Deputy Leader of the Scottish Conservative Party.

Next month's speaker, on Friday December 14, will be Douglas Ross MP (Moray) known for speaking out on Brexit and fisheries.

# Sweethearts back in Oban after 50 years

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Sweethearts John and Sue Hicks have returned to Oban after half a century to celebrate their golden wedding anniversary.

The happy couple, from South Wales, married two years after a romantic break to the town in 1966 and had always wanted to come back.

A planned trip had to be cancelled last year after Mrs Hicks fell dangerously ill with sepsis but the pair were the picture of good health when they met up with *The Oban*

*Times* last week at the same hotel they stayed in the '60s.

'It had to be Oban for our special anniversary. We have such lovely memories of coming here as sweethearts. It hasn't really changed that much. It's good to be back, it's quite a stroll down memory lane for us,' said Mrs Hicks.

It took a Google search before the couple realised the Caledonian Hotel on Station Square had now changed its name to the Perle Oban and were able to make a booking.

'We paid just 13 shillings and six pence a night. That's less than one pound in today's money. It costs a bit more than

that nowadays but we think we've got the same room, the view looks similar,' said Mr Hicks, who was a 22-year-old highways worker when he drove his then 17-year-old girlfriend up to the west coast in a red Mini. This time they travelled in a 4x4.

'She brought £5 spending money with her. It was her first holiday,' said Mr Hicks who chivalrously paid the hotel bill – last time and this time. He still has the original receipt back home.

'When we pulled up at the hotel all those years ago a man dressed in blue with gold braid came out and took our cases. I remember the glass doors just sliding apart. We'd never experienced anything like that in our lives coming from a small mining village,' remembered Mr Hicks.

'Only the best for my girl,' he added.

A trip to Mull and Iona Abbey was on the itinerary 52 years ago – this time it was a distillery tour and taking in the seasonal delights of Oban Winter Festival.

Mr and Mrs Hicks, who live in Beddau near Cardiff, have two daughters and a 16-year-old grand-daughter.



Sue and John Hicks returned to Oban after more than 50 years as sweethearts.



John Hicks with his pride of the road red Mini.



Sue Hicks on her Highland holiday in 1966.

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# Luing couple step in to save island's only shop

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Luing's only shop and post office has been saved by a couple already living on the island.

The rare lifetime opportunity to run Luing Stores and Post Office serving the 157 people who live there all year and visitors who come by ferry, came up when its previous owner Gordon Robbie put it on Facebook.

After almost three years of running the lifeline store single-handed without a day off, Mr Robbie was ready to hand over the reins to someone new.

The Facebook post created quite a bit of interest but it was long-time Luing residents Birgit Whitmore and Norman Bissell who bought it in the end.

Without them coming forward to take on the shop, the nearest place to stock up on stamps and groceries would have been via ferry across the Cuan Sound to Balvicar on Seil.

Mr Robbie, who saved the store and Post Office in 2015 after it shut, said he had 'such a hoot' running the store and wished the new owners well.

The shop sells produce from local suppliers, including meats from Seil, cheese from Mull and bread from Luing's own bakery and also does home-deliveries and community transport for pensioners.

Artist Ms Whitmore, who ran the craft and wool shop Whitmore and



Norman Bissell and Birgit Whitmore outside Luing Store and Post Office.

Hamilton on George Street in Oban, is also proprietor of the Island Kitchen on Luing, still supplying the store with quiches, oatcakes, jams and jellies when time allows.

Mr Bissell, who has been involved with Luing history group and the Isle of Luing Community Trust, which raised £1.3m funding to build the Atlantic Centre, is also a writer. He has a novel coming out next spring based on the last years of George Orwell, who was desperately ill when he wrote 1984 at a house on Jura.

'It's really important for the whole

community that we kept the shop going. Without it we would not have that heart or hub.

'People drop in every day to get their messages, exchange news and use the post office not just for postal but also banking services which is increasingly vital as more bank branches close,' he added.

Plans include extending the arts and crafts on sale in the shop. Colourful wool is the latest addition.

'We're a must-stop for anyone coming to the island, especially as the Atlantic Centre is shut on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays over the winter. We've been getting quite a few hikers in for hot drinks and something to eat.'

Luing Community Council convenor Mike Barlow said: 'It's great news that local residents Birgit and Norrie have taken over Luing Stores and Post Office.'

'Our wee shop plays a big part in helping sustain our island community and we wish them all the best for the future.'

Jane Churchill, development manager of the Isle of Luing Community Trust, added: 'The Isle of Luing Community Trust and the Atlantic Islands Centre are delighted Birgit and Norrie have taken on Luing Stores and we are very much looking forward to working in partnership offering great and complementary facilities on Luing for residents and visitors.'

## MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



I have covered the merits of a good wedding a few times in this column but never have I touched on the magic of a good birthday party.

I've been to many and played at many over the years, and all are different in the effect and experience created. From intimate house parties with a few drams, to lavish feasts in plush hotels or just an informal gathering in the pub, a birthday party can come in many shapes and sizes and in all these guises can be enjoyed greatly and all can suitably mark the occasion being celebrated.

Last Friday I was at one of the best gatherings of this type I have experienced yet. This was a 50th party in Milngavie Town Hall to mark the half-century of Donald Iain Brown from Tiree. DI left Tiree in his late teens and has carved out a highly successful career with the BBC.

The range of folk at the party reflected the background and work life of the birthday boy with a great combination of those who had travelled over from Tiree, those from the Glasgow Highland scene and many media executive types from all over the UK. Added to this was a core of close family and friends, with all knitting together perfectly to give a biography in people of those who had shaped, touched and been part of his life.

I was sitting at a table along with my mother and her friend Cath MacPherson, both who had taught DI. Cath was re-

calling tales about his first day at school when she had to ask mum to come down from the secondary school to interpret for her as DI could only communicate in Gaelic.

These types of stories - from times long past, through to the present day - where significant ingredients to the night.

The music was from older brother Campbell Brown and his band Gunna Sound as well as very informal guest spots from many other partygoers, like a proper old-style ceilidh.

With fiddle music from Marie Fielding, box tunes from Ian Smith of Trail West and Martin Gillespie from Skerryvore, piping from Finlay Johnston and John MacLeod and songs from Mairi MacInnes, the Glasgow Gaelic Choir, DI himself and his daughter Shona this was indeed a very fine ceilidh.

As any regular readers of this column will know I have a great love for good food. The buffet was prepared by Alastair MacKinnon from Sandaig, Tiree, and every morsel of it was homemade and every morsel was absolutely delicious.

All in all this night of celebration was akin to how the ultimate birthday party would be portrayed in a Hollywood blockbuster. This was no fictional creation for the big screen though. It was merely a reflection of the character of the birthday boy himself.

A great night was had by all and I wish many happy returns to Donald Iain.

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Or Vegetable Curry, Bhoona, Rogan Josh or Turka Daal  
10" Margarita, Spicy Chicken , Donner, Hot n Kickin or Lover Delight Pizza  
Chips cheese donner, Chips Cheese Mix Donner, Donner Bursa or Chicken Bursa  
Chicken Tikka Nan. King Donner Nan or Mixed Tikka Nan, Special Nan Kebabs or Delight Nan Kebabs  
**Rice or Nan**  
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Christmas pudding Cheese Cake with Scottish Tablet Ice Cream  
Belgian Chocolate & Raspberry Torte with kinder Bueno ice cream  
Red Velvet Cheese Cake with Caramel Short cake Ice Cream  
Honey comb Golden Nugget Cheese Cake Banana Drama Ice Cream  
Stair way to heaven cheese cake with Chocolate Brownie Ice Cream  
White Chocolate and Raspberry cheese cake with Raspberry ripple ice cream  
Hot Christmas pudding with Ferrero Rocher ice cream  
Sticky Toffee Pudding Cheese Cake with Nutella Ice Cream  
Mint Chocolate Chip Cake with Choc chip Mint Ice Cream  
Hot waffles or Brownies with ice cream of your choice or Sundae  
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Breakfast or green tea or Black/white coffee

### BRONZE MENU

**4 course meal for 1 £17.95**

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**4 course meal for 1 £20.95 welcoming you with a complimentary 200ml bottle of Prosecco**

(Appetisers, Choice of starter, Curry or pizza or Kebabs, Rice or Nan, cake and ice cream or hot pudding with Ice cream and tea or coffee) see Christmas menu for details

### GOLD MENU

**4 course meal for 4 People £89.95 welcoming you with a complimentary 75cl bottle of House Wine**

(Appetisers, Choice of starter, Curry or pizza or Kebabs, Rice or Nan, cake and ice cream or hot pudding with Ice cream and tea or coffee) see Christmas menu for details

### PLATINUM MENU

**4 course meal for 4 People £99.95 welcoming you with a complimentary 75cl bottle of Prosecco**

(Appetisers, Choice of starter, Curry or pizza or Kebabs, Rice or Nan, cake and ice cream or hot pudding with ice cream or Hot waffles with ice cream of your choice and tea or coffee) see Christmas menu for details

### KIDS MENU UNDER 10

**4 course meal for 1 £12.95**

(Appetisers, Choice of starter including happy faces or onion rings, Choice of Main from Burger with Chips or Pizza or Kebabs or Chicken Nuggets with chips or Curry, Rice or Nan, Choice of desserts from Ice Cream or cake or hot pudding with ice cream or 2 scoop ice cream shake and tea or coffee)



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# Oban offers unexpected experiences for students

As the Oban: A University Town (OaUT) project gathers momentum, The Oban Times thought this month would be a good time to hear from one of the town's many students and get their perspective on life as a student in Oban.

Cameron Stewart is in his second year at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) UHI and, as the current rep for the Highlands and Islands Students' Association (HISA), has fantastic insight into life as a student here.

He said: 'I first moved to Oban in September 2017 to begin a four-year course of study at SAMS UHI.

'Despite having moved locations every couple of years for almost as long as I can remember, I was a bundle of nerves at the prospect of beginning this exciting new chapter.

'I was, after all, straying from the path taken by many of my

peers and moving not to one of the big universities in the central belt or Aberdeen, but to one of the academic partners within a university spread across the Scottish Highlands and Islands.

'Many big life changes are often prefaced by months of planning, doubt and frustration as well as excitement, and my move to Oban was no different.

'The hunt for accommodation began shortly after I received my acceptance letter in May, which I thought left plenty of time to find somewhere suitable before the start of term in September. Unfortunately, this process didn't go as smoothly as planned and finding somewhere affordable to live was down to the wire, but thankfully I found a private let just in time.

'This is certainly something



Cameron Stewart has been able to indulge in his love of scuba diving while studying in Oban.

that has been an issue for many of my fellow students, too, and I am glad to hear accommodation is part of the considerations within

the university town project. Despite the initial hurdle of the move, coming to Oban has been an incredible journey. This beautiful wee town has

presented me with opportunities I couldn't have imagined. While student life here is vastly different from that experienced by students at larger universities in the cities, it is by no means inferior. A town in the heart of some of the most incredible landscape and marine environments in the UK has enabled me to develop my hobby of scuba diving and get involved in rock climbing, hill walking, ski-ing and rowing.

'I have experienced our stunning natural Scotland with a freedom unrivalled by any other university town in the country.

'When I first arrived in Oban, many of the social events in the town seemed largely targeted at families or the temporary population of tourists.

'However, I have noticed a marked trend in events and activities tailored more

towards younger residents, with regular pub quizzes, cue sports leagues and ceilidh nights.

'One of the most exciting additions to the Oban social calendar has come in the form of a night of electronic music, something many of my peers have long felt was missing.

'These events are fostering the development of a close-knit Oban community, helping to bring together students and young people not just from different academic institutions, but from diverse international and cultural backgrounds.

'I am very fortunate I can be a part of this growing community and I look forward to the exciting times ahead as Oban comes into its own as a university town.'

To learn more about the OaUT project, visit [www.obanunitown.org](http://www.obanunitown.org) and use #LoveLearningLoveOban.

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# BUSINESS NEWS

## IN BRIEF

■ Tyndrum's Real Food Cafe has won two Gold Awards at the FreeFrom Eating Out Awards 2018 for their allergy-free foods.

Real Food Cafe owner Sarah Heward said: 'We've been serving gluten-free fish and chips since we opened in 2005, well before it became a mainstream trend.'

'We're really invested in training staff around the importance of offering gluten-free options to our diners and ensuring that we cater for a wide range of dietary requirements. The cafe was the only one in Scotland to win a Gold Award in the 'fish and chips' category.'

■ Ciro's Italian Restaurant at Loch Tay was presented with an award for the Best Family Owned Restaurant at the sixth annual Italian Awards last week.

The restaurant was located in Callander until last year when a fire broke out, destroying the shop. The owners, Ciro and Nikki Cirillo, were then offered a chance to run a restaurant in Loch Tay at a thriving family holiday park near Killin.

■ Fyne Homes and FyneHEAT were both recently awarded 'runner-up' at the TPAS Scotland Awards in Aviemore.

Karen Hilton and her team at FyneHEAT were awarded Best Practice in Developing Communities – Housing and Fabric for helping tenants save money on their fuel bills and advising on energy efficient solutions to reduce carbon emissions. Craig Baxter was recognised for his work at Fyne Homes by delivering a range of activities.

# Oban business rewarded for sustainability project

Xanthella Ltd in Oban was one of 10 companies rewarded for their commitment to sustainability at this year's VIBES – Scottish Environment Business Awards.

The biotechnology company collected the Innovation award for its ambitious ASLEE project which seeks to boost the economy in rural Scotland by using renewable power to produce high value microalgae. ASLEE is a partnership project conceived by ALLenergy and Xanthella.

Aqualution Systems Ltd, Beyond Green, Clearwater Controls Ltd, Devro (Scotland) Ltd, Hickory, Peel Tech Ltd, Scottish Leather Group Limited, Spruce Carpets Limited and The James Hutton Institute were also awarded for their environmental efforts. Aberdeen City Council Countryside Ranger Service and DSM Nutritional Products (UK) Limited received commendation at the award ceremony attended by more than 400 business figures on November 14.

The announcement follows a rigorous judging process, where each of the 43 finalists were visited by a team of judges to assess their environmental processes.

Douglas McKenzie, chief executive at Xanthella Ltd, said: 'We are proud to have been recognised at this year's VIBES – Scottish Environment Business Awards in the Innovation category. Collecting a VIBES award is a real testament to the hard work and commitment from everyone at Xanthella and our partners.'

'The awards are a fantastic way to bring the ground breaking ASLEE – ENBIO project to a



Innovation winners Douglas McKenzie and Carole Shellcock, of Xanthella in Oban.

wider audience and an excellent opportunity to find out more about other like-minded Scottish businesses working to benefit the environment and inspire others.'

The 10 award winners demonstrated challenging their everyday working practices to embrace the economic opportunity of sustainability with all reaping the wider associated benefits including increased resource efficiency, resilience, competitiveness and a positive working culture.

The awards also demonstrated how even small changes can have a big difference - for example, adopting active travel practices that reduce the reliance on cars and carbon

emissions to implementing management programmes that empower staff to make more sustainable choices.

One of the biggest threats to humanity is climate change and, in light of this, a Climate Adaptation Award was introduced this year in partnership with Adaptation Scotland to reward a business that demonstrates managing climate related risks. This was awarded to The James Hutton Institute for its innovative work on the International Barley Hub.

Each of the 2018 VIBES – Scottish Environment Business Awards winners is now eligible to enter the next European Business Awards for the Environment.

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## Oban company is basking in continued success

by Martin Laing  
mlaing@obantimes.co.uk



One of the businesses featured in The Oban Times of November 15 was Oban-based Basking Shark Scotland, run by Shane and Nikki Wasik.

They were among a number of Argyll winners at the Highlands and Islands Tourism Awards, winning in the category for best outdoor experience.

Basking Shark Scotland specialises in tours which interact with basking sharks.

Marine biologist Shane set up Basking Shark Scotland in 2012 after living in New Zealand.

With diving and underwater photography experience, Shane turned a childhood experience of swimming with basking sharks into a business.

Since then the company has grown, thanks in part to support from Business Gateway Argyll and Bute.

With the commissioning of a new 12m bespoke boat, Basking Shark Scotland is now able to offer customers more offshore destinations and expeditions.

Shane said: 'We're very excited about our new vessel which was a significant investment but one we felt ready to make. It's



Kris Bevan, freight manager, NorthLink Ferries, right, with Shane and Nikki Wasik at the HITA awards this month.

completely bespoke for what we do so we're delighted with it and what we can offer our clients.

'Although our business is seasonal, we have gone from strength to strength over the past six years.

'Scotland is the number one basking shark

hotspot and our success shows just how interested people are in these creatures.

'We have visitors from all over the world booking with us as they want the thrill of swimming with the sharks or watching them from the boat, while taking in the huge variety of sea life, wildlife and geological wonders this area has to offer.'

Initially running the business on his own, Shane now has a team of six in the summer, consisting of two full-time employees, two seasonal and two summer guides, all of whom are experts in their field.

The tours range from one day to a week long and customers can also take part in a number of activities including wild swimming, free diving, snorkelling, kayaking and stand up paddle boarding.

Shane added: 'My childhood experience of swimming with basking sharks made me interested and passionate about marine biology and diving which have been in my life since.'

'I knew that if we did things right, I could share this passion with others and help them experience something amazing.'

'By combining sea life, education, photography and activities, our tours allow to people to experience free wildlife in their own environment which is a fantastic experience.'

## Seminar to focus on exports to Nordics

There is now less than two weeks to go until a seminar in Inverness on exporting opportunities to the Nordic countries.

The seminar, organised by Highlands and Islands Enterprise, is on Wednesday December 5 and will feature experts and exporters who will share information, insights and expertise.

Speakers from Scottish Development International, the Department for International Trade and GlobalScot will be joined by at least one business giving first-hand experiences of exporting to the Nordic countries.

Key topics include doing business in the Nordics, sectoral opportunities, cultural considerations, routes to market, support available from Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Scottish Development International, the Department for International Trade and the GlobalScot network.

A market visit is being planned to Norway and Finland in the spring of 2019.

Spaces are being booked up fast so to sign up, call 0300 013 5107.

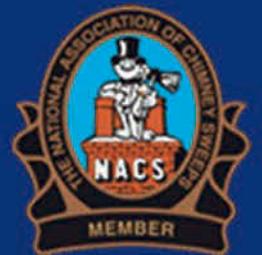
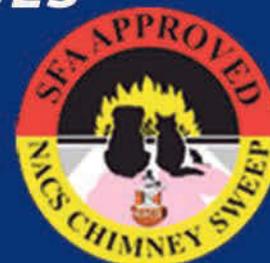
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### CHIMNEY SWEEPING THROUGHOUT ARGYLL, LORN AND THE ISLES

## SWEEPING THROUGH ARGYLL!

## Events planned in tribute to lives lost on Iolaire

As part of commemorative events to mark the centenary of the loss of HMY Iolaire, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar is hosting a civic ceremony on Monday December 31.

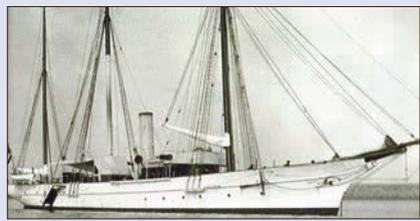
Weather permitting, there will be a torchlight procession led by Lewis Pipe Band from Stornoway Town Hall to Ionad Spòrs Leòdhais, leaving at 8.30pm. There will be 201 torches to represent the men who were tragically lost.

The sold-out 'A Community Remembers' event will start at 9.30pm at Ionad Spòrs Leòdhais. It will be broadcast live on BBC Radio nan Gàidheal and streamed live on the internet at Iolaire Online. The programme will include prayer, psalms, new and traditional music and a 15-piece Royal Marine Band, plus readings in English and Gaelic.

MCs for the evening will be Angus MacDonald (BBC) and Agnes Rennie (Acair). Those booked to attend these events are reminded to bring the email confirmation with them to collect their tickets between Monday and Friday December 3 to 14 (9am-5pm) from the comhairle buildings, Sandwick Road, Stornoway.

The Scottish Commemoration Panel is holding a memorial service on Tuesday January 1, subject to weather, at the Iolaire Memorial, Holm, at noon. The service will be broadcast live on BBC Radio nan Gàidheal. Transportation by shuttle buses to the site will be arranged from the Nicolson Institute bus park.

Also at noon, there will be a service aboard the MV Loch Seaforth led by the Rev James MacIver, Stornoway Free Church, following which 201 children from across the islands will throw flowers into the sea.



# Practical benefit of po

## Morvern lines

IAIN THORNER

ian.thorner@btinternet.com



How time flies or as Cecil Rhodes (1853-1902) who was Prime Minister of the Cape Colony from 1890 to 1896 said: 'So little done, so much to do.'

I have been writing Morvern Lines for The Oban Times every week for just over six years. It has been an enlightening experience which, with a bit of luck, may keep senile dementia at bay for a few more years.

Along the way I have learned a great deal, made many friends and enjoyed working with a fantastic team, first in the Fort William office and latterly in Oban.

My initial instruction was to keep the piece simple - no long words and suitable for a readership ranging in age from nine to 90 - which is perhaps why an elderly friend in Barcaldine paid me a fine compliment when she said: 'The thing I like about your writing Iain is that, when I read it, it is as though you are in the room speaking to me.'

I know many journalists would aspire to that gift, if indeed I have it.

Over these six years it has allowed me to push out a few sacred cows and then cut their legs from under them; tweak the caps of some politicians and tug the tailcoats of a number of absentee landowners who, forgetting this is 2018 and not 1918, persist in playing God with the landscape, the wildlife and the folk they are responsible to during their stewardship.

My email address is at the bottom of every article I write, yet I am happy to say I haven't had any hate mail - yet - quite the opposite, although a few weeks ago I was asked why I appeared to be more interested in deer, stalking and local history in preference to rugby or football. Each to his own, but I never could see the pleasure of chasing a bag of wind round a field while being shrieked at.

I support wild red deer because, at the moment, they are being seriously abused by conservation organisations, government agencies and those who prefer trees, or should I say the obscenely high grants.

Where is the dignity and understanding watching pregnant hinds trying to find shelter and food to nourish their unborn young when they have been banished from their traditional

wintering grounds in the leanness of the year and treated like rats?

And if you think that is too strong, I have no intention of altering it.

History is an extremely powerful tool but, of course, these are more mythical histories than actual histories. The history of the Highlands, to cite an example I am most familiar with, has little resemblance to what is taught in schools. Every story from the past tells us about who we are as a race and what we are capable of through our dark and sunny sides.

If you study history with an open mind you quickly realise how little we have changed so what we were capable of in the past we are capable of today. History predicts the future. We've done it all before so if you can figure out how to read it you can forecast what lies ahead.

The history of elitism strikes me as extremely important. Landed elite expect privileges and wealth by virtue of controlling land. It makes me wonder what will come next.

It highlights what has never been tried before. We've never had a government for the people, it's always been for the privileged of one kind or another. Is government for the people impossible or just difficult?

Doing something completely different may be the key to breaking the pattern of growing power followed by despair and revolution. Brace yourself, the past will find us and show us how little we've changed.

Humans only tolerate the imbalanced playing field for so long.

'How are you?' 'Good. You?' 'Pretty good.' 'That's good,' was an exchange I heard between two patients sitting beside me in a surgery waiting-room recently. When I heard it, I burst out laughing and said: 'Well, that was a meaningful conversation.'

Maybe I was being a bit insensitive, but it struck me as absurd.

The ridiculous thing about this standard form of greeting and response is that absolutely no-one expects it to be taken at face value. You pretty soon lose friends if you actually mention your current woes.

And even if you're upbeat because of good things that have happened recently, people often don't want to hear the details. Is the response, 'I am fine, thank you. And you?' outdated?

Here is a poem written in the early 1950s which preaches the practical benefit of positive thinking as we grow older and which I hope will pacify the reader who took me to task about too much history and deer!



### I'm Fine Thank you

*I'm fine thank You  
There is nothing the matter with me  
I'm as healthy as can be.  
I have arthritis in both my knees  
And when I talk, I talk with a wheeze,  
My pulse is weak and my blood is thin,  
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.  
Arch supports I have for my feet,  
Or I wouldn't be able to go on the street.  
Sleep is denied me night after night,  
But every morning I find I'm all right,  
My memory is failing, my head's in a spin  
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.  
The moral is this - as my tale I unfold,  
That for you and me who are growing old,*

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# Positive thinking



Where is the dignity and understanding of nature in finding a deer that has died a lingering death in a woodland fence because it has been forced out of its traditional winter shelter? Photograph: Iain Thornber

*It's better to say, 'I'm fine' with a grin,  
Than to let folks know the shape we're in.  
How do I know that my youth is all spent?  
Well my 'get up and go' has got up and went.  
But I don't really mind when I think with a  
grin,  
Of all the grand places 'my get up' has been.  
Old age is golden, I've heard it said,  
But sometimes I wonder as I get into bed,  
With my ears in the drawer, my teeth in the  
cup,  
My eyes on the table until I wake up.  
Ere sleep overtakes me, I think to myself  
Is there anything else I could lay on the*

*shelf? When I was young, my slippers were  
red;  
I could kick my heels right over my head.  
When I got older, my slippers were blue;  
But still I could dance the whole night  
through.  
But now I am old, my slippers are black;  
I walk to the store and puff my way back.  
I get up each day and dust off my wits,  
And pick up the paper and read the obits.  
If my name is still missing, I know I'm not  
dead -  
So I have a good breakfast and go back to  
bed.*

## DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



Iain Macdonald, from Albany Street, Oban, sent in this photograph which he took in 1996. Iain said: 'A lot of the people who frequent the excellent restaurants on the North Pier in Oban nowadays may be unaware of what the site looked like before their construction. Older Obanites will have memories of the buildings that were there.'



Peter Robertson's ironmonger's shop in the Palace Hotel building, Fort William, prior to the First World War. Photograph courtesy of Roamer.

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# LETTERS

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or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

## Good news at last

It was fantastic to hear that after weeks of stress following the severe flooding in the town, Oban's Hugh Carmichael has finally received some good news, with Argyll and Bute Council about to erect some flood prevention barriers near his home. The Carmichaels' home was left under nine inches of water in October after the Black Lynn burst its banks and following weeks of being left in limbo, the couple were feeling so low that they planned to cancel their plans for Christmas as they felt unable to invite anyone round.

The flood in October was the sixth time the Carmichaels' home had been flooded, and while it is good the council is finally getting round to helping the couple, the question has to be asked – what has taken so long?

Mr Carmichael has long since called for the burn to be dredged to reduce the risk of flooding and claimed he had been told by the council that environment agency SEPA would not give it a licence to do the job because it would interfere with wildlife. If that's the case, SEPA should have paid Mr Carmichael a visit in October. Perhaps it would be more sympathetic to his plight.

The Oban Flood Study is to be welcomed but these are people's lives and health that are being affected, so let us hope that it will not take too long before a proper plan is put in place. No one should have to live with the constant stress of their home being at risk of flooding.

## Winter festival stars

Oban Winter Festival has been a resounding success. What a fantastic fortnight of fun and events. The fact that this yearly extravaganza is put together by a small organising committee and its band of willing volunteers is outstanding.

They have done an absolutely amazing job once again, and they deserve not only our praise, but some sort of official recognition would not be out of place.

## We are so much better off being part of the EU

D Cameron's attempt to justify Brexit on the backs of fallen heroes in two world wars is at best just plain wrong, and at worst mendacious and malicious (Letters, November 8). To do it at the time of remembrance is an obscenity, and cannot pass unchallenged.

I was born in Birmingham in 1942 during an air-raid, which, fortunately, we all survived. But my grandfather was killed on the Somme in 1918 and he never saw his daughter – my mum – though he did send her a first birthday card – in silk – and delivered after his death. My dad was injured in Normandy in 1944, Mentioned in Despatches and invalided home.

I spent a large part of my professional life seeking to extend mutual knowledge and understanding via a series of initiatives involving teachers and students in France, Germany, Austria and Hungary. They were very successful and would have been completely impossible without a range of over-arching EU initiatives, not least the TEMPUS programmes.

For a long time I had become increasingly worried by trends in English politics, especially Margaret Thatcher's turning selfishness into a virtue (remember "There is no such thing as society?"), and I resolved to leave as soon as I could.

My chance came in 2002, when I was able to move to Scotland, which I found much more congenial, culturally and politically, having a level of personal and public consideration and humanity I found generally more lacking south of the border.

In 2014, I voted for independence and, when this failed, I joined the SNP. In 2016, in common with 62 per cent of my fellow persons of Scotland, I voted to remain in the European Union. We have had 40 years of peace and great benefits. Britain's place in the EU was and is a huge bargain, not least retaining our own currency while simultaneously enjoying all the benefits of full membership – the envy other members.

To give up on all this is total madness. It is the last convulsion of Empire. So let's consign D Cameron and his sidekick Colonel Blimp to the dustbin of history where they belong, and ignore the lies of the Tory posh boys and Moggites. Let's achieve independence, stay in the EU, remember the Declaration of Arbroath and make Scotland great again.

**John Gosling,  
Siskin, Barcaldine.**

## YOUR PICTURES



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

simply send it to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk), post it to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB or hand it in to our offices in Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, or in High Street,

## Parking charges resonate with classic song lyrics

The scramble for the last of Oban's space and to turn it into high charging parking spaces, rekindles memories of the classic Joni Mitchell song from 1970, Big Yellow Taxi.

The song should remind the council that it is Argyll, the paradise, that tourists come to see and not its non-functional parking meters and

overworked, harassed traffic wardens.

**Big Yellow Taxi**  
*They paved paradise  
And put up a parking lot  
With a pink hotel, a boutique  
And a swinging hot spot.  
Don't it always seem to go  
That you don't know what you've got  
Till it's gone  
They paved paradise  
And put up a parking lot*



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Fort William. This week's was sent in by Rodger Bayliff, from Banavie, who said: 'This photograph of Ben Nevis was taken from Corpach with an unusually calm Loch Linnhe in the foreground.'

*They took all the trees  
And put them in a tree museum  
And they charged all the people  
A dollar and a half to see 'em.  
Don't it always seem to go  
That you don't know what you've got  
Till it's gone  
They paved paradise  
And they put up a parking lot  
Angus Files,  
The Glebe, Kilmelford.*

## Great pleasure to visit class at Oban High school

It was a privilege to visit Oban High School after being invited to speak to Mr Carswell's modern studies classes about many local, national and international subjects. These included the global rise of populism, the impact of social media on previous and future elections, and the influence their generation will have on elections yet to come.

It was great to speak to such interesting, engaged and well-informed students. I also got the chance to speak to head teacher Peter Bain about the terrific work Oban High School is doing in preparing our young for the future.

I look forward to my next visit to Oban High School.

Councillor Alastair Redman, Islay.



Councillor Alastair Redman, right, spoke to the modern studies class at Oban High School.

## Serious concerns over immunisation numbers

Latest figures show that just 39 per cent of over 65s have been immunised against flu, compared to 45 per cent at this point in 2017 and 51.7 per cent in England.

The SNP government has had all year to get ready for this and still we're having to raise serious concerns.

Nicola Sturgeon needs to give an assurance to at-risk groups, especially those over 75, that they can access the optimum flu jab before winter really begins to bite.

The Scottish National Party should drop their constitutional games and get back to the day job.

Councillor Alastair Redman, Islay.

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk



Nam bu chaomh leat mi, bu bhinn leat mi! Seanfhacal a tha ag ràdh gur còir spèis dha neach a bhith a' ciallachadh spèis cuideachd dha ghuth, agus dha bheachd. Bunait feallsanachd dheamocrasaidh ma-tà?

Theagamh gun robh sin fìor uaireigin ach gu cinnteach tha ceist mhòr mun ìre gum bheil beachd a' mhòr-shluaigh a' faotainn èisteachd chun-bhalach an-diugh eadhan anns na dùthchannan as dilse nam barail fhèin dha saorsa dheamocrataigeach.

An gabh e bhith nach eil leithid sin de shaorsa dol a thoirt aithne dha atharrachadh beachd dhaoine?

Mar eisimpleir chan fhaicear luchd-taice poilitigeach a dh'ìarras an dilseachd a ghluasad gu pàrtaidh eile gan diùltadh!

Ach tha tomhas bheachd às ùr air na tha ga mholadh mar aonta dealachaidh eadar Breatann agus an t-Aonadh Eòrpach ga àicheadh dhan t-sluaigh a dh'aindeoin 's ged nach eil an t-aonta sin idir a rèir, neo a' coileanadh, na bha ga ghealltainn aig àm na h-iomairt agus an reifreann a ghabh àite còrr air dà bhliadhna air ais! Gun teagamh 's e deasbad thoinnte

agus dhuilich a th' air a bhith ann agus cluinnear luchd-taice na tha a' tachairt a' cleachdadh 'deamocrasaidh' mar fhìreanachadh airson ùrachadh beachd a dhiùltadh, gun aithne air mar a tha na h-argamaidean air atharrachadh bho thachair an reifreann.

Cha b' iongnadh daoine a bhith air an sàrachadh leis a' chuspair ach feumar aithneachadh gur e seo gluasad cho cudromach 's air an do bheachdaich Breatann na h-eachdraidh agus tha fhios gun iarradh pàrtaidhean aonaidh, agus eile, gum biodh làn-dhearbhadh aca air aonta mòr-chuid den t-sluaigh dam bheil iad cunntachail mun gabh iad ceum cho cugallach. Fhad 's a tha mi a' sgrìobhadh tha fios a' nochdadh gum bheil 'aonta' eadar am Prìomhaire May agus riochdairean eile san Aonadh Eòrpach.

Ach 's cinnteach gum bheil sinn fhathast astar mòr bho chrìoch Brexit agus chan ann am Breatann a-mhàin a bhios ceist a thaobh 's mar a tha beachdan dhaoine ag atharrachadh, agus am bheil gan èisteachd!

Bha mi a' leughadh gun deach ceum eachdraidheil a ghabhail aig co-labhairt eadar-nàiseanta

mun àrainneachd a tha a' tachairt sa Phòlainn, far an deach aon shuidheachan a bharrachd a chur ris a' bhòrd aig am bheil riochdairean dhùthchannan an t-saoghail gu bhith a' breithneachadh.

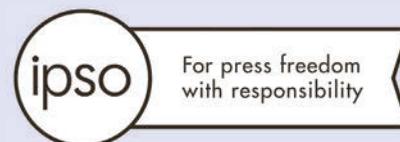
Seo an suidheachan aig 'riochdaire nan daoine', ball a' mhòr-shluaigh! An còir dhomh gàireachdainn neo gal? Cò na dè tha càch a' riochdachadh?

Agus mur iad "na daoine", am bheil aon neach a-nise gu bhith a' bruidhinn às leth an t-saoghail? Abair uallach, agus ciamar a thèid leithid de neach a thaghadh?

Organisers of an international environmental conference in Poland have taken what they apparently regard as a novel initiative. Among the seats allocated to delegates from around the world, a 'people's seat' has been added.

Aside from asking who the others represent if not 'people', one cannot but be in awe of the challenge of representing the people of the world and wonder how such a delegate might be selected?

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



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

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OT

# DISTRICT NEWS

## TREE

Tree Primary School pupils are taking part in the First Minister's Reading Challenge this year.

The aim of the challenge is for children to develop a love for reading.

The school has set up a Buidhean Leughaidh (reading club) for P1-7 English and Gaelic classes, which will meet every Wednesday lunchtime.

'We had our first club this week and it was great to see pupils come along and enjoy books with their friends,' the school newsletter said.

'All pupils are welcome to come along next week, even if they didn't come this week. They do not have to commit to coming every week. Happy reading.'

## APPIN

Appin's annual arts and crafts fair will take place on Saturday December 1 in the village hall.

The event, from 10am until 4pm, allows people to see what local artists and crafters have been creating throughout the year.

It's advertised as a 'rare chance to buy that unique present in time for the festive season'.

Entry is free and refreshments will be available.

## CRAIGNURE

Annual tree decorating at Craignure Hall is on Saturday December 1 between noon and 2pm. Children are invited to join in.

Craignure producers' market is on Sunday December 2 at the village hall from 2pm to 4pm.

Members of Isle of Mull Wood Turners will be giving demonstrations during the day. Anyone wanting a stall should call 07516 180733.

## SALEN

Santa's Grotto will be at the annual Salen Christmas Fayre on Wednesday December 5 in the church from 6.30pm.

There will also be mulled wine and mince pies.



The Mini Winter Festival gets a thumbs up.



It was requested that the festival become an annual event.



Hook-a-duck was popular.

## OBAN

### Rockfield school pupils kick start festive season with festival

Primary two and three pupils at Rockfield Primary School in Oban have had a very busy few weeks.

They decided to kick start the festive season by holding their own Mini Winter Festival in school.

They invited the town's nursery children to attend and take part in the fantastic activities they had prepared.

There were 18 different stalls and more than 80 nursery children attended the event.

Activities ranged from biscuit decorating to hook-a-duck, all devised by the children, with the help of volunteers.

The event was hailed a great success and there are hopes it will become an annual event.

## OBAN

People in Oban can get an insight into what it is like to live with dementia over a coffee on Monday December 3.

The Coffee Break Time event will take place in the Oban Dementia Resource Centre, 12 High Street, Oban.

Dementia Advisor Sue Pagan will have the kettle on from 10am until noon.

'Come and join us for a blether and a cuppa and maybe cakes,' said Sue.

## EASDALE

Poppy collection funds raised at Seil, Luing and Easdale came to £1,382 and another £794.10 was collected by volunteers in Kilmelford, bringing the area total to £2,198.61.

Jean Alexander, Easdale branch secretary of the Royal British Legion, said this was £600 more than 2017.

'A huge thank you to our members and volunteers who carried out door-to-door collections and to all our wonderful community for your donations,' she added.

## KILMORE

Kilmore's 100 Club winner for October was D Morrison and the November winner was Duncan Mudie.

The big Christmas draw will be on Saturday December 8 when the hall Christmas tree lights will be switched on. Santa will be there.

The New Year dance will be on Saturday January 5. Everyone is welcome.

## TAYNUILT

Musicians will be jamming in Taynuilt Sports Pavilion on Monday December 3.

The event will start at 6.30pm with everyone welcome to attend.

The event poster reads: 'If you'd like to join us to play and/or learn drums and percussion, you are most welcome.'

'Or bring along another instru-

ment to weave in and around the beat: harmonica, voice, xylophone, whatever gives you pleasure.'

Guess the date of Mr and Mrs Claus' wedding anniversary is just one of the fun activities to be had at Taynuilt's Traditional Christmas Fayre in the village hall on Saturday December 1 from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

Homemade cakes and a gingerbread stall are among the other attractions.

Friends of Taynuilt Primary School is hosting a Holly Tea in the village hall on Sunday December 2 from 12.30pm.

As well as crafts made by school pupils, there will be a paper chain raffle, prosecco hoopla, stocking filler tombola and plenty of refreshments. Santa will also be putting in a special appearance.

Money raised will go towards the school library refurbishment project. Prizes will also be given for the best children's homemade tree decoration.

## CONNEL

What better way to start the weekend than swimming across the Falls of Lora in baltic conditions.

This is exactly what dozens of swimmers did last weekend as part of Oban Winter Festival.

## OBAN



A meeting of Oban Photographic Club.

Oban Photographic Club wants to get new members in focus.

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## At random



MARTIN LAING  
mlaing@obantimes.co.uk

# Have yourself a waste-free Christmas

The GRAB Trust is encouraging households around Oban to go waste free this Christmas with handy tips and festive ideas good for the pocket and the environment.

Terry Donovan, the charity's new beaches and marine litter project officer, hopes schools, families and the community will be inspired.

'With a bit of thought you can reduce your waste, save money and make a statement the whole family will love,' said Terry, who is encouraging people to head to charity shops or the Lorn and Oban Reuse Initiative (LORI) up at Moleigh to see what pre-loved goods can be re-cycled into presents.

Millions of presents are exchanged each year and many are never used, ending up in landfill so vouchers for an experience gift or a meal might be a good alternative, said Terry. BID4Oban has Love Oban vouchers.

'Challenge yourself to shop



GRAB Trust's Terry Donovan and LORI site supervisor Gordon Erskine with baskets of bargain baubles ready to be reused this Christmas.

locally, buy recycled and hand-made items where possible and avoid plastics, especially non-recyclable plastics and plastic packaging. Don't forget to take

your reusable bags shopping with you,' she added.

Decorations can be made out of natural materials from the garden that can then be returned

'With a bit of thought you can reduce your waste, save money and make a statement the whole family will love.'

to the wild and to save on the six million Christmas trees discarded in the UK after Christmas, creating more than 9,000 tonnes of additional waste - why not buy a second-hand artificial tree or have a go at making your own, suggests Terry.

Think if the cards being sent are necessary, especially if you regularly see those people; try out newspaper and old magazines for wrapping and try to avoid sticky tape if possible. When it comes to food and drink, shop local and try to avoid packaging.

'We wish you a very happy, plastic free, pre-loved, creative, natural Christmas,' said Terry.

## Public health risk

I flagged up the problem of an unsightly discharge on George Street back in October but the problem has become worse rather than being resolved.

The mess is spreading from the entrance to Spice World, between the New Look and Superdrug shops, and is now right across the pavement and flowing down the gutter in the parking bays. It is being trampled even further by people passing along the street.

I believe it is now posing a risk to public health, and not only because it might be an unsavoury substance rather than just water leaking from a downpipe.

With colder weather now with us, this is going to make the footpath like a skating rink once it freezes. And, make no mistake, we will have freezing temperatures and possibly imminently.

Will it take until some poor pedestrian has skidded on the frozen waste, fallen and fractured a bone before something is done? I certainly hope not.

I am unsure who has responsibility for this, but it is high time action was taken to remedy what could be just a minor leak.

## Vibrant sporting scene

I was genuinely disappointed for Oban Lorne Ladies that they came so close to clinching the Tennent's Women's National League 1 Group A title last weekend.

The girls seem to have been unbeaten for as long as I can remember and went into the championship decider against Ayr with a winner-takes-all at stake. Unfortunately, Oban Lorne Ladies just came up short but what a season it has been so far.

They now take a winter break but I'm sure they will bounce back in the spring cup competitions.

On the subject of their sport, the rugby scene in Oban is vibrant, with age group teams and the men all doing well. Much of the credit for this goes to development officer Allan Wright who works tirelessly at the Oban Lorne club and Oban and Lorn schools.

So it was cheering for me to read in last week's Oban Times about great wins for both the 1st XV and under-18s. Both are at home this Saturday. Go along and cheer them on.

## What do you think?

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

The club meets at 7.30pm on Mondays in the McCaig Room of the town's Regent Hotel. It runs instruction sessions and regular competitions and takes part in an annual competition between camera clubs across Argyll.

Earlier this month, the club held its annual model night where members set up lights and backgrounds and discussed poses with volunteer models.

In the summer, it also organises photographic outings to events or scenic places. To find out more visit obanpc.co.uk.



Helen Jackson MBE, left, with Inner Wheel District chairperson Janet Dickson.

## Helen is Inner Wheel Club's golden girl

Helen Jackson MBE is celebrating 50 years of membership with Oban's Inner Wheel Club.

District chairman Janet Dickson said Mrs Jackson had been and continued to be a valuable member, contributing to numerous fundraising ventures for the benefit of local and international charities.

She added Mrs Jackson had 'provided many hours of hands-on community service and is a great ambassador for the club at home and abroad'.

Members and Mrs Dickson gathered recently to pay tribute to Mrs Jackson's outstanding record where she was presented with a certificate.

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# OUTDOORS

## Documentary highlights tough crofting existence

A stunning documentary shining a light on the traditional way of life for crofters in South Uist is being aired on BBC ALBA.

The three-part series, which started last night, November 28, looks at the relationship between the methods of crofting used in the area and the high levels of rare species of various animals – many of which are extinct elsewhere in the UK.

'San Fhuil (It's in the Blood) was made over a number of years by producer Beatrix A Wood in the township where her family croft is located, making the piece personal and filled with emotion.

The series explores how the greatest challenge today is not from the longest test rocket missile firing range in Europe next door, but from the growing number of greylag geese who feast on the island's most valued commodity – corn.

'San Fhuil isn't just visually stunning, the original music score is composed by Uist musician Pàdruig Morrison who recently graduated from Edinburgh University.

'San Fhuil (It's in the Blood) airs on BBC Alba at 9pm on December 5 and 12.



Toiling to make a living on a croft on South Uist are, left to right, Alasdair MacSkill, Chrissie Laing, Isolde Wood and Cadur Wood.

# Dunbeg scientists urge anglers to help

Scientists at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) at Dunstaffnage are calling on Scotland's anglers to help save one of the largest and rarest creatures in British waters.

The common or flapper skate can grow more than two metres in length and weigh more than 90kgs but, despite its name, the fish is classified as critically endangered – making it more at risk of extinction than the giant panda.

Anglers throughout Scotland are being encouraged by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and the scientists at SAMS to send any photographs of common skate to Skatespotter, a new online catalogue.

The project aims to help conserve this remarkable diamond-shaped species through identifying individual fish by the distinctive spot patterns on their backs and studying their movements.

Dr Jane Dodd, marine operations officer at SNH, said: 'We're launching Skatespotter with more than 1,500 images of nearly 800 individual flapper skate, taken by volunteer anglers in the Loch Sunart to the Sound of Jura Marine Protected Area (MPA).

'This MPA has a healthy population of the endangered fish, which made it easier to collect photographs, and anglers have been fundamental in providing the data to designate the area as an MPA – but to understand skate movements and populations we want to see anglers' photographs of skate from all over Scotland.'

Common skate have been listed as critically endangered since 2006 as a result of over-fishing. In 2009, it became illegal to land skate in most of Europe which means any skate caught as by-catch should be released unharmed.

All angling for this species in Scotland is on a 'catch and release' basis. Recapturing previously identified skate suggests there is no harm to the fish when released. However, common skate are still at risk from unintentional capture in mobile gear such as trawls and dredges.



Scientists measure a common or flapper skate before releasing it. Below: skipper Ronnie Campbell photographing skate. Photographs: Jane Dodd/SNH.

Dr Steven Benjamins, from SAMS, said: 'It may sound time-consuming but we've found the human eye is the most accurate way to identify individual skate.'

'We've already identified nearly 800, though the number skews mostly female. This is likely because female skate are bigger and anglers have been excited about sharing those images in the past.'

'But we're also really keen to monitor the smaller male fish and encourage anglers to send us photographs of all common skate they catch, all over Scotland, regardless of size.'

Anglers can help monitor the skate population by uploading photographs to <https://skatespotter.sams.ac.uk/>



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## This week's walks



The Scottish Mountain Bike Conference took place last week.

## Guidance on mountain bike trails published

A new guide tackling the issue of unauthorised trails was unveiled at the three-day Scottish Mountain Bike Conference 2018 in Aviemore last week.

The document, published by the National Access Forum, is in response to a growth in the unauthorised construction of mountain bike tracks and features.

These can lead to a range of issues including potential environmental damage and injury to mountain bikers and other users and raises liability concerns for land managers as a result of their duty of care to those on their land. While Scotland's right of responsible access includes cycling, it does not

extend to the construction of trails without permission from the land manager.

The guide stresses the importance of dialogue between land managers and bikers to find solutions to problems on the ground and makes positive suggestions.

These include the adoption of trails by land managers or agreements with volunteers or mountain bike groups.

National Access Forum convener David Henderson-Howat said: "This guide should provide a useful starting point for land managers and mountain bikers when they sit down together to discuss the potential future for mountain

bike trails in the context of their particular circumstances."

Scottish Natural Heritage chief executive Francesca Osowska added: "Scotland has a fantastic natural environment and we want everyone to be able to share it safely.

"I'm delighted this guidance has been produced to ensure mountain bikers and everyone else enjoying our exceptional outdoor space can use it safely and sustainably.

"The process of producing this guidance is a great example of everyone recognising the value of Scotland's wonderful natural resources, the needs of others and the benefits of working together."

### LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

The walk leader is to be contacted before hand 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](http://www.lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk). Lochaber and Lorn Ramblers Group can be contacted by email on [info@lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk](mailto:info@lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk)

#### Sunday December 2: Bridge of Oich by Loch Lundie to Invergarry, Loch Oich

A walk from the bank of the Caledonian Canal and an historic bridge, the route passes through deciduous woodland, alongside a loch and the River Garry to finish at Invergarry.

Start from the Bridge of Oich CP by the swing bridge over the Caledonian Canal at NH338035. Visit the old bridge, then cross the River Oich on the A82 road bridge and follow a track N for 2Km, past Leek to a junction. Continue W on the track, which winds through deciduous woodland near the Inverrig Burn, and passes S of the remains of the township of Achadh-nan-darach to reach a junction. A diversion N from here for 200m leads to the bothy of Dail a' Chuirn. Return to the junction and continue SW on the track to the head of Loch Lundie, at NH299044.

Take the branch of the track heading S by the E side of the loch. The track continues S, past the foot of the loch and across the bridge over the Aldernaig burn, to a junction at NH294018. Take the right fork to keep on the main track, which soon curves W, then NW to pass through the settlement at Faichem. At the next junction, turn S through the campsite to reach the public minor road junction after about 700m. Turn NW to the A82, beware of fast-moving traffic and cross to reach the track leading down S to the River Garry at White Bridge. Take the footpath on the E bank of the river and follow it to Invergarry.

Grade: L; distance: 13km; height to climb: 157m; map(s): LR34, EX400. Meet at Spean Bridge WM at 9.30am, for start of walk at 10am. Leader: Fiona Wild 07879 495165.

#### Thursday December 6: Cam Chreag and Beinn Chaorach, Tyndrum

There are five splendid Corbetts here, all of which may be done in one long summer's day. In midwinter two of them will make a good day out.

Start on the Auch estate road about 100m SE of its junction with the A82, NN317353, where limited parking is available. Further parking may be found on the verge of the A82, just south of the turning to Auch and 700m further S at a forest road entrance. Follow the estate road to Auch and continue past the farm and over the bridge. Cross WHW and stay on the track to reach the railway viaduct. Turn right and follow the track leading SE up Glen Coralan. When the track ends, continue a rising traverse up Glen Coralan, curving NE to reach the watershed on the boundary line, identified by a fence. Turn E and climb steeply to reach the crest of the NW ridge of Cam Chreag and follow it to the summit, 884mLR. Descend SW to a col, 638m, then climb to the summit of Beinn Chaorach, 818m. Descend S on a long sloping ridge to reach a track at about 350m alt. Follow it downhill, turning S to the CP at Auchtertyre.

Grade: S; distance: 14km; height to climb: 860m; map(s): LR50, EX377. Meet at Glencoe village car park at 8.20am or Longsdale car park, Oban, at 8am, for start of walk at 9am. Leader: Ian Moir 07973 836498.

### NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

Full walk details at [www.nevishillwalking.club](http://www.nevishillwalking.club). If anyone would like to go out on the walk please contact club secretary Suzanne Theobald on 01397 701783 or email [enquiries@nevishillwalking.club](mailto:enquiries@nevishillwalking.club).

#### Saturday December 1:

##### Beinn Trilleachan, Glen Etive

An isolated hill giving spectacular views down Loch Etive, with the mighty Ben Starav right opposite, and further away, the peaks of Glen Coe, Glen Etive and Black Mount.

Limited parking is available near the end of the public road at NN111453. Head NW up the well-worn and often boggy path following the forestry boundary. As this levels off at about 220m altitude, turn SW and ascend the rough and uneven NE aspect of Meall nan Gobhar. Continue up and along the edge of the escarpment to the first summit, 767m. This is a dramatic position overlooking the Etive Slabs. A short steep drop and a gradual ascent lead to the main summit of Beinn Trilleachan. Return by the same route.

(9km, 850m ascent) Suggested by Gerry Gilbert; co-ordinated by Rick Atkinson.



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# LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

## Everyone can go to the ball

It's all hands to the pumps – but this is not a reference to the recent flooding in Oban, but to the fact that it is only one week to go before curtain up for the opening night of Cinderella, this year's pantomime brought to the town by Benderloch and North Connell Drama Club.

While the public face of any pantomime is the performers on the stage, both the adult and the youth sections, singing the songs, performing the routines and reciting their lines, there is an awful lot of other work that goes on to produce the show.

With Benderloch and North Connell this is very much a

team effort, with the dancers from Oban Dance Academy as well as the volunteers who give up a lot of their time willingly and freely to design and make the scenery and props, setting up during the shows, creating the costumes and helping with the make-up.

Then there are the people who do the music and the special effects, the sound and the lighting, the folk who do the publicity and the programmes, and many others who help in many other ways.

As an amateur club and small charity, Benderloch and North Connell relies on audience support for their biennial production.

This, in turn, enables the company to develop live theatre and to be a significant participant in local drama festivals.

So head down to the Corran Halls and book tickets for a great evening's entertainment while supporting this local theatre club.

The show is on on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, December 6, 7 and 8, at 7.30pm with a 2pm Saturday matinee. Tickets are £10 and £8.

**Youngsters are all ready to stage this year's pantomime.**



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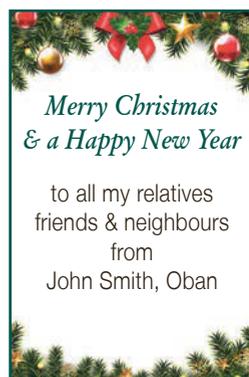
NEW ALBUM  
'SMOKE & DREAMS'  
OUT NOV 2018

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

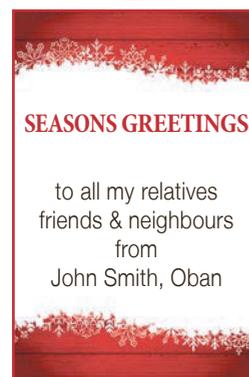
Published on 13th December

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## Come visit 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 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.

# Raising funds for first Highland bagpipe centre

Scottish bagpipe makers have launched a crowdfunding campaign to raise £45,000 with the aim of creating the first Highland Bagpipe Centre in the Highlands.

A suitable site has been identified at Culloden, less than 10 minutes from Inverness city centre, with the centre set to open May 2019.

It is the latest in a number of successful crowd-funded ventures in the Highlands.

Set up in 2015, Burgess Bagpipes is a modern Scottish family business which designs and manufactures Scottish small pipes, Border pipes, and the Highland bagpipes. Fiona and Scott Hay, who run the business, are the only Highland bagpipe makers in the region and offer a guaranteed Made in Scotland label.

Mr Hay said: 'Obviously



you don't wake up one day and decide to become a bagpipe maker. Our family piping history dates back to the 1700s. The skill, knowledge and experience we've obtained comes from an accumulation of an authentic Scottish ancestral mix of

world champion players, skilled engineers, artists, tutors and judges.

'It is usually a surprise when we tell people that there are three different types of Scottish bagpipe used in Scotland today.

They are amazed at how

The new centre, near Culloden, will include a piping archive, museum, exhibition and shop.

differently they look and sound. We would like everyone that leaves the future Highland Bagpipe Centre to be informed and inspired.

'It'll be a place to learn about how bagpipes are made, what they sound like and how they are played. Visitors will have a fully immersive experience as we passionately share our history, tradition and culture.'

The True Sound of the Highlands campaign will allow Burgess Bagpipes to begin phase one of the project, where the site at Culloden will be transformed into a bagpipe centre with manufacturing and visitor experience including piping

archive, museum, exhibition and shop.

The campaign, which is running for 21 days, was launched on November 23.

Backers can choose different levels of support and as a result will receive rewards tailored to pipers and non-pipers alike. There is a significant discount off instruments, tuition, merchandise, whisky and more. These are a thank-you for the support and most are unique and will only be available for the duration of the campaign.

Visit [www.burgessbagpipes.com](http://www.burgessbagpipes.com) for more information.

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telephone 01631 568000

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SOUTHWORTH  
Europe

# Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



## Beware the Vatersay Boys!

Another year has gone round and next weekend (Friday December 7) sees the famous Vatersay Boys Christmas Ceilidh in the Barrowland Ballroom on which hundreds of Highlanders and islanders will descend and prepare to 'project themselves into insanity' for the evening. Yet again, the dance is sold out and tickets are like gold dust. As always, it is bound to be a memorable night!

## Glasgow Skye Association

On the same evening as the Vatersay Boys in the Barrowlands, the Glasgow Skye hosts its annual gathering. This will be held in the Glasgow University Union with guest of honour Dugald Ross, singers Mary Ann Kennedy, SIAN (made up of Ceitlin LR Smith, Eilidh Cormack and Ellen

MacDonald), Alastair MacArthur, and Angus MacLeod, with Eilidh MacFadyen on accordion and John A. Gillies on bagpipes.

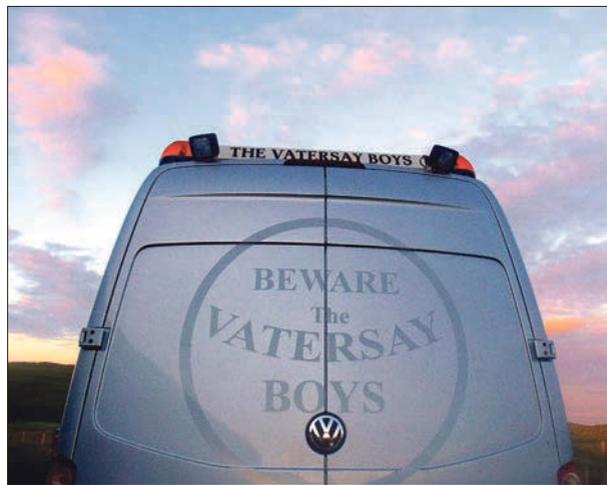
Accompanist will be Alan Kitchen and the Glasgow Skye Association Pipe Band complete a great line-up. The Dùn Mòr Cèilidh Band will play at the dance following the concert.

## Highlanders' Club cèilidh dance

The Highlanders' Club is having its cèilidh dance on Saturday December 15 in Partick Burgh Hall at 8pm. The dance is to the music of Charlie Kirkpatrick's band, tickets are £9, and there is a licensed bar.

## SWG3 Gig

The night following the Glasgow Skye and the Vatersay Boys, it is the turn of my own band, Tide Lines, to play a show in Glasgow. We've been on tour down in



England this month and are looking forward to the show in SWG3, which will be the 22nd show of the tour.

## Edinburgh cèilidh

Comunn Tir nam Beann Dùn Eideann has been in touch with details of its next event. This is a traditional cèilidh taking place on Saturday December 1 in Augustine United Church, George IV Bridge, opposite the Elephant

House Café.

Included during the evening will be a Journey Through Gaelic Song by Glaikit Carynx; historical explanations of the songs by Bria Mason and Duncan Sneddon; and some audience participation encouraged by song sheets and patient teaching for all to join in no matter your singing or Gaelic ability. Piper Neil MacLure will play both parts of the cèilidh.

Doors open at 7.15pm and the cèilidh runs from 7.30pm-10pm with tea, coffee, and home-baking served at the interval. Admission for members is £5 (£6 for non-members) and under-16s can gain entry for free as long as they are accompanied by an adult.

## What's On

Saturday December 1: Comunn Tir nam Beann Dùn Eideann cèilidh in Augustine United Church, George IV Bridge at 7.15pm.

Thursday December 6: Glasgow Skye Association Annual Dinner in the Glasgow University Union.

Friday December 7: Glasgow Skye Association Annual Concert and Dance at 7.30pm in the Glasgow University Union.

Friday December 7: Vatersay Boys Christmas Cèilidh in the Barrowland Ballroom.

Saturday December 15: Highlanders' Club Cèilidh Dance in Partick Burgh Hall at 8pm.

## Tearfund Big Quiz – clarification

In last week's Oban Times we carried a report on The Big Quiz which took place in the Corran Halls on November 17.

A number of local businesses generously helped make the evening a success by generously donating, which we said were for a raffle. This was an error. The items were for an auction.

We apologise for the mistake.

## Tuning up for Celtic Connections

Mull Historical Society and Bernard Butler (formerly of Suede) will play Celtic Connections on January 24.

Colin MacIntyre, who is originally from Mull, said: 'I'm really looking forward to returning to Celtic Connections. This year feels particularly special because Bernard Butler, the producer of my new album Wakelines, will be joining us.'

'I heard a bus of Muilleachs are coming down for the show, too, so there will be connections with home in the crowd!'



## The Tayvallich Inn

### 'Superb Meal in a Stunning Location'

'Came to Tayvallich Inn for lunch and booked dinner as well! Lovely spot, really friendly and helpful staff. Very good beer and wines, great choice. Top notch home cooked food, couldn't fault it. Will be back!' TripAdvisor, October.'

Consistent rave reviews - come and find out what all the fuss is about!

### Christmas Shopping Evenings

6th and 7th December: 6pm-8pm

Complimentary nibbles and mulled wine

Perfect Christmas Gifts from 'Homestyle Argyll' plus friends, including glass art, lampshades, homewares, christmas wreaths and more.



Christmas Quiz Night in aid of RNLI – gotta be in it to win it! Teams welcome.

Saturday 22nd December

Open for lunch and dinner in the bar, from Tuesday to Sunday. Fresh, home-cooked, locally landed seafood and first class Argyll produce.

2 courses £14, 3 courses £18.

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# M'ALBA

## MY ALBA

### DIARDAOIN 29 AN T-SAMHAIN THURSDAY 29 NOVEMBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne  
Children's programming  
19.00 Turas a' Bhradain (rpt)  
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)  
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
20.00 An Là - News  
20.30 **UR | NEW:** Eòrpa  
21.00 Peter Robin  
Murtair Bitheanta (rpt)  
21.50 Binneas - Na Trads  
The Halton Quartet (rpt)  
22.00 An Sgrùdaire (rpt)  
22.15 Sgeul Seirbheis (rpt)  
22.30 Hitler & Churchill (rpt)  
23.15 **UR | NEW:** Belladrum 2018  
Highlights  
23.30 Seòid a' Chidsin (rpt)

### DIHAOINE 30 AN T-SAMHAIN / FRIDAY 30 NOVEMBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne  
Children's programming  
18.35 Machair (rpt)  
19.00 An Là - News  
19.25 Binneas - Na Trads  
The Halton Quartet (rpt)  
19.35 **UR | NEW:** Scottish Premiership  
Dundee United v Ayr United  
21.45 An Sgrùdaire (rpt)  
22.00 Trapped 10 (rpt)  
22.50 Dhan Uisge (Sanna) (rpt)  
23.00 Lorient is Alba: Tide Lines (rpt)

### DISATHAIRNE 01 AN DÙBHLACHD SATURDAY 01 DECEMBER

16.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's  
programming  
17.45 An Là - News  
18.00 **UR | NEW:** Scottish Premiership  
Kilmarnock v Hibernian  
20.00 Machair (rpt)  
20.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)  
20.30 Calanais - Full Circle (rpt)  
21.00 **UR | NEW:** Na Trads 2018  
23.15 Trapped 10 (rpt)  
24.05 Cuirim@Celtic - Moving Hearts (rpt)

### DIDÒMHNAICH 02 AN DÙBHLACHD SUNDAY 02 DECEMBER

16.00 Prògraman Chloinne  
Children's programming  
18.15 An Là - News  
18.30 Seachd La  
News Review  
19.30 Alleluia (rpt)  
20.00 Eòrpa (rpt)  
20.30 Opry Dhoire (rpt)  
21.30 Piobairean Bhoiris (rpt)  
21.40 Na Trads 2018 (rpt)

### DILUAIN 03 AN DÙBHLACHD MONDAY 03 DECEMBER

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 Puirt-adhair (rpt)  
21.00 Trusadh - Tioram air Tìr (rpt)  
22.00 **UR | NEW:** Ceòlmhor@ Piping Live!  
22.30 San Fhuil (rpt)  
23.30 An Sgrùdaire (rpt)  
23.45 Sgeul Seirbheis (rpt)

### DIMÀIRT 04 AN DÙBHLACHD TUESDAY 04 DECEMBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne  
Children's programming  
19.00 Turas a' Bhradain (rpt)  
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)  
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
20.00 An Là - News  
20.30 Calanais - Full Circle (rpt)  
21.00 **UR | NEW:** Opry Dhoire  
22.00 Trusadh - Tioram air Tìr (rpt)  
23.00 Taghadh bho Na Trads (rpt)  
23.30 Alleluia (rpt)

### DICIADAIN 05 AN DÙBHLACHD / WEDNESDAY 05 DECEMBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne  
Children's programming  
19.00 An Lot (rpt)  
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)  
19.55 Binneas - Na Trads (Phil & Aly) (rpt)  
20.00 An Là - News  
20.30 Air an Smuid (rpt)  
21.00 **UR | NEW:** San Fhuil  
22.00 **UR | NEW:** Scottish Premiership

### DIARDAOIN 06 AN DÙBHLACHD THURSDAY 06 DECEMBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne  
Children's programming  
19.00 Turas a' Bhradain (rpt)  
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)  
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
20.00 An Là - News  
20.30 **UR | NEW:** Eòrpa  
21.00 Dennis Nilsen - Gràdh a' Bhais? (rpt)  
22.00 Func (rpt)  
22.30 **UR | NEW:** Slighean Sgoile  
an t-Saoghail  
23.15 Dhan Uisge (Spar Cave) (rpt)  
23.25 **UR | NEW:** Belladrum 2018  
Highlights  
23.30 Seòid a' Chidsin (rpt)



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# Building up year's Winter

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Oban Winter Bricks organisers are already building up for next year's show.

More than 500 visitors passed through the doors at St Columba's Cathedral Hall on Saturday November 17 as part of Oban Winter Festival to see displays, including those from Scotland's only recognised LEGO@User Group Tartan LUG.

As well as the displays, which included one of the Highland clearances, there were demonstrations, a build-your-own Brickzone, a Minifig hunt, pop-up shop and lots of competitions.

Winter Bricks organiser Fiona MacPhee said: 'We were really happy with the attendance and have had lots of great feedback. Fellow Tartan LUG members who

were displaying at Saturday's show are looking forward to a show next year.'

The event raised £1,850 for Lego charity Fairy Bricks and will be delivering brick sets to Glasgow's Children's Hospital Charity soon.

'I would like to thank Tartan LUG members and Brick To The Past, who travelled from near and far, to display on Saturday; our helpers Lesley Crawford, Andrew Crawford, Jo-Anna Simpson, Shiralene Cave, Tony Cave and Kay MacDonald, without them all there would have been no show,' said Mrs MacPhee.

'Thanks also to Bid4Oban for its donation; to Oban Winter Festival committee for its support and taking me up on my suggestion of the display-a-minifig competition; to all the primary schools pupils who took part from Rockfield,

Park, St Coumba's, Kininver, Easdale, Dunbeg, Achaleven, Taynuilt, Dalmally, Lochnell, Barcaldine and Strath of Appin primary schools - we were overwhelmed by all the entries. They were really fantastic and made a great display round our venue St Columba's Cathedral Hall, with thanks too for the use of the hall. Lastly a huge thanks you to everyone who attended, we hope to see you all same time next year,' she added.

Winners of a winter/festive model from LEGO or Duplo brought along on show day were, in first place Isla Richell, Aiden Johnston who came second and Iona Richell in third position. The winner of a collaborative build competition for Tartan LUG members on the theme of 'Do you want to build a Snowman?' was Stewart Cromar.

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**Nevis Centre reception: 01397 700707**

# for next Bricks show

Lego builder Caden Crawford had a great time at Oban Winter Bricks.

16\_T47\_winterfestival19\_legobuilderCadenCrawford5



## WHAT'S ON IN OBAN

In partnership with Oban Town Diary [bid4oban.co.uk](http://bid4oban.co.uk)



### THURSDAY 29TH NOVEMBER

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

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### FRIDAY 30TH NOVEMBER

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Glencruitten Church Hall  
All Day

**Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans**  
Dice Ceilidh Band  
Open till 2am

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

### SATURDAY 1ST DECEMBER

**Oban Dance Academy Cheerleading**  
Glencruitten Church Hall  
All Day

**Parkrun**  
Ganavan Sands, Oban  
9.30am

**Hill Walk**  
Glen Etive, Glencoe  
All Day

**Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans**  
Davy Holt  
Open till 2am

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

### SUNDAY 2ND DECEMBER

**Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans**  
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### MONDAY 3RD DECEMBER

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Tel; Rhona 07880 878906

### WEDNESDAY 5TH DECEMBER

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

### WHAT'S ON AT YOUR LOCAL CINEMA THIS WEEK

Tel: 01631 562905 or see

[www.obanphoenix.com](http://www.obanphoenix.com) for more details

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

<b>FRIDAY 30</b>	15:00	NEITHER WOLF NOR DOG	15	20:00	ANNA AND THE APOCALYPSE	15
	15:00/17:30	RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET	PG	20:15	TEENAGE SUPERSTARS	15
	17:30	THE GRINCH	U	<b>TUESDAY 4</b>		
	19:30	FANTASTIC BEASTS; THE CRIMES OF GRINDELWALD	12A	15:30/18:00	RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET	PG
	20:00	ANNA AND THE APOCALYPSE	15	16:00	THE GRINCH	U
<b>SATURDAY 1</b>				18:00	FANTASTIC BEASTS; THE CRIMES OF GRINDELWALD	12A
11:00/13:00		THE GRINCH	U	20:30	ANNA AND THE APOCALYPSE	15
11:30/14:00/15:15		RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET	PG	20:40	NOT KNOWING WHO YOU ARE IS A BEAUTIFUL SOURCE OF	15
16:30		FANTASTIC BEASTS; THE CRIMES OF GRINDELWALD	12A	<b>WEDNESDAY 5</b>		
19:30		ANNA AND THE APOCALYPSE	15	15:00/17:30	RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET	PG
20:30		NEITHER WOLF NOR DOG	15	15:30	THE GRINCH	U
<b>SUNDAY 2</b>				17:30	FANTASTIC BEASTS; THE CRIMES OF GRINDELWALD	12A
12:30/17:15		RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET	PG	20:00	ANNA AND THE	
14:30		FAHRENHEIT 11/9	15	20:15	APOCALYPSE 15	
15:00		THE GRINCH	U	20:15	THE RIDER	15
17:15		FANTASTIC BEASTS; THE CRIMES OF GRINDELWALD	12A	<b>THURSDAY 6</b>		
19:45		ANNA AND THE APOCALYPSE	15	13:30/20:00	FAHRENHEIT 11/9	15
20:00		ISLAND	15	14:00/16:30	RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET	PG
<b>MONDAY 3</b>				16:00	THE GRINCH	U
15:00/17:30		RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET	PG	18:00	ANNA AND THE	
15:30		THE GRINCH	U	APOCALYPSE 15		
17:30		FANTASTIC BEASTS; THE CRIMES OF GRINDELWALD	12A	19:00	CLEOPATRA	12A
						NT LIVE: ANTONY &

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# New schools show stages Jacobite rising in Argyll

In the spring and summer of 2019, thousands of primary five, six and seven school pupils will rehearse and perform an opera about one of the most dramatic periods in Scottish history: the Jacobite risings.

Entitled 1719!, the opera has been composed by David Munro, revised and re-orchestrated by Alan Penman, with words by Allan Dunn. Pupils learn the words and songs in their classrooms, with teaching materials prepared by Scottish Opera's education and outreach department and then work with a team from the company to prepare for a performance in front of classmates, friends and family.

Scottish Opera's Primary Schools Tour hits the road on January 14 in Mosshead Primary, Bearsden and will visit 50 schools around



Scotland including the Highlands, until March. It continues on April 16, taking in the Western Isles.

1719! travels back to a key moment in Scottish history to tell the story of the Jacobite Scots locked in a desperate

struggle to restore the House of Stuart to the throne of Great Britain, while the Hanoverian King George

**Scottish Opera roll out new performance in schools next spring and summer.**

argued with other European rulers over the lands and riches of the New World.

King Philip of Spain sent troops and money to help the Jacobites in an attempt to distract the British government from this dispute. Pupils will go back in time 300 years when the Jacobites and their Spanish allies gathered in Glen Shiel for a battle with King George's forces, in what was the last close engagement of British and European troops on British soil.

Scottish Opera's director of education and outreach Jane Davidson said: 'An amazing way to learn about one of the most dramatic and exciting periods in Scottish history, 1719! features more battles than Braveheart and

is a thrilling adventure that pits the Jacobite troops and their Spanish allies against the forces of King George's government in the mountains surrounding Glen Shiel.

'Although not the most famous of engagements in the Jacobite Wars, it had far reaching significance for Britain's role in Europe and 300 years later, is still recalled in the name Sgurr nan Spainteach (The Peak of the Spaniards) in recognition of the Spanish troops who fought there.'

1719! is supported by The Cruden Foundation, New Park Educational Trust, The Forteviot Charitable Trust, Scottish Opera's Education Angels and a number of other generous funders.

More details about 1719! are available from [www.scottishopera.org.uk/join-in/opera-for-schools/](http://www.scottishopera.org.uk/join-in/opera-for-schools/)

## Eye to eye with John Wallace



# DIY Dangers

On an almost weekly basis I see patients who have managed to injure an eye, usually due to an accident in the garden or using power tools without any eye protection. During the gardening season the most frequent cause is strimming with inappropriate eye protection (that's assuming they actually wore any protection). At this time of year the most frequent cause is from cutting back branches and overgrown brambles. When you buy or hire a strimmer it usually comes with head, eye and ear protection. The face guard is frequently wire mesh which will still permit small fragments of debris to pass through. I always recommend wearing wrap-round safety specs in addition to the basic wire mesh face guard. Even very small particles of debris



hitting the naked eye can cause massive damage due to the very high speed they travel at.

The other culprit at this time of year is bramble thorns. No one would attempt to tackle brambles without wearing thick gloves to protect their hands, yet most gardeners never wear any form of eye

protection. It's bad enough having thorns catch on your clothes, just imagine what would happen if they hit you in the face or eye!

At this time of year many folk think about some DIY in the house in preparation for relatives visiting over the festive period. We have all done it ... grabbed the power drill or saw and started work without any eye protection because it will only take a minute to cut or drill that bit of wood or metal. A momentary lack of thought can lead to a lifetime of pain and misery.

Eye protection is not expensive and is readily available from your optometrist or your local DIY store. If you need prescription safety glasses your optometrist is there to advise you on what is appropriate.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP

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## WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE RECIPE?

### Diet Cola Chicken

Serves: 4  
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Cook time: Ready in under an hour  
Freezer friendly  
Syns per serving: FREE

#### Ingredients

Low calorie cooking spray	1 onion, finely chopped
1 red pepper, 1 yellow and 1 green pepper, chopped into chunks	2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
4 skinless chicken breasts, cut into pieces	
2 tsp Worcestershire sauce	4 tbsp tomato purée
8 tbsp passata with onions and garlic	1 tbsp dark soy sauce/tamari
1 tsp dried mixed herbs	330ml can diet cola
200ml chicken stock	200g sugar snap peas

#### Method

- Place a large pan sprayed with low calorie cooking spray over a high heat.
- Add the chicken, peppers and onion and stir-fry for 4-5 minutes, or until lightly browned.
- Add the diet cola, stock, passata, tomato purée, garlic, Worcestershire sauce, soy sauce and dried mixed herbs and stir well.
- Bring to the boil, cover, reduce the heat to medium-low and simmer for 12-15 minutes.
- Add the sugar snap peas, stir and increase the heat to medium-high.
- Cook for another 10-15 minutes, or until the chicken is cooked through and the veg is tender.

Tip: Try swapping diet cola for diet orange, for a tasty change.

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# malts OF THE month

## Grain of Truth

The Tweeddale has added a new single grain whisky to its repertoire – Grain of Truth.

The Tweeddale was first blended by J&A Davidson in 1820 in Coldstream in the Scottish Borders, and later continued by Richard Day from 1895 to 1940.

In 2009, Alasdair Day – great-grandson of Richard – decided to recreate The Tweeddale and to continue Richard's legacy. Grain of Truth represents Alasdair's latest effort to create a rich single grain whisky, based on traditional Victorian craftsmanship with innovative maturation techniques.

Grain of Truth possesses an uncommon composition of 50 per cent wheat and 50 per cent malted barley. The spirit was matured in bourbon barrels and finished for nine months in fine Oloroso sherry hogsheads, imbuing the whisky with rich and warming honey and orange notes. This evolves into touches of dark chocolate and cognac on the palate.

Grain whisky has often been maligned as an inferior category and despite its complexity and many



desirable properties, it has been overshadowed by malt. However, in recent years, grain whisky has witnessed a resurgence in popularity.

The Tweeddale hopes that Grain of Truth will follow on from the success of R&B Distillers' award-winning single grain, Borders. With a strong heritage behind it, The Tweeddale is poised to redefine the perception of the category, and, through the launch of Grain of Truth, looks to the future of this whisky.

The unusual Grain of Truth has been

designed with the curious drinker in mind. The 50 per cent malted barley and sherry cask finish gives the whisky a more complex flavour than typical grain whiskies.

The spirit flourishes when served in a Grain of Truth highball: a refreshing long serve which retracts the distinctive sweet sherry and spice notes. In a highball glass stir equal parts of Grain of Truth, ginger ale or ginger beer and bitters over ice. Garnish with fresh citrus fruit peel and serve as a light aperitif.

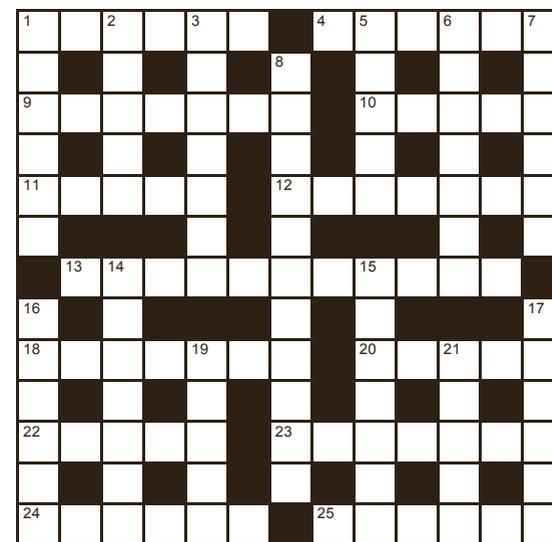
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**MONDAY:** 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 9.00 Monday Morning with Stephen, 11.00 Ian Simmonds on Monday, 17.00 Drivetime, 19.00 Rosie's Highland Fling with Rosie Macoll, 20.00 John McLuckie's Show, 21.00 David Cullen show, 23.00 Station close down  
**TUESDAY:** 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 10.00 Ken Hunter's Tuesday Morning, 13.00 Macky on FM, 17.00 Drivetime Jim Lynch, 19.00 Highest Praise - Stuart Chalmers, 20.00 Archie Darlings's Mix, 22.00 Clyde 2  
**WEDNESDAY:** 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 09.00 Sound Scottish Repeat, 10.00 Comfort Zone, Doug Carmichael, 11.00 Comfort Zone, 12.00 Comfort Zone, 17.00 Drivetime with Campbell, 19.00 Country Meets Rock & Roll - Len + Ken, 20.00 Country Meets Rock & Roll - 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

- 1 Enter forcefully (6)
- 4 Ships progress through the waves (6)
- 9 Card game (7)
- 10 Groups of a few (5)
- 11 Give a buzz cut (5)
- 12 Former peso of Spain (7)
- 13 One in charge of employees (4,7)
- 18 Odorous rodent (7)
- 20 Set free (5)
- 22 Not the right one who is in the wings (5)
- 23 Staff (7)
- 24 Seat of power (6)
- 25 Shun (6)

Down

- 1 As a precaution (6)
- 2 Locale (5)
- 3 Be worthy of (7)
- 5 Uncredited actor (5)
- 6 Tune through lips (7)
- 7 Toadies (3-3)
- 8 Negligent misconduct (11)
- 14 To such an extent (7)
- 15 Watery (7)
- 16 Talisman (6)
- 17 Sketch again (6)
- 19 Fibre made from cellulose (5)
- 21 Upper leg of a chicken (5)

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



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## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

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

## Charity Coffee Morning

Saturday 1st December 2018

St John's Cathedral, Oban  
10.30am - 12.30pm  
Admission £3

Tea, Coffee, Baking Stall, Preserves and Raffle

In aid of North Argyll Young Carers and St. John's Cathedral, Oban

## CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

St Conan's Kirk, Lochawe  
30th Nov & 2nd Dec, 1.30-6pm, Dec 1st, 10am-6pm  
Over 40 decorated trees!  
Oban Community Singers 2.30 & 3.30, Sat and Sun  
Elf Hunt, Homebaking & Hot drinks  
Entry by donation

## Oban Accordion & Fiddle Club

Thursday 6th December 2018  
7.30pm  
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Guest Artist: Calum MacColl's Band  
Admission £4  
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# MONEY MATTERS

## More power to your pension!

Feel like you're playing snakes and ladders and hopscotch at the same time while standing in the middle of a minefield? Sounds like you are trying to sort out your pension – or pensions!

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The trouble is that no one stays in the same job forever these days; a 'job for life' was something our grandparents had.

If you've got several pension pots, you may get a better deal when you start drawing retirement benefits if you combine them. There are rules that may allow you to take small pots as a lump sum, part of which will be taxed.

It can be difficult to keep track of a number of smaller pots and payments and remember that different rules apply to defined benefit schemes – if ever there was a time to make sure you have expert advice it has to be when you are sorting out your pension.

But who do you get to advise you?

The Pensions Advisory Service (TPAS) is an

independent organisation that is grant-aided by the Department for Work and Pensions.

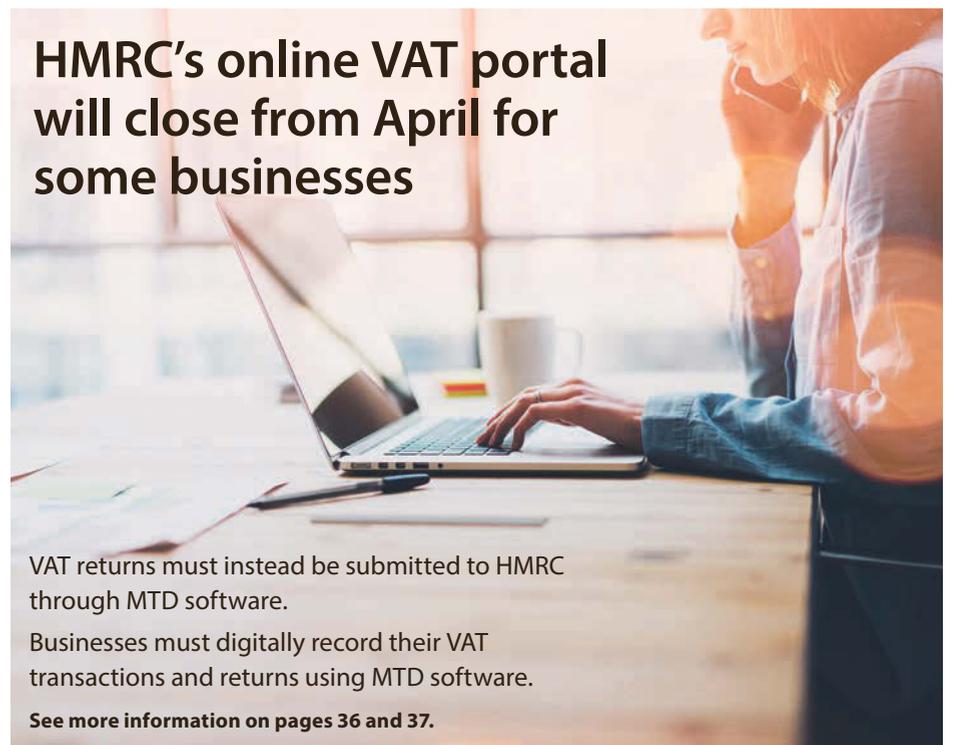
It works to make pensions understandable for everyone, providing independent and impartial information and guidance about pensions, free of charge, to members of the public.

It provides the telephone service for the Government service, Pension Wise and as such does not offer regulated financial advice or provide detailed tax information.

Neither does it deal with complaints or disputes relating to the State Pension.

You can find help from Pension Wise from other organisations like the Citizens Advice Bureau.

### HMRC's online VAT portal will close from April for some businesses



VAT returns must instead be submitted to HMRC through MTD software.

Businesses must digitally record their VAT transactions and returns using MTD software.

See more information on pages 36 and 37.

ADVERTORIAL

## What will your pension look like when you retire?

The Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association (PLSA) has come up with a suggestion to help people keep their pension plans on track. It has called for savings targets to be put in place to help individuals save enough for a good pension for their retirement years.

According to their research<sup>1</sup>, 13 million people haven't made sufficient pension provision and 78 per cent of those aged between 18 and 64 don't know how to go about finding out how much pension they will receive when they retire.

The PLSA is considering developing a new set of benchmarks that will help savers by providing target figures for them to aim for.

Retirement income targets are commonly used in Australia, and can help people become more informed about their pension by explaining how much they need to save to achieve different standards of living in retirement – such as minimum, modest and comfortable.

### GETTING THE RIGHT ADVICE

Whilst most people know that they should save regularly throughout their working lives to accumulate enough to retire on, fewer people are aware of how much they might need to live on, or whether their current pension arrangements are on track to achieve their goals.

Research<sup>2</sup> has shown that the average person in the UK thinks that they will need an income of £29,700 a year when they retire; what they are often not so clear about is that to achieve this level of income, they would need to have accumulated a pension pot of around £364,000 on top of a full state pension.

This is where getting advice can really help. We can provide valuable insight into how much your current pension savings are worth, what level of income you can expect to retire on, and what steps you can take to improve your standard of living in your later years.

**The information within the article is purely for information purposes only and does not constitute individual advice.**

- 1 Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association, Nov 2017
- 2 One Family, Nov 2017



## There is plenty of help out there

The good news is that there are plenty of options that you can choose for your pension. No two people's lives are the same, so it is good to mix and match these options to suit your own unique needs.

The bad news is that there are plenty of options you can choose from for your pension and making those choices can be daunting.

That is why it cannot be stressed enough

that you should consult an expert.

You can leave your money invested in your pension pot until you need it.

OR

- You can use your pension pot to buy an insurance policy that gives you a guaranteed income for the rest of your life. This is called an annuity.
- Or you can take 25 per cent of your pot as tax-free cash and buy an annuity with the other 75 per cent.
- Or go for an adjustable income when your pot is invested to give you a regular income. You decide

how much to take out and when, and how long you want it to last.

- There is also the option to take smaller sums of money from your pot until you run out; your 25 per cent tax-free amount isn't paid in one lump sum, you get it over time
- Or you could take your entire pension pot in one go and cash in your entire pot; 25 per cent is tax free, the rest is taxable. If you decide to do this then make sure that the advice you have taken is very, very sound.

With so many options, and permutations of those options, it makes sense to seek advice. If you go down the path of seeking professional financial advice then make sure you use an Independent Financial Advisor. In the UK, regulated financial advice can be either independent or restricted; restricted means the advisor can only recommend certain products or product providers.

Independent Financial Advisors are regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the advisor must meet strict qualification and competence requirements.

## A WELL-SPENT 45 MINUTES

It's too easy to get it wrong on pensions, and following recent rule changes it definitely pays to acquire reliable and impartial guidance.

Do you know that you have a number of options relating to pensions that weren't available before? There have been worrying reports of some making unwise decisions because of flawed or misleading information.

Pension Wise is a free and impartial service delivered locally by Citizens Advice. Appointments take around 45 minutes, and are aimed at people aged 50 or over with a defined contribution (personal or workplace) pension. Pension Wise will explain your options to you as well as other considerations such as tax and benefits.

Call 0800 138 3944 to book your face-to-face or phone appointment, or go to [pensionwise.gov.uk](http://pensionwise.gov.uk) for more information.



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# Making tax digital

Tax collection is going digital in the UK, starting with VAT but the rest of the system will follow soon after. Time to make sure your accounting system adds up!

You might not know it yet, but the British government wants to create 'one of the most digitally advanced tax administrations in the world'.

If you are in business be it large or small, it is time to fasten your seatbelt and strap on your protective headgear and get in there.

The first step is making tax digital for VAT payers and the pilot service is now under way involving business whose affairs are straightforward

and up to date.

Most other businesses will be offered this service in the coming months.

HMRC says that VAT-registered businesses with a taxable turnover above the VAT threshold are required to use the Making Tax Digital service to keep records digitally and use software to submit their VAT returns from April 1 next year.

However, some VAT-registered businesses with

what are being classed as 'more complex requirements' can be the exception and they have until October 1 next year until they join.



## Making Tax Digital

### Is your business ready?

Making Tax Digital rules come into force in **April 2019.**

Our team can help you with every step – from choosing the right product for your business to the full implementation of the software.

Contact Lorna Wyllie at [lornaw@wyliebisset.com](mailto:lornaw@wyliebisset.com) for more information.

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## The VAT timeline from H

### The countdown is on

In October this year the first VAT-registered businesses in the UK began to use the system in a pilot scheme and private testing with partnerships and those customers who trade with the EU.

The existing online VAT portal will close to some businesses from April and VAT returns must instead be submitted to HMRC using recognised

MTD software. From this point businesses must record their VAT transactions and returns digitally using this type of software.

For the rest of the UK's VAT-registered businesses the time line is as follows

- Early 2019: Opens to other sole traders and companies who are not up to date with their VAT, users of the Flat Rate Scheme and businesses newly registered for VAT that have not previously submitted a VAT return.

- Spring 2019: Pilot open for Making Tax Digital customers that have been deferred.

- April 2019 Making Tax Digital becomes mandatory for all customers, except those that have been deferred.

- October 2019: Making Tax Digital mandatory for customers that have been deferred.

The six-month deferral applies to

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### Making Tax Digital (MTD)

Why not make the most of digital accounting software whilst complying with MTD?

For most VAT registered businesses, Making Tax Digital starts in April 2019 when VAT returns need to be submitted from MTD compliant software to a new HMRC gateway and our digital accounting team can help you with this.

Once MTD compliant, you can focus on running your business whilst your bank feeds your business transactions into your digital software 24/7.

The availability of key business information ensures that you will make the best possible

business decisions. Further reduce your administrative workload by issuing invoices electronically and accept electronic payments whilst using advanced automatic debt collection facilities.

An early move to Making Tax Digital (MTD) compliant software removes any compliance concerns, and reduces your administrative time, so why wait?

Call our digital accounting team on **01631 562643** or visit us at [www.raclement.co.uk](http://www.raclement.co.uk).

**5 Argyll Square, Oban PA34 4AZ.**  
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See the website for details.



# Your will SHOULD be done

November has been Will Aid month and the 30th anniversary of one of the legal profession's major contributions to charity.

Participating solicitors waive their fee to write a basic will or a pair of mirror wills. In return, they invite clients to make a voluntary donation to Will Aid.

James Tarleton, who chairs Will Aid said: 'Not only does making your will through Will Aid provide peace of mind, by using a professional solicitor, but the nine partner charities use the donations and legacies from will makers to reach people in crisis, both here in the UK and all around the world.'

Without a will your affairs can be in limbo for years. Making a will is especially important if you live with your partner but aren't married or in a civil partnership as common law rights don't exist. If you die, your partner may not get the house – even if you've been together a long time.

A vast majority of adults are following in the footsteps of the late music legends Aretha Franklin and Prince in having made no will, a recent survey by Will Aid revealed.

The study found that 53 per cent of adults have not prepared this vital piece of paperwork, up from 51 per cent in 2017.

*Few people realise how many problems it causes their families if they have not written a will, so get yours organised*



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## M Revenue & Customs

customers who fall into one of the following categories: trusts, 'not for profit' organisations that are not set up as a company, VAT divisions, VAT groups, those public

sector entities required to provide additional information on their VAT return (Government departments, NHS Trusts), local authorities, public corporations, traders based overseas,

those required to make payments on account and annual accounting scheme users.

The deferral will apply to around 3.5 per cent of VAT registered operations.



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## Crofters wary about future of livestock

Crofters are wary of the future of the livestock industry in the Highlands and Islands, according to the Scottish Crofting Federation which conducted a survey on attitudes in the industry this month.

Only 14 per cent of respondents are confident about the future, compared to more than twice that number who are despondent (31 per cent).

Fifty-five per cent said they were uncertain, citing Brexit and the knock-on effect that might have on prices and support payments.

Crofters and farmers are having to make decisions on stock numbers without knowing what sort of market they are going to be selling animals into and with both sheep and cattle producers, more people are reducing stock numbers than increasing them. For cattle, the figures are 24 per cent reducing stock and 13 per cent increasing; for sheep the numbers are 26 per cent



**Only 14 per cent of crofters who responded are confident about the future of the livestock industry.**

reducing stock and 19 per cent increasing. Most people are maintaining numbers while waiting to see what happens. But the drift of livestock from the hills is set to continue.

Russell Smith, chairman of the Scottish Crofting Federation, said: 'Those who are confident about the future base their views on the fact that there will always be a need for food - and crofters produce quality, environmentally-friendly meat. Some comment that Brexit gives opportunity for better support for the industry, for example by placing tariffs on imports. A few are developing local

markets for their meat.'

He added: 'Those who are despondent cite the possible reduction in subsidies when out of the Common Agricultural Policy and the risk of a no-deal Brexit leading to a drop in prices. There is great uncertainty; so crofters can't plan for the future.'

'Overall, there doesn't seem too much joy around, with lots of respondents fearful of what the future might bring - reduced prices, increased costs and reductions in support payments. And if there is no economic return then crofters will stop crofting, they say in their comments.'

## Around the markets

Tiree - United Auctions held its annual November sale of all classes of cattle at Tiree Auction Mart on Tuesday November 20. A total of 614 head of all classes sold to a good following of mainland buyers. Bulls sold to an average £754 per head or 216 pence per kilo (+ £18 per head or - eight pence per kilo). Heifers levelled out at £660 per head or 207 pence per kilo (+ £15 per head or - seven pence per kilo).

Principal lots and prices:

Top prices per head:

Bulls:

AAx: £1220 - 12 Crossapol: £1010 and £1000 - 6 Barrapol: £960 - Croish: £910(2) - Whitehouse: £900 - 6 Barrapol.

BSx: £1000 and £900 - 6 Barrapol.

BRBx: £1140 - Parkhouse.

CHARx: £1175 and £1100 - 4

Kilkenneth: £1095 and £1090

- Braeside: £1085 - Heylipol Farm:

£1070 - Braeside: £1060 - 4 Kilkenneth:

£1040, £1035 and £1020 - Heylipol

Farm: £1010 - 4 Kilkenneth: £1000 -

Drumglea: £990 - Braeside: £975(2)

and £970(2) - Heylipol Farm: £950 - 4

Kilkenneth: £945(2) and £920(2) -

Heylipol Farm: £920 - Salum: £910 - 4

Kilkenneth and Heylipol Farm: £900

- Salum: £900 - Drumglea.

GALx: £820(2) - Croish.

LIMx: £1050 - Braeside: £1050 - Salum:

£1040 - Braeside: £1035 - Hillcrest:

£1025 - Heylipol Farm: £1010 - Salum:

£1005 - Parkhouse: £1000 - Vaul:

£970 - Hillcrest: £970 - Heylipol Farm:

£960 - Salum: £940 - Parkhouse:

£940 - Braeside: £930(3) - Hillcrest:

£920 - Heylipol Farm: £920 - Braeside:

£910 - Vaul: £900 - Salum.

SALx: £1125 - 6 Crossapol: £1080

- Braeside: £1060 and £1040 - 6

Crossapol: £1030(5) - Drumglea:

£1005 - Parkhouse: £1000 - 10

Balevullin: £985(3) - Druimasaidh:

£980 - Drumglea: £950 - 6 Barrapol.

SHx: £840 - 9 Barrapol.

SIMx: £880 - Lochphuil.

Heifers.

AAx: £1100 - 8 Kilkenneth: £990(2) - 6

Barrapol.

BSHx: £900 - 6 Barrapol: £880 - 8

Kilkenneth.

CHARx: £1080 - 4 Kilkenneth: £1030

- Heylipol Farm: £980 - 4 Kilkenneth:

£950 - Braeside: £950 - Heylipol Farm: £950 - 4 Kilkenneth: £930 - Drumglea: £920 - Heylipol Farm: £900 - Braeside: £900 - 4 Kilkenneth: £890(2) and £880 - Heylipol Farm.

LIMx: £1020 - Braeside: £1020

- Hillcrest: £960(2) - Hillcrest:

£920 - Vaul: £900(4) - Salum: £890(2)

- Hillcrest.

SALx: £940(3), £900 and £840(2)

- Druimasaidh.

SIMx: £860 - 10 Balevullin.

Top prices per kilo:

Bulls:

AAx: 240p(2) and 233p(2) - Hillcrest:

229p(2) - Whitehouse.

BSx: 191p - 6 Barrapol.

BRBx: 229p(4) - Ruaig: 225p

- Parkhouse.

CHARx: 269p(5) and 261p - Garaphail:

258p(2) - Heylipol Farm: 255p -

Drumglea: 253p, 251p(2) and 249p(2)

- Heylipol Farm: 248p - Garaphail:

247p - Drumglea: 246p(2) - Heylipol

Farm: 245p(3) - Garaphail: 244p

- Drumglea and Salum(2): 240p

- Garaphail.

LIMx: 269p - Garaphail: 254p(3) -

Hillcrest: 254p and 253p - Mannal:

251p - Garaphail: 250p and 249p

- Hillcrest: 247p - Heylipol Farm:

243p - 6 Balevullin, 9 Barrapol and

Parkhouse(2): 241p and 239p(4)

- Heylipol Farm: 239p(4) - Ruaig:

239p(3) - 1 Kilkenneth: 238p(3)

- Hillcrest.

SALx: 247p and 243p - 6 Crossapol:

243p(3) - Parkhouse: 239p(2) - 7

Balinoe and 2/15 Balevullin: 238p(3)

- Lochside.

SHx: 211p(5) - Main Road.

SIMx: 260p - Hough: 234p - 10

Crossapol.

Heifers:

AAx: 214p - Whitehouse.

CHARx: 265p, 259p, 248p and 241p

- Heylipol Farm: 238p - Drumglea:

236p(5), 233p(5) and 227p(2) - Heylipol

Farm.

LIMx: 246p(2) - Heylipol Farm:

244p - 2 Heylipol: 241p(2) - Hillcrest:

236p(3) - 6 Balevullin: 230p - 2

Heylipol: 228p - Parkhouse(5) and 2

Heylipol.

SALx: 260p(4) - Scarinish Farm: 256p

- 5 Balevullin: 252p(2) - 8 Balevullin:

248p - Crofthouse: 246p(3) - 6

Crossapol: 238p - Lochside(2) and 7

Balinoe(2): 237p - Lochside: 234p(2)

- 8 Balevullin.

In-calf heifers: £980 - Drumglea.

Cast cows:

Top prices per head.

AAx: £900 - 9 Barrapol.

BSx: £810 - 6 Barrapol.

BRBx: £820 - 9 Barrapol.

LIMx: £950, £930 and £900 - Heylipol

Farm: £880 and £850 - Hillcrest: £850

- Heylipol Farm: £830 - Hillcrest.

SALx: £910 - Parkhouse.

SIMx: £930 - Lochphuil.

Top prices per kilo:

AAx: 109p - Parkhouse.

BRBx: 114p - 9 Barrapol.

LIMx: 125p - Garaphail: 123p -

Heylipol Farm.

SALx: 147p - Parkhouse.

SIMx: 123p - Lochphuil: 123p -

Heylipol Farm.

Oban - United Auctions held its last

sale of season for lambs and sheep at

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November 20 when an increased

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Principal lots and prices:

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SUFFx: £62.50 and £55.00 - Dalvuie:

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TEXx: £52.00 - Dalvuie.

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£55.00 - Carnaigmore, Coll: £50.00

- Slaterich: £50.00 - Kilpatrick Croft:

£50.00 - Cornaigmore, Coll.

CROSS: £47.00 - Turnault.

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Barra.

BF: £38.00 - Lag Na Ha: £38.00

- Aird Farm: £36.00 - Creag A

Mhadaidh: £34.50 - Aird Farm:

£34.00 - Ardachy.

Ewes.

SUFFx: £40.00 - Dalvore.

TEXx: £36.00 - Lagganulva.

CHEV: £50.00 - 3 Balevullin.

CROSS: £36.00 - 4 Balure.

MULE: £40.00 - Dalvore.

BF: £31.00 - Ensay.

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Official fuel consumption for the ŠKODA FABIA range in mpg (litres/100km): Urban 47.1 (6.0) to 53.3 (5.3); Extra Urban 65.7 (4.3) to 68.9 (4.1); Combined 57.7 (4.9) to 61.4 (4.6). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for the ŠKODA FABIA range are 111 to 105 g/km.

This vehicle is a WLTP (Worldwide Harmonised Light-Duty Vehicles Test Procedure) type approved vehicle. More information is available at [www.skoda.co.uk/owners/wltp-info/nedc-vs-wltp](http://www.skoda.co.uk/owners/wltp-info/nedc-vs-wltp). However, in line with government guidance, to facilitate comparison between different models from different manufacturers and to accommodate the full transition to this new testing regime, we have displayed NEDC figures. These NEDC figures are the values for this vehicle used in registration and taxation documentation until further notice from the UK authorities. These NEDC figures have been derived from WLTP testing, and may not be equivalent to NEDC figures from NEDC testing, so comparisons may be unreliable. Fuel consumption and efficiency figures are provided for comparative purposes only and may not reflect 'real world' driving results. Choice of wheels and other options may affect fuel consumption and emissions data.

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sites  
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**TRANSPORT SCOTLAND**

**THE A83 TRUNK ROAD (MAIN STREET, INVERARAY)  
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION ON USE OF ROAD) ORDER 2018**

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS give notice that they have made the above Order under sections 2(1) and (2), 4(1) and 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, temporarily prohibiting traffic on that length of the A83 Tarbet - Lochgilphead - Campbeltown Trunk Road from its junction with the entrance to The Avenue Car Park, Inveraray in a generally northerly direction on Main Street South, Main Street West, Main Street East then in a north westerly direction on Front Street East and Front Street West to its junction with the entrance leading to Inveraray Castle, a distance of 575 metres or thereby. The Order, which is required to facilitate the Inveraray Christmas Parade will be in operation from 1st December until 2nd December 2018. It is anticipated that the prohibition will be in place for approximately 30 minutes and will only have effect in relation to such part or parts of the length of road as is indicated by the appropriate traffic signs.

The Order does not apply to vehicles while being used in an emergency for fire brigade, ambulance, police or coastguard purposes or a vehicle being used for facilitating the holding of the relevant event.

**ALTERNATIVE ROUTES**

An alternative route for traffic during the prohibition is not required. A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at <https://www.transport.gov.scot/road-orders/?roadorderregion=1291>

For information about roadworks on motorways and trunk roads visit [www.trafficscotland.org.uk](http://www.trafficscotland.org.uk)

**ALASTAIR SOMERVILLE**

A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers  
Transport Scotland, Buchanan House,  
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**First Registration of a  
Croft**

Mr Kenneth A Gibson has registered their croft Fiadh Cottage, Pennygowan and Torosay 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 August 15, 2019.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C5518.

**PROPOSED  
ASSIGNATION OF A  
CROFT**

Mrs Carole MacDonald is applying to assign the tenancy of the croft at 86 Lochyside, Fort William, in the Parish of Kilmallie to Donald Kennedy of Caberfeidh, 86 Lochyside, Fort William and at 27S Kennington Road, London, SE11 6BY.

Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW, info@croftingscotland.gov.uk.scot by December 27, 2018.

**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](http://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
18/02186/PP	Erection of extension and change of use of steading to form holiday let accommodation	Rossal Farm Pennyghael Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA70 6HB
18/02340/LIB	Erection of building for use as a toilet block, installation of treatment plant and oil tank, relocation of existing oil tank and formation of associated footpath and steps	St Conans Church Lochawe Dalmally Argyll And Bute PA33 1AH
18/02001/PP	Alterations and change of use from guesthouse to form dwellinghouse and micro brewery	Ceabhar Sandaig Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute PA77 6XQ
18/02460/PP	Erection of shed, boat house and associated retaining wall (retrospective)	The Sheiling Manna Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute PA78 6UB
18/02436/PP	Alterations and change of use of church (Class 10) to dwellinghouse (Class 9)	Coll Free Church Arinagour Isle Of Coll Argyll And Bute PA78 6SY
18/02339/PP	Erection of building for use as a toilet block, installation of treatment plant and oil tank, relocation of existing oil tank and formation of associated footpath and steps	St Conans Church Lochawe Dalmally Argyll And Bute PA33 1AH
18/02394/LIB	Installation of heating system	St Conans Church Lochawe Dalmally Argyll And Bute PA33 1AH
18/02300/LIB	Internal alterations and installation of flue	14 George Street Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5SB
18/02456/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land North West Of Keil Farm Keil Gardens Benderloch Oban Argyll And Bute
18/02301/PP	Change of use of restaurant/retail unit to restaurant with ancillary takeaway and installation of flue	14 George Street Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5SB
18/02453/PP	Erection of agricultural building to house cattle	33 Balephetrish Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute
18/02450/PP	Alterations to roof, installation of rooflights, additional window openings, construction of elevated deck and 2 raised walkways and formation of car park to facilitate the development of improved visitor centre	Caolila Distillery Caol Ila Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA46 7RL

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Councils website.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:

[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)  
Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



[www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk)



**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997  
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>; electronically at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, CHARLES KENNEDY BUILDING, ACHINTORE ROAD, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6RQ; or electronically at your nearest Council Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link [https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a\\_to\\_z](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
18/05348/FUL	Land 2800M NW Of	Glensanda House, Glensanda, Morvern	Installation of hydro intake weir and formation of access track
18/05283/FUL	Land 330M SE Of	Birch View Auchindarroch, Duror	Construction & operation of a 350kW run of river hydropower scheme
18/05357/FUL	Land 120M North Of	Burnside Glenachulish, Ballachulish	Siting of four holiday pods
18/04656/FUL	Land At 64 Ormsaigbeg,	Kilchoan	Formation of 5 hard standing areas
18/05164/FUL	Land 100M NW Of	Sithean Mor Achnaha, Kilchoan	Change of use of the land to a caravan site for the siting of 3 camping pods
18/05184/PIP	Plot 3, Former Caravan	Site Faichem, Invergarry	Renewal of planning 15/03805/PIP
18/05250/FUL	Woodlea, Spean Bridge		Siting of a pod for use as additional accommodation to Woodlea or Holiday Accommodation

Time period for comments is 14 days

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

**GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE**

David Stuart Alsop trading as Alsop Transport Services of Braeview, Cuan Road, Seil, Oban, Argyll is applying to add an operating centre to keep 1 goods vehicles and 1 trailer at The Garage, Annat Point, Corpach, Fort William, PH33 7NA. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

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For more information, please visit: [www.bit.ly/2PPwks](http://www.bit.ly/2PPwks)





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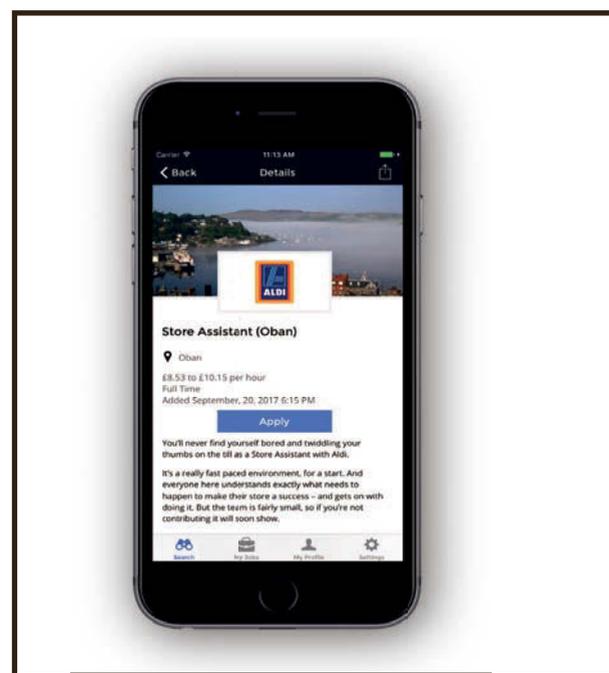
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## DEATHS

**CLAYTON** - Peacefully, with his family by his side, on November 23, 2018, at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Stanley Thomas Clayton (Stan), aged 86 years, retired BT Engineer. Loved and loving husband of Cathie, much loved dad of David and Ian and dear granddad of Andrew and Calum. Funeral will take place from Oban Parish Church, Glencruitten Road, Oban on Thursday, November 29, 2018 at 1pm, thereafter to Pennyfuir cemetery. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Oban Hospice.

**KENNEDY** - Peacefully at home with his family at his side on Saturday, November 24, 2018, Euan, aged 90, beloved husband of Dorothy, loving father of Elizabeth, Gordon and Eleanor and a darling grandfather of Jill, Ruth, Emma, Euan and Karen, and great grandfather of Alfie. A service of thanksgiving will be held on Monday, December 3 in Perth North Church, Mill Street, Perth at 11.30am to which all family and friends are respectfully invited. No flowers please, cremation private.

**MACKINNON** - Thelma Dorothy, died suddenly on November 18, 2018, beloved wife of Donnie MacKinnon (formerly of 5 Soroba Park Terrace), after suffering a stroke on Saturday. She blessed me with over 50 happy years.

**MACLEOD** - Suddenly but peacefully on November 22, 2018 Alistair, devoted husband of the late Diane, beloved father of Justine, James, Lorna and Fiona. Much loved father-in-law and grandad, sadly missed by all. Funeral to be held at Oban Parish Church on Tuesday, December 4, 2018 at 1p.m. All welcome. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to - 'My Name'5 Doddie Foundation', "For His Love of the Game of Rugby".

**MCCORQUODALE** - Catherine known as Rena, passed away peacefully on November 22, 2018 at the family home in Troon. She will be sadly missed by family and friends. The funeral will be held at Lismore Church on Friday, November 30 at 1pm. All welcome. Family flowers only please, if desired donations to Alzheimers Scotland.

**SEATON** - Peacefully at Abbeyfield Nursing Home, Ballachulish on November 20, 2018, Moira Elizabeth, formerly of North Connel, beloved wife of Gordon, devoted mum of Sarah and much loved mother-in-law of Mark, adored granny of Rachael and James.

**SMITH** - Unexpectedly on October 1, 2018, Martyn Smith aged 73 years. Funeral service will take place on Tuesday, December 4, 2018 at Holmsford Bridge Crematorium, Dregghorn, Irvine KA11 4EF at 12.30 p.m. to which all friends are respectfully invited.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**GILLIES** - Peacefully surrounded by family, at the Belford Hospital on Friday November 2, 2018, Janet Gillies aged 71 years passed away. Loving wife of the late Archie aged 78, devoted mum of Donald John, Steven and the late Archie, proud Granny of her five grandchildren and first great granddaughter. The family would like to express their sincere appreciation to all relatives, friends and neighbours for the kindness and sympathy shown to them following their sad loss. Special thanks to Bishop Brian McGee and Sister Anne for their comforting Mass. Grateful thanks to Scott at John McLellan Funeral directors for his personal and dignified service, thanks to Caol Community Centre for providing the catering. Finally thanks to all those who attended Mass and generously donated £338.94 which will be divided between the Parish of St. John's and Ward 1 at the Belford.

## MEMORIALS

**GILLIES** - In loving memory of Graeme, who died on December 3, 2006. Too young to die Too precious to lose It wasn't our wish We could not choose. - With love Dad, Mam, Scott, Kevin, Sarah, Cameron and Rory, Ross, Asha, Sandy and Lauren.



**MACDONALD** - Mary  
In ever loving memory

23.8.66 30.11.17

One sad year since you left us  
We think of you in silence  
And often speak your name  
But all we have are memories  
And your photo in a frame  
Your resting place we visit  
And put flowers there with care  
But no one knows the heartache  
As we turn and leave you there.  
- From all the family  
Always in our thoughts  
Forever in our hearts.xx

**MACDONALD** - Treasured memories of my darling daughter Mary, who Jesus took into his care on November 30, 2017, aged 51. Dearly loved and very sadly missed. A precious daughter, mother, sister, auntie and friend to all. Jesus looked around his garden and saw an empty space He then looked down from Heaven and saw your tired face Kind was your nature, true were your ways We treasure your memory for the rest of our days Until we meet again Mary, God bless.

**MACDONALD** - Marybell. Precious memories of my loving mum, who passed away on December 1, 2008. Always loved and remembered. - Angus, Morar.

**MACCOLL** - Precious memories of John, devoted dad and dad-in-law, who died November 30, 2010. Those we love don't go away. They walk beside us every day, Unseen, unheard, but always near, Still loved, sorely missed and very dear. - Elspeth and Billy.

**MACINNES** - In loving memory of my dear wife Ina, who passed away on November 28, 2010. No tears, no verse, no words can say, how much I miss you every day - Love Roddy xx

**MACINNES** - In loving memory of a dear mum and granny, who passed away on November 28, 2010. The good times we had as a family, a beautiful nature, a heart of gold, these are memories, we'll always hold. Love and miss you always - Fiona, Brian and Euan xx - Kevan, Claire and Ellie xx

**MACINTOSH** - In loving memory of my dear wife, mum and granny, who died on November 27, 1979. Always remembered. - Inserted by her husband Ewen and family, Isle of Barra.

**MACINTYRE** - In loving memory of my husband Calum, who died November 27, 2015. Always remembered. - Joyce.

**MACINTYRE** - In loving memory of dad and seanair Calum, who died November 27, 2015. Remembered every day - Mark, Donna, Gary and Shannon.

**MACKAY** - In loving memory of Eddie, father and grandfather who died November 22, 1968. Always in our thoughts. - Families Inveraray and Canada.

**MACKENZIE** - Treasured memories of Willie, much loved husband, dad and grandpa, who died November 29, 2008. Forever in our thoughts. - Neileen and family.

**MACLACHLAN** - Treasured memories of my dear husband Ian MacLachlan, who passed away on November 28, 2016. Never more than a thought away Loved and remembered every day. - Chrissie, Caalmojo, Kilmory.

**MACLACHLAN** - In memory of a loving father and seanair Ian, passed away November 28, 2016. His presence we miss His memory we treasure. - Allan and family.

**MACLACHLAN** - In loving memory of a much loved dad, seanair and sinn seanair Ian, who passed away November 28, 2016. Silent thoughts of times together Hold memories that will last forever. - Catherine, Bill, Iain, Katie and families.

**MACLACHLAN** - Treasured memories of our dad, seanair and sinn seanair Ian, who passed away November 28, 2016.

Nothing can ever take away The love a heart holds dear Fond memories linger every day Remembrance keeps him near. - Morag, David, Allan, Angus, Iain and families.

**MACLACHLAN** - Precious memories of a lovely father and seanair, Ian who passed away November 28, 2016. A place in our hearts No one can fill We miss you lots and always will. - Joan, Emma and Kirsty.x

**McMONAGLE** - Treasured memories of Peter, who passed away on December 3, 2014, a dearly loved husband, father, granda and great-grandpa. The rolling stream of life rolls on but still the vacant chair recalls the love, the voice, the smile of the one who once sat there. - From Phil and families.

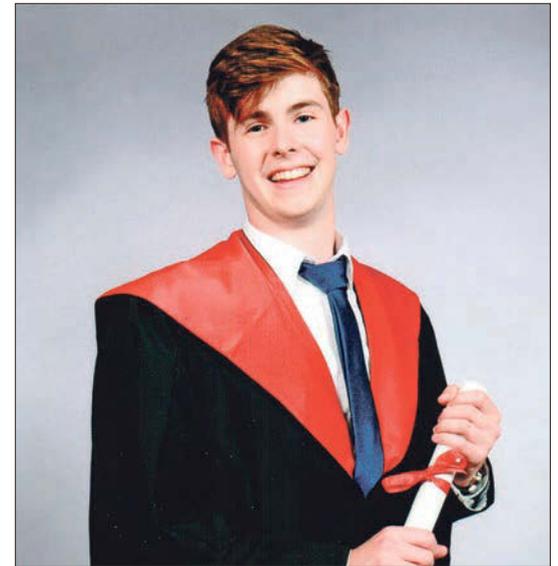
**MURRAY** - In loving memory of George, dear husband, father, granddad and great

granddad, who passed away November 30, 2001. - Sorely missed by all here and in Yorkshire.

**TIMMS** - Precious memories of my dear mum and loving nana Sheena, who passed away November 30, 1971. Never more than a thought away Silently remembered every day - Love Catherine, Lachie and family.

**Oban Times**  
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

## GRADUATION



**CONNOR KEPPIE**

Graduated from Edinburgh Napier University with a First Class Honours Degree B.Eng Computer Security and Forensics. Only son of Andrew and Rosalyn Keppie, Lochawe, grandson of the late Teddy and Mary MacPhee and the late Bobbie and Agnes Keppie, Lerwick. Connor is a former pupil of Dalmally Primary School and Oban High School.



**JENNA MACINNES**

Graduated November 2018 after 3 years' studying from Napier University in Edinburgh in Bachelor of Adult Nursing. Jenna is the eldest daughter to Karen MacInnes and the late Neil (Nonny) MacInnes from Oban - 22 years old. Jenna will be an asset to the NHS and has taken on a role in A&E at the RAH in Paisley. Wish her all the best in her future career.

## MEMORIALS

  
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In memory of Dawn Joyce

# Bishop appeals for parishioners help to combat 'perilous' budget deficit

Argyll and the Isles Diocese, which has existed since 1878, is under threat of running out of money and assets in nine years if the diocese's current deficit of nearly £90,000 a year is not reduced.

The diocese needs an extra £88,000 per annum to break even.

But in an article in the Scottish Catholic Observer, the Bishop of Argyll and the Isles has told parishioners he is confident the deficit can be wiped out by support from parishes.

The expected income of Argyll and the Isles diocese is £207,883 and expenditure for the coming year is set at £296,118, meaning a deficit for 2019 projected to be £88,235.

Bishop Brian McGee addressed the 'dire' state of his diocese's finances with that aim to give 'full transparency' about the weekly offertory collection.

In the article, Bishop McGee spoke of a 'perilous situation' with budget figures for 2019, stating that it would cost £296,118 to run the diocese: 'Our highest costs are diocesan administration; Sick and Retired Priests fund (we presently have seven), Student Priests Fund (we presently have two) and CNET (Bishops' Conference) which pays for national commitments such as the [Interdiocesan] Tribunal, Scottish Catholic Education Service, Parliamentary and Press Offices etc.

'We have more churches per head of population than any other diocese, which are often battered by the inclement weather and our priests have more ground to cover.'

From December 1 the diocese levy for each parish will increase, with the bishop asking each parishioner to donate an extra £1 per week to the offertory collection, if they can.

The diocese believes the measure will increase parish income and eradicate the diocesan deficit.

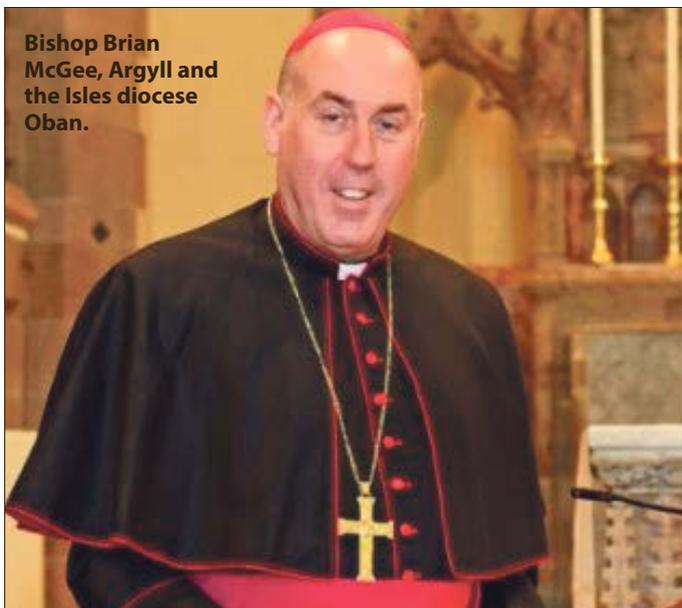
Bishop McGee added: 'We felt it was essential that our parishioners were made aware of the financial situation we find ourselves in - it's their money that goes into the collection each week and these documents will clearly outline where the money is spent.

'We are not looking to make a profit—we are looking to break even. If everyone puts in an extra £1 then 61 pence will go to the diocese and 39 pence will stay with each parish.

'However, since an average of 2,793 people attend Mass every Sunday, a £1 increase over and above what they already donate, would cover this.

'The diocesan trustees, diocesan finance board and the diocesan staff have been working hard to resolve this problem. Over the past six months there has been extensive consultation with the clergy and parish finance committees.

'Our priests in the diocese have



Bishop Brian McGee, Argyll and the Isles diocese Oban.

also been very supportive of what information we are making public and they are hearing positive feedback from the lay people, so things are very hopeful.

'Communication has been key to getting the message out there and we will continue to refresh the information our parishes receive with quarterly updates about the state of the finances in a report published on the website.

'Most people will be unaware of where their money goes when they hand over the weekly collection but these documents clearly outline diocese spending towards God's work, which we believe is a good thing.'

Bishop McGee, who was appointed to Argyll and the Isles Diocese in 2016, says his experience as vicar general when he served in Paisley Diocese convinced him to tackle the finances in his new position.

In January 2017 Paisley Diocese launched an innovative new campaign to try and pay off its £3 million deficit, encouraging parishioners to become 'friends' of various diocesan projects and donate money to help clear an annual shortfall of £300,000.

Bishop McGee added: 'I was here when the campaign began in Paisley but I was made aware of

their deficit when I was serving in the diocese as vicar general. That experience convinced me to tackle the issue of finance when I was appointed to this diocese.

'Each diocese approaches things differently. For us we are the smallest in terms of population but we are the furthest spread. We are unique in that we have a lot of churches that are battered by the weather and we have big distances between parishes.

'A priest may need to travel 70 or 80 miles to attend to a sick person in our diocese and there is an added burden of travel cost or things like petrol or taking the boat in order to say Mass or attend meetings.'

The diocese considered selling Bishop's House in Oban, however, because it is the only building which the diocese owns and is still used as an office and for meetings, the option was not thought viable.

Bishop McGee added: 'The house in Oban was mentioned because we have to think of all possibilities, however, it would only plug the funding gap for a year or two and it still has a number of functions.

'It is used by the diocese administration as an office - rent free - and for clergy meetings, so we have investigated the possibility of selling it, but we'd rather not.'

## THOUGHT for the week

One way to understand the working of the Holy Spirit is to understand the Spirit as the power of life.

The Genesis 2 story of creation includes this: 'God formed Man out of dirt from the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life. The Man came alive - a living soul!'

Later you will find Jesus speaking of the Spirit in relation to new birth or being born of the Spirit and, through Jesus, believers receiving life eternal.

We all know the lowest common denominator for humans. We all will die. There is no escaping that truth, that reality. Because of this, there are those who will wield the threat of death and its fear to their own benefit.

This is made brutally clear and plain in the crucifixion. It continues to be made plain in the racism, sexism, terrorism and other ways that crush the breath out of people. Of course, this article is not long enough to come close to mentioning all the ways this happens.

I have committed myself, however imperfectly, to serving the higher power - God's power of life. There is the story of Jesus's baptism where the Holy Spirit alights upon him like a dove.

It will define his ministry as he goes about bringing forth healing, forgiveness, reconciliation and teaching the ways that lead to life.

I pray his baptism will be mine.

I love Maya Angelou's poem Still I Rise as a bold and resolute display of the power of life and dignity to overcome the power of death and shame. I leave you with the final stanza of a poem I hope you will some day read in its entirety.

*Out of the huts of history's shame*

*I rise*

*Up from a past that's rooted in pain*

*I rise*

*I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,*

*Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.*

*Leaving behind nights of terror and fear*

*I rise*

*Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear*

*I rise*

*Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,*

*I am the dream and the hope of the slave.*

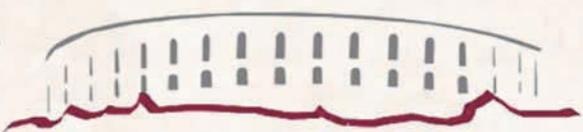
*I rise*

*I rise*

*I rise.*

May the Holy Spirit continue to work within us to give us life and the power to give life and dignity to others ... and to do so abundantly!

Reverend Tom Telfer,  
Kilchrenan and Dalavich l/w Muckairn


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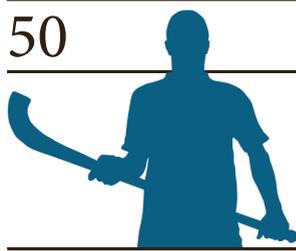
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# SHINTY NEWS

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

## Camanachd Association AGM

Three proposals will go before the Camanachd Association's annual general meeting which takes place in the Muthu West End Hotel, Fort William, on Friday November 30.

The first two proposals, from the Camanachd Referees Association, relate to Byelaw 1 and have to be passed by at least two thirds of the members present, either in person or by proxy, to succeed.

They are:

- To limit the number of times a ball can be thrown up from a hit-in to one attempt at senior level and three times at U17 level to give an incentive to improve this core skill and to maintain the speed of play. There is a counter proposal from Newtonmore allowing three attempts and:

- To introduce a sanction for players who do not comply with wearing a chin strap for their helmet to improve safety. This is to ensure the rule is complied with and the sanction suggested is that a player is not allowed to participate in the game if, after being given the opportunity to comply, the player either refuses or cannot comply.

- The third proposal also comes from the Camanachd Referees Association and is an amendment to referees' fees. The proposal is that the match fee for televised cup finals, which have increased since BBC ALBA's involvement, be increased to £100 which may help the recruitment of referees and act as an incentive for them to reach the highest level.

The AGM starts at 7.30pm.

### 2019 Artemis Macaulay Cup

Now that the 2018 shinty season has come to a close, the teams which will participate in the 2019 Artemis Macaulay Cup competition are known and they won't have to wait too long to find out their opponents.

This Macaulay Cup, first presented in 1947 by then Oban Times editor Flora Macaulay, is the only cup format in senior shinty to be played on a regional basis so guaranteeing a final between a south and north side.

Eligibility is mainly based on the

previous year's league placing and there is just one change from the South teams who competed last season as Col Glen replace Ballachulish.

There are just two south teams from last season's Marine Harvest Premiership - Kyles Athletic and Oban Camanachd - as well as Inveraray, Glasgow Mid Argyll and Oban Celtic from the Marine Harvest National Division. Marine Harvest South 1 sides Bute, Aberdour and Col Glen make up the group.

There is also just one change in the north half of the draw with Kilmallie replacing Glenurquhart who will instead play in the Balliemore Cup following their relegation from shinty's top flight.

The north will be represented by: Caberfeidh, Kilmallie, Kingussie, Kinlochshiel, Lochaber, Lovat, Newtonmore and Skye Camanachd.

The 2019 Artemis Macaulay Cup draw will be made live on Oban FM's Sports Show on Saturday December 8. The south and north sections will be drawn up to the semi-final stage. The Sports Show programme starts at 6pm.

The Artemis Macaulay Cup Final at Mossfield is usually televised live. Kinlochshiel are the current holders having beaten Kyles Athletic 3-2 in last season's final.

### Bain starts GMA stint with Oban friendly

Mark Bain is the new first team manager at Glasgow Mid Argyll.

Bain takes over at the Marine Harvest National Division side from long-term boss George Hay.

Former Oban Celtic player Bain will return to familiar turf for one of his first matches in charge as he takes his Glasgow Mid Argyll side to Mossfield to face Oban Camanachd on Saturday February 9 2019.

There will also be a new face in the Oban Camanachd dugout as Stephen Sloss has replaced Iain Hay.

### Dunky Kerr is new Kyles boss

Kyles Athletic have confirmed Dunky Kerr is their new first team manager.



The North and South Under 14 teams before last weekend's representative match at An Aird. Photographs: Iain Ferguson.

Dunky Kerr replaces James Perlich who stepped down at the end of last season after two years in charge.

As well as planning his side's pre-season programme, Kerr will take time to appoint his backroom team ahead of the new season.

Kyles finished second in the Marine Harvest Premiership last term. They were knocked out of the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup at the quarter-final stage, losing out to Kilmallie.

They were runners up in the Artemis Macaulay Cup and the Scottish Sea Farms Glasgow Celtic Society Cup Finals, losing out in the finals to Kinlochshiel and Oban Camanachd respectively.

### Representative matches

#### North U14 1 South U14 1

(North U14 won 4-2 on penalties) The North U14 retained the Fraser MacPhee trophy but only just after they beat the South U14 on penalties following a 1-1 draw at An Aird on Sunday November 25.

The first half of this noon throw-up finished goal-less but the south took the lead on 64 minutes through Inveraray's Coll MacKay.

Beaul's Euan MacCormick equalised on 75 minutes and it took a penalty shoot-out to decide the outcome.

The decisive penalty was scored by Beaul's Finlay MacLennan to give the North a 4-2 victory.

After the final whistle, North captain Euan MacCormick stepped forward to lift the Fraser MacPhee trophy.

#### North U17 8 South U17 0

The North U17 defeated the South U17 8-0 in their representative match at An Aird on Sunday November 25. This 2pm throw-up had been rescheduled from earlier in the season and the north proved too strong on the day.

Ross Gordon scored four times for the North with his Skye club-mate Martin Pringle netting twice.

Kinlochshiel's Duncan Matheson and Kieran MacPherson from Kingussie got the others.

William MacKinnon, who plays U17 shinty for Skye, skippered the North and he raised the trophy.

### Inverness are Development Day winners

Inverness came out on top at the Women's Camanachd Association Development League Finals at the Aviemore Astro pitch on Sunday November 25.

The top two teams from the East, West and Central Leagues all took part with Inverness edging out the Ardnamurchan development team to win the day.

Inverness player Melissa Mackay won the Development Player of the Year award which was presented by WCA president Lisa MacColl at the event.

### Scotland men win Iomain Cholmcille XI

The Scotland men's squad were winners at Iomain Cholmcille XI which took place in Derrybeg, County Donegal, Ireland on Saturday November 17.

The Scots beat Michael Breathnach 5-0 to 1-3 in their opening match of this Gaelic speaking tournament. Alba's Somhairle MacDonald grabbed a hat-trick, with Stuart Campbell and William MacKinnon getting the others.

A Somhairle MacDonald double then helped see off Fir Uladh, one of which was a brilliant rocket-shot which was past the keeper before he could move.

Next up for the Scots was a 2-4

to 0-4 victory over Gaeil Óga CLG. Somhairle MacDonald was again to the fore with Jack Fraser getting the other Alba goal.

This set up a final meeting with Michael Breathnach and it took extra time before the Alba eventually ran out 3-6 to 3-5 winners.

The final was a great game - end to end from the throw-in - and it took a Somhairle MacDonald goal in the final minute, adding to his earlier two goals and single point, to take the game into extra time.

A goal from William MacKinnon at the start of extra-time was cancelled out by an Irish goal into the second half of the extended period.

The winning point came with just a few minutes to go when Paul Duke struck the ball between the posts to win it for the Scots, (4-3) 15-14 (3-5).

Alba captain John Angus MacInnes was presented with the Iomain Cholmcille trophy after the final whistle.

The Scotland women's side lost 1-2 to 1-0 to Cois Fharrage in their first game with Christy MacIntyre scoring the goal. They then went down 4-9 to 0-0 against a strong Uladh side.

Iomain Cholmcille were also winners at the recent Gaelic Awards, taking the honours for the best contribution from the Gaelic sporting world from practitioners, commentators or fans.

### Skye Camanachd Player of the Year awards

The 2018 Skye Camanachd player of the year awards were presented at an end of season awards night and dinner at the Skye Camanachd Clubhouse on Saturday November 17.

The 2018 first team player of the year was Stewart Grant who received the John 'The Caley' Trophy.

Forward Ross Gordon has been prolific for the Skye Camanachd second team this season and was rewarded with the second team player of the year accolade.

Scottish international Caitlin MacLean was named Skye



The North and South Under 17s.

Camanachd Ladies player of the year and players' player of the year.

The ladies young player of the year was Essie Dibble, whilst Rachael Shaw collected the most promising award.

The most improved player award was jointly won by Leah MacLeod and Molly MacKinnon.

James Morrison collected the coveted 'Caman DR' after a season in which he started with the second team but was quickly promoted to the senior side.

The Angus Murchison trophy, presented to the person who has done most for the club off the field of play, was awarded to Kenny MacLeod. As well as managing the Skye Camanachd second team, Kenny MacLeod also led the club's U17s to Marine Harvest London Shield success and carried out a huge amount of work administering the club's pitch-side advertising boards, attracting many new advertisers.

Ruaraidh MacLeod, who scored both goals in the side's 2-1 Marine Harvest London Shield win over their Fort William counter-parts, rounded off a successful season with the U17 player of the year prize.

The U14 award was made to William Sutherland with James Coull the U14's most improved player.

## Kinlochshiel hold awards evening

Artemis Macaulay Cup winners Kinlochshiel confirmed their player of the year winners at an awards evening at the Lochalsh Hotel on Saturday November 17.

John MacRae was presented with the Duncan MacRae Cup for players' player of the year.

The Kenny Wilson MacRae Cup for committee player of the year went to skipper Paul MacRae.

The Tommy MacKenzie Cup for second team player of the year was given to goalkeeper Graham Kennedy for outstanding performances during the season.

Duncan Matheson burst onto the first team scene during the season and collected the Ian 'Dubh' Fraser Shield for U21 player of the year and the Willie MacRae Memorial Cup for U17 player of the year.

Fraser Reid and Aaron MacBeth shared the CalMac Quaich for U14 player of the year, with Seumas Martin the most improved players at this age group.

The club also announced that eight first team players will take part in Strathpuffer 24, a 24-hour mountain bike endurance event held in winter conditions.

The aim is to complete as many laps of the 12.5km course as possible over a 24 hour period.

The players - Ali Nixon, Conor Cormack, David Falconer, Duncan 'DA' MacRae, Finlay MacRae, John MacRae, Mark MacDonald and Paul MacRae - will soon start training before the event which takes place in January 2019.

They hope to raise much-needed funds for the club as they look forward to playing on their new pitch at Reraig for the 2019 shinty season.

The next stage of this development is the construction of a clubhouse

and facilities at the pitch and all funds raised from this event will go towards these substantial costs.

Kinlochshiel have set up a just-giving page which can be accessed through the club's Facebook page.

## Ballachulish Player of the Year winners

The Ballachulish player of the year winners were announced at the club's annual general meeting at their Jubilee Clubhouse on Friday November 23.

The senior players' player of the year award went to Duncan MacDonald.

The managers' player of the year accolade was given to Ally Banks whilst Alan Clark was the club's top goalscorer.

Marcus Pierre Spence collected the U18 players' player of the year prize.

## Alan MacRae stays on at Beaully

Alan MacRae remains in charge of the Beaully first team.

MacRae is fresh from leading the Scotland U21 squad to a shinty/hurling win over Ireland U21 in Dublin and he has been in charge at Marine Harvest National Division side since prior to the 2017 shinty season.

Alan Bruce, assisted by Kyle MacDonald and Gregor MacCormick, will look after the Beaully reserve side.

The club also held their annual general meeting at the Lovat Arms Hotel on Thursday November 15.

Don Fraser was elected chieftain with David MacLean as vice chieftain. David Calder continues as president with Iain Petrie vice president.

Secretary Steven MacKenzie and treasurer Iain Morrison also remain in their positions.

There was also good news for the club as their youth coach Niall MacLennan was this year's winner of Highlife Highland's Community Coach of the Year award.

This award takes into consideration nominations across all sports in the Highlands and was awarded for the work Niall MacLennan does at Inverness High School, Beaully Shinty Club and volunteering for the Camanachd Association.

It was been a great season for the Beaully youths with their U14 side undefeated as they won Marine Harvest North Division 1 and the MacMaster Cup.

## Fort William AGM

Fort William will hold their annual general meeting at their Clubhouse on Thursday December 6.

The AGM starts at 7.30pm and everyone is welcome.

## Lochaber AGM

Lochaber's annual general meeting takes place at the Bridge Cafe, Spean Bridge, on Saturday December 8.

All players, supporters and committee members and indeed anyone wishing to be involved with the club are asked to attend this 4pm start.

# SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £600

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

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

### Easy to enter

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

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

### Competition rules

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

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

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

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Winners agree to have their photograph taken for publicity purposes.

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



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

Name .....

Address .....

Tel No. ....

Please tape your £1 coin here (only if posting)

## LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:  
**I Brown Easdale**  
**J Wilson Lochgilphead**

OT

## RUGBY



Oban Lone RFC

## Green Machine back in action

Oban Lorne  
Helensburgh  
Tennent's West Division 2



Oban Lorne welcome Argyll rivals Helensburgh RFC to Glencruitten on Saturday for the second meeting of the sides this season. Oban won a high scoring match 49-28 at Ardencaple at the start of the season with another entertaining game in prospect this Saturday.

With 10 matches played this season, Oban Lorne find themselves comfortably sitting in third place in Division 2 with aspirations of challenging both Uddingston and Lenzie who are currently occupying the promotion spots at the league summit.

Helensburgh meanwhile sit 9th in the league after a stuttering but improving start to the season. League leaders Lenzie

were made to work hard for a 22-3 win at Helensburgh a few weeks ago, a warning shot to anyone in the Oban team expecting a comfortable outcome on Saturday afternoon.

Head Coach Andrew Johnston has a fully fit side available for this Saturday's Argyll derby including the return of utility back David McLaughlin, who will bring some increased competition in the backline.

Johnston has been pleased with his side's start to the season with the team adapting well to their fast-paced and attacking game plan introduced at the start of the season.

Kick off on Saturday is at 2pm, all welcome

## Lochaber fail to raise team for Mull away

Lochaber travelled to Mull on Saturday to play their 10th match of the season, however, due to many injuries and players being unavailable the Banavie side failed to get a full team together.

Due to this, the game was played as a development game which is a new option for this season. If either team can't get a full team together the other team gets an automatic 28-0 win to ensure they get a five point win.

Mull gave Lochaber three players and they played a 12 v 11-a-side game. With Mull themselves only having 15 players Lochaber felt this was a winnable game away from home if they had a full team.

Lochaber picked up two minor injuries in the first half reducing them to nine players. Despite this they still managed to score four tries, two either side of half time through Jonathan McCook, Angus Jenkins, William Stewart and Calum MacLachlan.

This Saturday Lochaber travel away to Birkmyre, the game kicks off at 2pm at the Parklea Playing Grounds in Port Glasgow.

# Success for Oban in squash tournament



Players from Oban, Lochaber and Stornoway took part in the Team Squash Competition held recently at Lochaber Leisure Centre. Oban won the overall competition with unbeaten performances by Neil Fraser and Grant Addison, supported by Michael Kelly and David Devine. Alan Love was unbeaten to help Lochaber to second place.

## New tracksuits for Saints youngsters



Oban Saints Under 13s are pictured in their new team tracksuits which have been kindly sponsored by the Ryan MacPhail Memorial Fund. The team would like to thank Amanda MacPhail for the support given to the team in their first season playing in the Glasgow and District Youth Football League. They would also like to thank Oban Sports Shop for a great service.

# Five star Rothes sink Fort

Fort William	0
Rothes	5
Highland League	

Although unable to emulate the 11-1 scoreline that sunk Fort William the last time the two sides met in the league, Rothes still managed to find the net five times at Claggan Park on Saturday to secure victory over the struggling home side.

Three goals in the first half all but secured the win for the visitors, who added a further two goals in the second half to ensure the three points returned to Speyside.

There was a surprise addition to Fort William's starting line-up as former player John Campbell made a return to the team. The vet-

eran goalkeeper turned back the clock and made a trialist appearance at Claggan Park on Saturday, deputising between the posts after regular keepers Callum Ligertwood and Mateusz Kulbacki were unavailable.

The Fort got off to a solid start, buoyed by the return of David McGuirk at centre back, who lined up alongside Fort stalwart Andy Martin.

Despite holding out the Rothes attack in the early exchanges, the Speysiders finally opened the scoring midway through the first half thanks to Kris Duncan.

That seemed to encourage the visiting forwards who pushed for more goals before the break.

Rothes' Gary Kerr marked his comeback from a lengthy



Andy Martin blocks a shot from Rothes' Jamie Wilson in front of the goal of John Campbell. Photos: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos



The Fort's Sean Grant moves past Rothes' Alasdair Stark.

lay-off following a serious knee injury earlier this year with a goal just after the half hour mark. Just before the referee blew for half-time, the visitors got their third goal, courtesy of Jamie Wilson, which gave them a commanding lead.

Keen to make a mark on the match, Fort William came out in the second half and took the game to Rothes, with forwards Michael Gillespie and Craig Rennie working hard to create chances to give the Fort a lifeline.

However, the team's endeavours fell short and Jack Maley's converted penalty

## FOOTBALL

early in the second half put the match further beyond the grasp of Fort William. Defender Bruce Milne capped off the afternoon's scoring for the visitors by netting from a fine header.

Although a marked improvement from the team's previous fixture, the Fort will be disappointed with the scoreline in a match which they feel they could have got more from. The defeat leaves Fort William 10 points adrift at the foot of the Highland League, while Rothes move up to 11th.



Fort William forward Joshua Knowles, hotly pursued by Alasdair Stark.

The Fort are away to seventh-placed Buckie Thistle this Saturday (December 1)

in what will be another tough challenge for the league's bottom-placed side.

## Glendaruel and Colintrave Gun Club – Vintners Shoot

The Argyll Vintners Sponsored Shoot was held on Saturday November 17.

Thirty-five guns took part in the competition in a cold but sunny day.

High gun for the day was Ross Spiers, Strathlachlan on 146/150. Second equal on 143 were David Milton, Dumbarton and Donnie McPhail, Glendaruel. Fourth was Ian Dawson, Kilbirnie on 140. Fifth was Ian Diamond, Ardentiny on 139. Best local was Donnie MacPhail and the pool trap was won by Richard Deane, Dunoon.

## SHOOTING

Special thanks to Andy McMaster of Argyll Vintners and also Joe Croots of The Armoury, Clachaig for contributing to the prizes.

From left to right: Ian Diamond, Richard Deane, Ross Spiers, Ian Dawson, David Milton and Donnie MacPhail



OT

## SHINTY

## Oban Celtic looking for new manager

Following the stepping aside of manager Kenny Wotherspoon after a successful three years, Oban Celtic would like to invite applicants for the position of first team manager for the 2019 season.

This role would involve arranging, taking the training of the first team squad and match day selection.

Any applicants can contact the club via the Facebook page or David Hamilton on email [davieb51@btinternet.com](mailto:davieb51@btinternet.com).

## SPORTS NIGHT

## Legion members enjoy sports night



Members of Fort William and District Branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland enjoyed an indoor sports night in Sunny's Sports Bar last Thursday.

Photo: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

## SCOTTISH AMATEUR FOOTBALL LEAGUE

## Results and fixtures

Last Saturday's results: Premier Division – Oban Saints 0, St Joseph's FP 1; Inverclyde 3, Dunoon 1; Premier Division One - Campbeltown Pupils 2, Kings Park Rangers 4; Ferguslie Star 7, Lochgilphead Red Star 1; Premier Division Two - Glynhill Moorcroft 9, Tarbert 1.

This Saturday's fixtures - Scottish Amateur Cup, fourth round - East Kilbride Thistle v Oban Saints; Premier Division One - Campbeltown Pupils no game; Lochgilphead Red Star v Hillington; Premier Division Two - Tarbert v Duncanrig.

## OBAN SAINTS YOUTH FOOTBALL

## Results and fixtures

Last Sunday's results: Under 13s 3, Thorn Athletic 0; Under 14s 11, Cambuslang Colts 0. Scoring for Saints were Kyle Cooper (6), Craig Rankine, Andrew Nicol, Ruairidh Buchanan and Ross MacKay. Shettleston Juniors 4, Under 15s 3. Scoring for Saints were Ross Higgins (2), Kieron Denholm. St Patrick's SC 5 v Under 16s 2. Saints goalscorer was Connor Moore (2).

This Sunday's fixtures: Scottish Cup - Under 13s v Blantyre Soccer Academy; Regional Cup - Under 14s v Johnstone Burgh; Under 15s no game; Under 16s no game.

**HAVE YOUR SAY**  
email us at [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

# First defeat in 12

Oban Saints	0
St Joseph's FP	1
SAFL Premier Division	

Last Saturday at Glencruitten, in front of a large crowd of spectators, Oban Saints entertained old rivals St Joseph's FP in a top-of-the-table premier league clash.

Before the game both teams were sitting on 18 points but the Duntocher side were one goal better off than Saints, although the Oban side had a game in hand.

Co-managers Donald Campbell and Willie Gemmell made a couple of changes from last week's team that won away to Kilsyth in the West of Scotland Cup. Ruairidh Horne and Matty Kelly came into the starting line-up with Jamie Graham and David Beaton dropping to the bench to join Willie Gemmell, Dougal Graham and Fraser MacFarlane.

Lewis Cameron was missing for the second week running due to tonsillitis, but on the plus side Myles McAuley had returned to training and Brian MacKay was also back from his sojourns overseas. Paul Carmichael and Shaun MacIver were still unavailable.

## Faint-hearted

This wasn't a game for the faint-hearted with two good footballing teams going at it right from the first whistle.

The visitors created the first half chance in the first minute of the game when a free kick was deflected for a corner.

The D & K Lafferty-sponsored Oban side created a good chance in the third minute when Matty Kelly and Donald Campbell combined but Donald's effort was easily saved by St Joe's keeper Scott Urquhart.



Matty Kelly had a great chance but this effort slipped past the post.

The Saints rearguard were caught out by a long punt up the park in the 16th minute, for burly striker Ryan Halpin to run through on goals but his effort was easily saved by Graham Douglas.

The game had started at a whirlwind pace and there was no let-up as both teams went for the jugular, but in truth neither goalkeeper was tested all that much although Scott Urquhart had to touch a Craig MacEwan header over the bar.

Scott Maitland and James Ford combined in the 23rd minute with Ford sending Maitland clear on the left but Scott's attempted cut-back was intercepted by the classy Kearn Docherty, who was outstanding in the heart of the visiting defence.

St Joe's were awarded a free kick in the 29th minute which was floated into the box where Ryan Halpin knocked the ball down for Mick McGowan but he blazed his shot over the bar.

McGowan was impressive all afternoon with his clever play in midfield.

The game was flowing from end to end but generally the defences were on top with

Steven MacLeod and skipper Dene Cassells coping well with the St Joe's front men.

The home side created the next chance when Donald Campbell threaded a great ball through the middle for Matty Kelly but the midfielder had just strayed offside.

Saints were gaining the upper hand as the half drew to a close and they carved open the visiting defence with only a well timed interception by John Paul Seagrave denying a goal.

Just on the half time whistle Mick McGowan played a one-two with Ryan Halpin but the big striker's effort sailed over the bar.

A pulsating first 45 minutes ended with the scoreline blank but the spectators were certainly getting their monies worth in a cracking game of football.

The second half was exactly the same as the first with both teams going at it hammer and tongs.

Ruairidh Horne fired over a great cross in the 52nd minute but it was just too high for Craig MacEwan.

Saints had a great opportunity in the 58th minute when St Joe's keeper Scott Urquhart

made a great save from Craig MacEwan. The ball fell kindly for Donald Campbell who looked a certainty to score but Keiran Green was on hand to block Donald's net-bound shot on the line before scrambling the ball clear.

## Unsavoury

The game then turned unsavoury in the 64th minute when Ryan Halpin took exception to a Kerr Newbigging tackle on Daniel McKenna.

Players from both teams became involved in a 'handbag' session before referee Jimmy Litster quickly restored order.

Both Halpin and Newbigging had been booked earlier which left Mr Litster, who handled a competitive game well, no choice but to show them both another yellow card followed by the inevitable red.

Saints were hit by a double whammy – losing Newbigging and St Joe's being awarded a free kick for his tackle on McKenna. A clever free kick was floated into the box where Davie Gallagher nipped in to glance a header past a helpless Graham Douglas to give the Duntocher side the lead.

Saints should have levelled



St Joe's keeper Scott Urquhart cuts out this cross from Craig MacEwan.



Saints skipper Dene Cassells gets a

# games for Saints



St Joe's central defender Kearn Docherty is put under pressure by David Beaton and Craig MacEwan. Photos: David McPhee

the score in the 69th minute when Craig MacEwan sent Matty Kelly clean through on goal but with only the keeper to beat he fired wide of the target.

The visitors were quite content to sit back and soak up the pressure as Saints dominated the latter part of the game.

Daniel Croarkin made a great run into the St Joe's penalty area and just failed to connect with a low cross into the box.

## Jinked

On two occasions Craig MacEwan jinked past Craig Cameron on the byeline but his cut-backs to the six-yard box failed to find a teammate.

St Joe's were seldom seen as an attacking force as the game wore on but they were defending as though their lives depended on it.

Saints kept plugging away and created another couple of half chances but alas time ran out and they lost by the only goal of the game and suffered their first defeat in 12 matches.

## FOOTBALL

Credit must go to both teams for turning in a great advert for amateur football.

The Saints management duo were very disappointed at the result. However, they were happy enough with the way the team played.

Gemmell said: 'This was a hard one to take. It was always going to be a tight game. St Joseph's are a very good side, but we matched them in every department.'

'I thought we were the better team, especially in the second half, and the least we deserved was a share of the points, but it just wasn't our day.'

'We'll put this one behind us and keep doing what we believe is the right way to play the game and make no mistake we'll bounce back from this defeat.'

This Saturday Saints travel to take on East Kilbride Thistle for a place in the last 32 of the Scottish Amateur Cup.

Referee in charge is Paul Elliott and kick-off is at 2pm.

## Saints to leave the Scottish Amateur FL after 42 years

Oban Saints secretary David Buchanan has announced the club are to leave the Scottish Amateur Football League after 42 years to join the Central Scottish AFL next season.

David said: 'The club felt it was time for a change and a new challenge. We've enjoyed our time in the SAFL and the decision to leave was not taken lightly and we're going with mixed emotions.'

'We would like to thank the committee and member clubs of the SAFL for giving us our first major breakthrough in amateur football. We would also like to thank the executive committee and member clubs of the Central Scottish AFL for accepting our application at a specially convened meeting last Thursday.'

'We now look forward to a new challenge which will hopefully help lift Saints to a higher level for everyone connected with the club including our much valued sponsors and supporters.'

'This is going to be a big challenge for us next season as the Central Scottish is arguably the best amateur league in Scotland, but the players are really looking forward to a new challenge. We have a good squad this season and have plenty of excellent youngsters ready to step up to the senior ranks.'

'Hopefully we can leave the SAFL with some silverware in the cabinet. Despite Saturday's defeat we're still well in contention for the league title and still in all the major cup competitions.'



shot on target.



James Ford is closely marked by John Paul Seagrave.



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## WEATHER

**Thursday**  
Heavy rain showers with a fresh breeze  
Temperatures 7°C to 10°C.

**Friday**  
Light rain showers and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures 6°C to 9°C.

**Weekend Outlook**  
**Saturday**  
Light rain and a gentle breeze  
**Sunday**  
light rain showers and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures 7°C to 10°C.



## TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday November 29, 2018** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

<b>Thur</b>	03.54	1.2	09.47	3.5
	16.52	1.5	22.39	3.1
<b>Fri</b>	04.59	1.3	11.08	3.3
	18.11	1.6	***	**
<b>Sat</b>	00.39	3.0	06.11	1.4
	13.05	3.3	19.36	1.6
<b>Sun</b>	02.01	3.1	07.25	1.4
	14.17	3.4	20.45	1.5
<b>Mon</b>	02.58	3.3	08.33	1.3
	15.09	3.6	21.37	1.3
<b>Tues</b>	03.40	3.5	09.30	1.2
	15.50	3.7	22.19	1.2
<b>Wed</b>	04.15	3.7	10.20	1.1
	16.26	3.8	22.56	1.1

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

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

## Ferry Crossings/Sea States

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

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



**INSIDE  
THIS WEEK:**  
First defeat in 12 games  
for Saints

**NORTH WEST  
MARINE**  
DIVING & MARINE SPECIALISTS  
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OBAN TIMES WEATHER  
AND TIDES - SEE PAGE 55

# Bob makes the cut in his first European Tour event



Robert taps in at the 18th during the Hong Kong Open.

Glencruitten Golf Club's Robert MacIntyre made the cut in his first tournament after his promotion to the top tier of European golf at the Honma Hong Kong Open last week.

Robert's first three rounds were excellent – a one over par

**Oban's Robert MacIntyre played his first tournament on the European Tour last weekend at the Hong Kong Open.**

71 in the first round featured one birdie and two bogeys.

This was followed by an excellent three under par 67 in round two with a superb eagle at the 13th and a birdie at the 16th and no bogeys.

Round three was even better with four birdies, no bogeys for a four under par round of 66.

At this stage Robert was lying in joint 12th place on the leader board, but things fell apart for the 22-year-old in the last round when he carded at five over par round of 75.

He started off well, birdieing the third and fourth holes but unfortunately this was followed by five bogeys and a double bogey at the 14th to finish the tournament in joint 57th place with a four-round total of 299.

England's Aaron Rai won the tournament with a 17 under par four round total of 263 and the first prize of €292,343.

Ryder Cup players Sergio Garcia finished in joint sixth place and Tommy Fleetwood joint 14th.

After the tournament Robert said: 'I enjoyed my first event on the European Tour and I've got to take the positives – 46 holes without a dropped shot.'

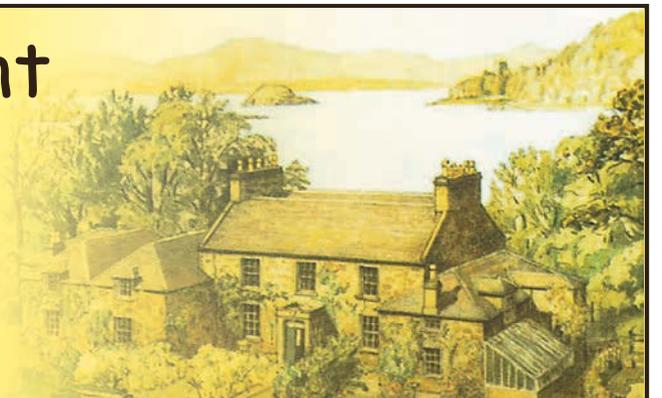
Robert now heads to Australia's Golf Coast for the Australian PGA Championship which starts on Thursday November 29.



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# Cinderella

6th - 8th December  
Corran Halls, Oban

For full details see page 31

# Baxter: parking decision is 'affront to democracy'

by Neill Bo Finlayson  
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Fort William councillor Andrew Baxter has branded Highland Council's handling of the row over Christmas parking charges in the town as 'an affront to local democracy'.

He also fears the Lochaber area committee's plan will be rejected when it goes before Highland Council on December 13.

Mr Baxter resigned as chairman of the council's education and housing committee last Thursday after a decision made by Lochaber councillors to introduce two hours' free parking for six weeks in the run up to Christmas was overruled by what he termed 'the Inverness mafia'.

The council's budget leader Allister Mackinnon said that due to 'budgetary consequences' the decision needed to be considered by the full council on December 13.

However Councillor Baxter, chairman of Lochaber's Highland Council committee, contends that he and his Lochaber colleagues were

assured by council officers that they could make such a decision and felt that the overruling by 'council bigwigs' meant Fort William had 'lost out once again'.

Speaking to the *Lochaber Times* this week, Mr Baxter said that council leaders remained silent on the committee's parking proposals, which he felt would be rejected at the meeting next month.

'Every indication I get is the administration will not support it'

'Every indication I get is that the administration will not support it,' he said. 'It's quite clear that the Inverness Highland councillors just pay lip service to real local decisions. It'll be interesting to see what happens on December 13 and if we get a genuine debate on this issue, and whether those other areas of the Highlands suffering the same problems also stand up.'

Caol and Mallaig councillor Ben Thompson, who supported

Mr Baxter's motion on the Christmas parking proposal, echoed his colleague's anger.

'It is really frustrating to be told after the fact that the decision we made was not one we were entitled to make - despite clear advice supporting our position at the time,' he said.

'Fort William contributes nearly a third of all the parking fees in the Highlands. I am in favour of parking charges, but they have to be fair. That one or two of the larger towns in the Highlands have so far refused to have any charges at all on their car parks is an outrage. When you compare that to Fort William being refused six weeks' discounted parking, it is clearly one rule for some and one rule for others.'

Mr Baxter's 'strong message to Inverness' was also backed by Fort William councillor Niall Maclean, who demanded a fairer system for parking charges be implemented throughout the Highlands.

He said: 'Andrew is standing up for local democracy. A decision was made in Fort William and

Continued on page three

## Santa and his special elves

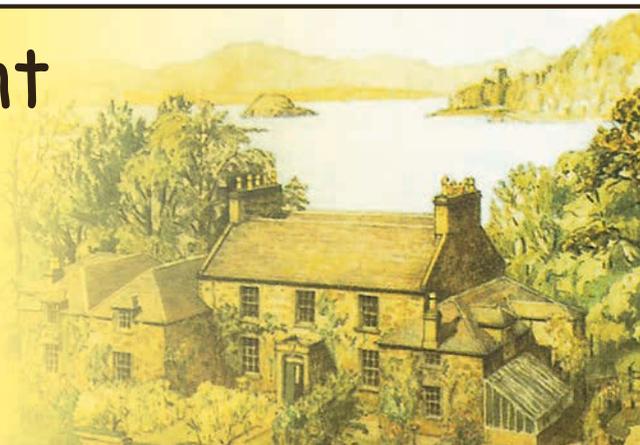


Young 'elves' Aine MacPhie, six, from Mallaig, and David Rodgers, nine, from Roy Bridge, who won the *Lochaber Times*' Christmas card competition to ride on Santa's sleigh, wave to the crowds during Saturday's Rotary Club of Lochaber Christmas Festival and Fair. Turn to pages six and seven for our picture special. Photograph: Abrightside Photography

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LT

## Kilmallie fundraising ceilidh



Performers in the Kilmallie Ceilidh at the weekend, which raised funds for the Gaelic School and Kilmallie Community Centre. The event featured various artists including, from left in back row: Ruairidh Grey, Iain McPhail, Donald Maclean, Norman MacKinnon, Joyce Wright, Bruce Lindsey. Bottom left: Andy Greig, Gladys Wright, Calum MacColl, Donald Angie Matheson. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

# Fort turned into movie set for new film

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Fort William's High Street was turned into a Hollywood-style movie lot for three nights last week for the filming of a new Scottish film about a girls' choir.

Sony Pictures International is producing the big screen version of *The Sopranos*, based on Alan Warner's 1998 coming of age novel of the same name about a group of wild Catholic schoolgirls heading for a national choir competition.

It is being directed by Broxburn-born Michael Caton-Jones, who helmed *Rob Roy*, *Doc Hollywood* and *Memphis Belle*.

The film is yet unnamed but will feature a different title from Warner's book to avoid confusion with the Mafia-themed television series of the same name.

For several hours each night



Filming took place over a couple of days and nights.

last week from Wednesday to Friday, a film crew shot a number of scenes at various locations in and around the High Street.

The film will tell how *The Sopranos* – leaders and cool girls from a rural Scottish convent school – are bussed into Edinburgh from their small port town to participate in the singing competition.

As part of the filming in Fort William, the frontage of the Nickel and Dime hardware shop was transformed into the 'Venus Mantrap' nightclub, much to the amusement of local Fort William townfolk.

Unfortunately, no one from the film crew was available to speak to the *Lochaber Times* due to a non-disclosure agreement.

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## VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER

### Making sense of Brexit

As we all are no doubt aware, the 500-page draft agreement for the UK's withdrawal from the European Union has now been published. While it has been all over the news; there hasn't been a great deal of simple information that breaks down exactly what the draft proposal means in key areas for business.

After March 29, 2019, the Brexit withdrawal treaty will be Britain's only legal agreement with the EU, a union with which it has shared sovereignty since 1973. Running to more than 500 pages, the provisional text agreed by London and Brussels unwinds 45 years of deep integration, protecting certain rights, defining outstanding obligations and establishing a transition period in which both sides can adjust.

To come into force, the Brexit deal requires approval by, in sequence, the UK cabinet, an EU summit, the House of Commons and



the European Parliament. Commitments made in the document run to 2030 and beyond. The agreement will not only determine the nature of Britain's exit from the EU, but also influence the country's future relationship with the union.

As part of its role to keep member businesses informed and engaged with key changes in the business landscape, Scottish Chambers of Commerce has produced a simple summary that outlines the main proposals under the key headings of: financial settlement; citizens' rights;

transition period; Northern Ireland; UK-EU customs area; and governance.

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce is one of the 26 local chambers that makes up the Scottish Chambers of Commerce. As part of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, you'll be part of a national business network that offers a range of invaluable opportunities and services to help your business.

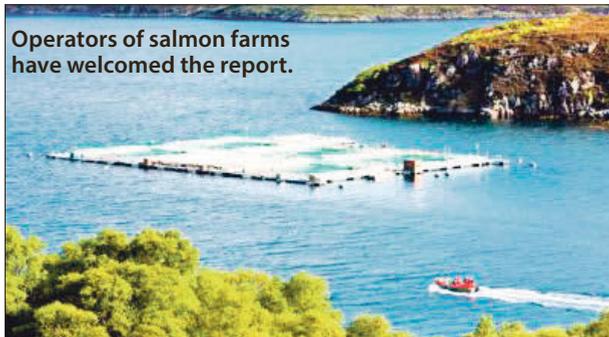
To read the simple Brexit overview, and discover other ways that Lochaber Chamber of Commerce can help visit [www.lochaberchamber.co.uk](http://www.lochaberchamber.co.uk)

# Lochaber trust welcomes report on salmon farming

The Lochaber Fisheries Trust has hailed the findings of a recent Scottish Government report into the impact of salmon farming as 'a huge step forward' for aquaculture regulation and the protection of wild fish.

Following its in-depth inquiry into salmon farming in Scotland, the Scottish Parliament's Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee (REC) report on salmon farming outlined 65 recommendations for the industry on issues such as sea lice control and fish mortality rates.

However, the committee did not support a call for a moratorium on the expansion of salmon farming and instead said that, if the industry was to expand, more enhanced and effective regulatory standards needed to be introduced to ensure that fish health issues were properly



managed and the impact on the environment was kept to an absolute minimum.

Marine biologist Lucy Ballantyne of the Lochaber Fisheries Trust welcomed the findings of the report and was pleased that the committee recognised that meaningful action needed to be taken before the industry could expand.

She said: 'The acknowledgement of the committee that

there is an impact of aquaculture on wild fish and the need for regulatory change is a huge step forward.

'Lochaber Fisheries Trust acknowledges there are gaps in our knowledge about the interactions between wild and farmed salmonids, and we are working with Fishery Management Scotland and Marine Harvest to address this. However, we need the recommended changes to

the regulatory regime if we are to make progress in protecting our wild fish.'

Marine Harvest also welcomed the report and said that it would help guide 'responsible growth' as well as 'satisfy growing demand' for salmon products.

The company's managing director, Ben Hadfield, said: 'While acknowledging the economic and food contribution the salmon farming sector provides, the committee recommends several important regulatory improvements that will help guide responsible growth of our business.'

Convener of the REC, Edward Mountain MSP, issued a warning to salmon farming companies. He said: 'Importantly, the committee is strongly of the view that the status quo in terms of regulation and enforcement is not

acceptable, and that we need to raise the bar in Scotland by setting enhanced and more effective standards.'

Highland MSP Donald Cameron, who attended the committee's evidence sessions as a representative of the environment committee, welcomed the report: 'Salmon farming is not only a vital part of the Highlands and islands' economy, but it provides hundreds of jobs across the region, and a moratorium on any further expansion would have had a very significant impact on the growth of the industry.'

'However, it is also right that the industry recognises the need to improve, and to get major issues such as the growth of sea lice and fish mortality under control, so, from that perspective, I welcome the additional safeguards recommended.'

## Views sought for new Fort development

The Highland Council is holding a public drop-in event at Lundavra Primary School in Fort William next week on proposals to create new homes at the former Upper Achintore Primary School site.

The drop-in event is a chance for people to go and find out more about the plans to create new housing for social rent and mid-market rent, give their feedback and put forward any comments and suggestions.

The drop-in event runs from 4-7pm on Monday December 3 and everyone is welcome to go along to meet the architect and Highland Council representatives who will be happy to answer any questions and provide information.

If anyone is unable to make the above date and would like more information regarding the development, contact Paula MacPherson, housing development officer, at Paula.MacPherson@highland.gov.uk.

## Baxter resigns after 'Inverness Mafia' blocks councillors' Christmas parking plans

Continued from page 1

squashed in Inverness by bully boy tactics of an administration which doesn't consult or listen.'

Mr Baxter, who will continue as chairman of the Lochaber area committee, said he will use his role to campaign on issues that 'too many in Inverness see as inconvenient or irrelevant'.



Lochaber councillors had agreed to introduce two hours of free parking for six weeks in the run up to Christmas.

He added: 'The support is very encouraging both from councillors and residents, and

I've taken heart that there's broad support for getting a better deal for Lochaber.'

## Mother dies following incident in Glencoe area

A woman whose body was found in the Glencoe area on Monday was the mother of a younger woman who had taken ill at a famous mountain beauty spot.

A mountain rescue operation was launched shortly after 9.30am on Monday after a member of the public reported concerns for the younger woman who had been seen on a path leading from the Lairig Eilde car park towards Buachaille Etive Beag.

Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team was called out, as well

as the HM Coastguard helicopter to assist the woman.

It was during this activity that the body of the 52-year-old woman was discovered a short distance away.

Both women were taken by the helicopter to Fort William where the younger of the pair was treated at Belford Hospital, where her condition was described as stable.

It is believed that after the younger woman became ill, her mother went to seek help and it was then that she slipped and fell.

Her daughter was found cold and dazed and mumbling by walkers who then alerted the police.

Sergeant Ross McCartney said: 'Our thoughts are with everyone affected by this tragic incident.'

'We are currently carrying out enquiries to establish the full circumstances.'

'These enquiries are currently at an early stage.'

'I would like to thank Glencoe MRT and HM Coastguard for their invaluable assistance with this challenging incident.'

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## Charity holds open day event



The staff and volunteers of Lochaber Sensory Care for Sight and Hearing Support held an open afternoon and discussion day last week at the Ben Nevis Hotel in Fort William for service users, family, friends and anyone else interested in the work of the organisation.

The aim for the Caol-based charitable organisation was to have a two-way chat, over a cup of tea, where Lochaber locals could advise Lochaber Sensory Care of any services and activities they consider may be missing for those with sight or hearing impairments.

# Housing trust to probe damp house concerns

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Housing trust bosses say they are looking into a complaint as a matter of urgency from a couple, who claim a damp problem is forcing them to give up their new home at Strontian.

Gillespie Macdonald, his wife Shona and the couple's three children moved into a newly built affordable rent-to-buy Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust (HSCHT) property in School Road in the first months of 2017.

The couple, who moved to the area from Ayrshire, say they had agreed a five-year rental arrangement at the end of which they would receive a deposit back towards the purchase of the house.

But Mr Macdonald claims the house developed a serious mould problem by the November of that year and he and his wife believe this has since affected the health of two of their children.

'We have a daughter who is now 19 months and her cot is now showing signs of dampness and she has suffered a cough for months and months now, usually always through the night,' Mr Macdonald told the *Lochaber Times*.

'We also have two older children living at home with us, one of whom suffers with asthma, so as you can imagine this is affecting his health too.'



The mould on the Macdonald family's attic roof. Photograph: Abrightside Photography

'We have told HSCHT repeatedly of the issues and problems; the local community council committee has also written to the HSCHT.'

'We had our health visitor also write on our behalf to Highland Council asking to rehome us.'

'We moved in here with the intention of buying but the loft space is black where the moisture has seeped through from the tin roof onto the inner ply lining.'

The Macdonald family has now found another property in Strontian – a private let – and intends moving in over the next few weeks.

Mrs Macdonald added: 'They did send people out who drilled some holes and told us it would dry out but the trust hasn't seemed interested in our problems at all. The point of this was it would help us get on the property market.'

'Now we are hoping we can maybe get a council house, otherwise I don't know what the future is.'

Asked to comment, Ronnie MacRae, chief executive of HSCHT, told the *Lochaber Times*: 'We are currently looking into this complaint as a matter of urgency and will respond in more detail as soon as possible and once we have had access to carry out an inspection.'

'We have been trying to gain access to inspect the issues mentioned but have not as yet been given permission by the occupiers.'

'I can confirm that presently the other five houses built at the same time appear to be operating as they should and occupiers are not reporting any damp issues.'

However, Kevin Green says he lived next door to the Macdonalds with his wife and young son until they too were forced out by damp problems five months ago.

Mr Green, who now lives 10 miles away in Achaphubil, commented: 'Nobody wanted to put their hands up and say there was a problem.'

'When we moved in these were brand new houses, yet I'd never seen a condensation problem in winter like ours had.'

Mr Green added that the trust did send workers who drilled holes and tried other remedies to increase ventilation, but these proved unsuccessful.

'In the end we had to move out. We had hoped this style of eco-house would be better for my son's allergies but sadly that wasn't the case.'

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## WHAT'S ON in Lochaber

Lochaber Foodbank will hold its annual collection in the Tesco store in Fort William November 29, 30 and December 1, from 10am till 4pm each day. Foodbank volunteers will be there for the collections, and all food and money collected stays in the area to help the communities.

Kilmallie Community Centre is holding its annual general meeting on Thursday November 29 at the hall in Corpach at 6.30pm.

The West Highland

Museum's Saturday Club is holding a fun-filled Christmas children's event at the museum on Saturday December 1, suitable for six to 12-year-olds. The event is free and no need to book.

The Light up the Highlands Christmas Carols Service, hosted by Highland Hospice, takes place on Monday (December 3) in the Faith Mission Hall at 6.30pm. The community is invited for an evening of carol singing. Refreshments will be served.

Staff and volunteers from

Caol-based Lochaber Sensory Care for sight and hearing support will be visiting Mal-laig Medical Centre between 1.30pm and 3pm on Tuesday December 4.

The LSC team will offer help and advice to those who have a sight or hearing loss. They will also supply NHS hearing aid batteries, provide re-tubing for the hearing aids and assist with any problems. No appointment is required for this free service.

Fort William Accordion

# GFG Alliance says sorry in hydro scheme row

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Lochaber smelter owner GFG Alliance has blamed what it calls a 'genuine misunderstanding' for a row over its hydro workers using access tracks across a private estate near Spean Bridge.

Renewables firm SIMEC/GHR – part of GFG Alliance/Liberty – has submitted planning applications for four hydro schemes in the Fort William, Spean Bridge and Loch Treig areas.

SIMEC/GHR wants the electricity generated by the four schemes to power its still unbuilt new alloy wheels factory earmarked for land adjacent to the smelter.

The four schemes are proposed for Allt Dam, Allt Coire na Eoin, Allt Leachdach and Allt na Lairige.

To construct three of these schemes will require access

across the Killiechonate Woodlands estate, owned by Rik Eppens, who has been adamant the company has no agreement with him to cover this.

At this month's meeting of Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council, members again discussed the situation.

While there has apparently been an agreement for access for maintenance purposes in the past, a recent community council meeting saw a representative of SIMEC GHR quizzed over the allegation the company had been using access routes on the estate for other work in connection with its planned new hydro projects, without the consent of Mr Eppens.

Asked to comment, a spokesman for GFG Alliance told the *Lochaber Times* this week that on checking, it was clear the 'new protocol' for

Killiechonate Woodlands only covered future access for maintenance purposes.

'If we wish to access for anything else, that will require separate and explicit clearance from Mr Eppens,' said the spokesman.

'We never suggested we had access for construction purposes but there was some genuine misunderstanding regarding the terms of our access to Killiechonate Woodlands.

'Naturally we are sorry about this and happy to have clarified things with Mr Eppens.

'The GFG Alliance has always worked closely with local communities on planning issues and is committed to doing so with this proposed project.'

However, from his home in the Netherlands, Mr Eppens told the *Lochaber Times*: 'After they have accessed our

land for a long time for the purpose of designing the new hydro, they now ask permission on a case by case basis.

'That is only very recently and it has happened only once so far that they have requested access.

'They proposed a protocol so that we can see on internet who is on our land and for what purpose.

'But that is still not in place because I have not been informed where I can access the information.'

And Mr Eppens stressed he still had no agreement with GFG Alliance to permit access for the construction of the proposed hydro schemes.

And he added: 'As you know we are not so happy with these new hydro systems, especially not with the near destruction of the Cour Waterfall.'

Community council chairman John Fotheringham says

his concern is that a company of the size of GFG Alliance has acted in this way and what that might mean for its projects in Lochaber.

'It still doesn't have agreed access in connection with these planning applications it has submitted,' he said.

'The applications run to hundreds of pages of information involving a lot of work and yet it has been accessing someone else's land without permission – that's what worries me.

'I don't think that augurs well for the way it will behave in the future and doesn't equate to what it is telling the people of Lochaber – that it is acting entirely properly when it clearly is not.'

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## Old Fort primary boarded up to stop illegal entry

The disused St Mary's RC Primary School in Fort William has had its broken windows and doors boarded up and the electricity supply is shortly to be disconnected after it emerged teenagers were still gaining access to the property at night and at weekends.

The school on Fassifern Road was closed in August 2015, but despite youngsters being warned back in August this year by police to stay out of the derelict building due to the health risk from asbestos, reports have continued to emerge of youngsters accessing the building.

A Highland Council spokesperson told the *Lochaber Times*: 'The council has been in contact with the police in Fort William and we have since had all broken windows and doors boarded up to secure the building.'

'Plans are also in place to have the electricity disconnected at the property.'

'Anyone witnessing anti-social or illegal behaviour should report it to the police.'

## Forbes scoops Holyrood 'rising star' accolade

MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch Kate Forbes collected a 'rising star' accolade at the annual Scottish Politician of the Year awards in Edinburgh.

Ms Forbes, who is serving her first-term as a politician after the 2016 Scottish Parliament elections, won the One to Watch category – which organisers said is 'an award that recognises the MSP demonstrating the most potential to rise through the ranks of their party and/or in Parliament'.

Ms Forbes commented:



Kate Forbes MSP.

'It has been a steep learning curve but I hope that my constituents feel like I do

everything possible to support them, to represent the Highlands and to, in some small way, make a difference.

'Of course, the most important judges, as it were, will always be my constituents but I do appreciate this award.'

It was the second year in a row that Ms Forbes had been a finalist for the award, and this year she beat off competition from the Greens' Ross Greer and Conservative Liam Kerr.

The annual ceremony – in its 20th year – took place in Edinburgh last Thursday.

and Fiddle Club is hosting a musical evening on Tuesday December 4 at 7.30pm at the Railway Club in Inverloch. The guest artist is the Richard Ross Trio. All welcome.

■ A fundraising quiz is being held in aid of the Fort William Pump Track project, which aims to build a bike track to the centre of the town. The quiz starts at 9pm at Garrison West and is being organised by Off Beat Bikes. All proceeds will go towards the campaign.

■ Lochaber Camanachd

Club is hosting its AGM on Saturday December 8 in the Bridge Cafe, Spean Bridge at 4pm. All players, members, supporters or anyone interested in shinty are welcome.

■ Kilmallie Community Centre is holding its Christmas Fayre on Saturday December 8 from 11am to 3pm. Tables are £8 each and to book a table contact the centre manager on 01397 600111. All proceeds will be put towards the continued upgrading of Kilmallie Community Centre.

■ The Music Shed Community Choir's Christmas Concert will be held in St Andrew's Church Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday December 11. The public is invited along to enjoy some seasonal music and socialise over tea and cake afterwards. No charge.

■ The next Bus Users' Group meeting takes place on Friday December 14 at 11.30am at the Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church hall on the Parade, Fort William.

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# Fort's Christmas Festival draws the festive crowds

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

This year's festive season was truly welcomed to Fort William at the weekend, with a street party on Friday night before the following day's Rotary Club of Lochaber Christmas Festival.

Nevis Radio's street party on the Friday night drew a good crowd to witness Santa abseil down the front of the Marshall & Pearson shop to officially switch on the town's High Street Christmas lights.

This was followed on Saturday with the Rotary Club of Lochaber, supported by principal sponsors Ferguson Transport and Shipping, laying on an event packed with entertainment and activity, as well as showcasing Lochaber's wide range of quality crafts and food



products on display in the Nevis Centre.

Blessed with a bright, clear November morning, Santa

and his team of Cairngorm reindeer were the highlights of the all-day festival.

Santa was supported

by David Rodgers, nine, from Roy Bridge and Aine MacPhie, six, from Mallaig, who won the *Lochaber Times* Christmas card message competition to pick two 'elves' to ride on Santa's sleigh.

Led by Lochaber Pipe Band and young cheerleaders Ben Nevis Allstars, Santa's sleigh paraded from Cameron Square to the Nevis Centre followed by hundreds of enthusiastic youngsters and their parents.

David Rodgers, from Roy Bridge, and Aine MacPhie, from Mallaig, won the *Lochaber Times* Christmas card message competition for the prize of being Santa's elves for the festival.

All photographs: Abrightside Photography

Aine and David also joined Santa in his grotto to help hand out gifts and toys to more than 300 children over the ensuing three hours.

The stallholders reported steady business peaking in early afternoon when the hall was packed with visitors enjoying the vast array of crafts and festive products, much of it unique to Lochaber.

Also entertaining the crowds was non-stop music from Buskers' Corner where seven acts, including the Great Glen Swing Band and Lochaber Showstoppers, performed live over the course of the day.

The bouncy castle, Santa's postbox and the Light Garden tearoom were also major attractions and the Six Classic Malts whisky raffle,

won by retired teacher Gail Young from Banavie, raised more than £1,000 for local charities.

Alasdair Ferguson, chief executive of Ferguson Transport & Shipping, said: 'We were once again delighted to continue this year as main sponsor for the Rotary Club of Lochaber's 11th annual Christmas festival.'

'The event, as always, was a great success, building on previous years' successes. We were delighted to once again fund the cost of bringing the reindeer and sleigh to Fort William.'

Club president Iain Johnston, while emphasising that the festival was more about a community event than about raising money, thanked Ferguson Transport for its continued sponsorship.

And he added: 'I would like to thank everyone who has made this such a successful day - the stallholders, the Nevis Centre staff, the Cairngorm reindeer company, fellow Rotarians and most of all the general public. Thanks again to everyone, and we hope to see you all back next year at our 12th festival.'

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Above, The Kilmallie Singers were in fine voice with some appropriate Christmas songs; left, Santa and helper elf from Nevis Landscape Partnership welcomed Jamie and Charli Halpin to their grotto in Costa Coffee.

Photographs: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

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Santa's sleigh passes the Lochaber Times office on Saturday.



The Ben Nevis All Stars entertain the crowds on Saturday morning.



The designer craft and food fair in the Nevis Centre on Saturday saw plenty of interest.



The first visitor to Santa's grotto was Elesha Watson, aged four.



Fort William's Christmas lights were illuminated on Friday night in front of a big crowd.



Manager Maggie Wilson and volunteers of the Highland Hospice shop in Fort William were in the festive season mood.



Lochaber Times Christmas card message competition winners, Aine and David Rodgers with Santa and Ken Johnston of the Rotary Club of Lochaber.



Onlookers were treated to the sight of Santa abseiling down the front of Marshall and Pearson building in the High Street to switch on the festive lights.

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## Glenfinnan Community Council

The fireworks display raised £1,130.10 in donations and £197.74 was donated from Kitty MacDonald's funeral for community facility plans.

**Fireworks:** Thanks were made to all who supported the event and to Glenfinnan Estate for the use of the Games Field. Improvements for next year were discussed, including rubbish bins, parking attendants and counters. It was suggested better lighting for car park and field entrances would be beneficial. All agreed.

**Hallowe'en:** Thanks went to all who helped at another successful children's party and to Glenfinnan House.

**War Memorial:** Thanks were given to the Highland Council programme for sprucing up the memorial and to all who turned out for the Remembrance Service on Sunday November 11.

**Christmas Village Gathering:** Due to a lack of venue and other commitments, this will not happen this year.

## YOU DEBATE The Environment

# Tourism and cars – tell us what you think



**YOUDEBATE**  
Lochaber Environmental Group

Lochaber's physical environment is one of its most important defining features.

The climate, the wildlife, the landscape, the surrounding sea, all contribute to making Lochaber a special place for residents and visitors alike.

At the same time the balance between using and protecting that environment in a sustainable way is delicate and easily disturbed.

Local prosperity and personal freedom are often in conflict with the long-term welfare of the place. What's more, as with any conflict, it's very easy for us each to become entrenched on one side or the other, and to avoid trying to understand the whole picture.

For that reason the *Lochaber Times*, working with the Lochaber Environmental Group, is starting a readers'



debate on a monthly series of pressing environmental issues that affect all of us here. To start the ball rolling,

we'd like you to consider the following questions and send your views – in no more than 200 words for each question –

on either or both by email to [fort@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:fort@obantimes.co.uk). The most thoughtful responses will be published in two weeks' time.

### 1. Tourism:

This brings a mixture of benefits and drawbacks, especially in remote locations.

For the visitor it brings experience of new places, new cultures, it can be stimulating and informative and they sometimes bring important income into an area. On the other hand, many popular destinations are becoming swamped and the carbon footprint of holiday travel can be enormous.

Q: If the pattern of tourism could change, what changes do you think would be best for Lochaber?

### 2. Cars:

In areas such as Lochaber cars are almost unavoidable

as a way of travelling, and they give much-valued freedom to drivers and passengers.

On the other hand, fossil fuels are dirty and running out, tyre dust is a major contributor of water-borne microparticles, and many roads are becoming very congested.

Q: Again, if the pattern of car use could change, what changes do you think would be best for Lochaber?

Email your answer/s to either or both questions – in no more than 200 words – to [fort@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:fort@obantimes.co.uk)

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## MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

[angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk)



I have covered the merits of a good wedding a few times in this column but never have I touched on the magic of a good birthday party.

I've been to many and played at many over the years, and all are different in the effect and experience created.

From intimate house parties with a few drams, to lavish feasts in plush hotels or just an informal gathering in the pub, a birthday party can come in many shapes and sizes and in all these guises can be enjoyed greatly and all can suitably mark the occasion being celebrated.

Last Friday I was at one of the best gatherings of this type I have experienced yet.

This was a 50th party in Milngavie Town Hall to mark the half-century of Donald Iain Brown from Tiree.

DI left Tiree in his late teens and has carved out a highly successful career with the BBC.

The range of folk at the party reflected the background and work life of the birthday boy with a great combination of those who had travelled over from Tiree, those from

the Glasgow Highland scene and many media executive types from all over the UK.

Added to this was a core of close family and friends and the mix of attendees knitted together perfectly to give a biography in people of those who had shaped, touched and been part of his life.

I was sitting at a table along with my mother and her friend Cath MacPherson, both who had taught DI at Cornaigmore school. Cath was recalling tales about his first day at school when she had to ask mum to come down from the secondary school to interpret for her as DI could only communicate in Gaelic. These types of stories – from times long past, through to the present day – where significant ingredients to the night.

The music was from older brother Campbell Brown and his band Gunna Sound as well as very informal guest spots from many other partygoers. This meant the entertainment was like a proper old-style ceilidh.

With fiddle music from Marie Fielding, box tunes from Ian Smith of Trail West and Martin Gillespie

from Skerryvore, piping from Finlay Johnston and John MacLeod and songs from Mairi MacInnes, the Glasgow Gaelic Choir, DI himself and his daughter Shona this was indeed a very fine ceilidh.

As any regular readers of this column will know I have a great love for good food and I have to give particular mention to the buffet, which was prepared by Alastair MacKinnon from Sandaig, Tiree.

Every morsel of it was homemade and every morsel of it was absolutely delicious. Many birthday parties are let down by soggy sandwiches, tasteless sausage rolls and frozen supermarket puddings. Not so here and a great feast was had.

All in all this night of celebration was akin to how the ultimate birthday party would be portrayed in a Hollywood blockbuster. This was no fictional creation for the big screen though. It was merely reflection of the character of the birthday boy himself.

A great night was had by all and I wish many happy returns to Donald Iain.

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# QC in NHS bullying independent review to start before Christmas

by Neill Bo Finlayson  
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

An independent review into allegations of a bullying culture at NHS Highland, which is due to start before Christmas, will be conducted by John Sturrock QC.

Health Secretary Jeane Freeman had previously announced plans for an independent review to look into the allegations that were raised by senior doctors in September.

The review will provide an opportunity for current and former staff who have raised concerns to discuss these with an independent and impartial third party. Findings will be reported back to the Scottish Government in early



John Sturrock QC

2019 so that any next steps can be decided upon.

Mr Sturrock, who has a background in mediation, said: 'These are difficult and sensitive issues. I know from my work as a mediator how important it is to listen to people's concerns.'

'My primary role, therefore,

is to provide a safe and confidential place for people to be heard and to explore with them what the underlying issues might be.

'I hope that, by better understanding the circumstances, acknowledging the impact on individuals and services and learning lessons from the past, confidence and effective working relationships can be rebuilt.'

Senior doctors and politicians from across the Highlands have welcomed this independent investigation after more than 100 healthcare workers came forward claiming there was a 'severe bullying culture' at the health board - with 'one serious case' being reported at the Belford Hospital in

Fort William.

Ms Freeman said: 'I'm pleased that John Sturrock QC has agreed to conduct this independent review into allegations of a bullying culture at NHS Highland.'

'These are serious allegations, and it is clearly important to me that we establish exactly what the underlying issues are so I can decide on any actions that might be necessary.'

Highlands and Islands MSP Edward Mountain, who this week led a members' business debate at the Scottish Parliament on the investigation, welcomed the announcement and was especially pleased that Mr Sturrock will report his findings by early 2019.

## Public views sought on Gaelic plan

NHS Western Isles (NHSWI) is inviting comments from islanders at a public consultation meeting today (Thursday November 29), about revisions made in the NHSWI Gaelic Language Plan.

'Gaelic is a precious part of our history and culture, and our renewed plan will help to ensure it can be a flourishing and sustainable part of our future,' said NHSWI chief executive Gordon Jamieson.

'We have seen some encouraging results from our earlier work and there is still more to do.'

The NHSWI Gaelic Language Plan II draft is available to view online at [www.wihb.scot.nhs.uk/community-engagement](http://www.wihb.scot.nhs.uk/community-engagement)

Islanders are invited to voice their thoughts at the NHSWI Gaelic Language Plan public consultation meeting, starting at 7.30pm tonight (November 29), in the Hospital Chapel at Western Isles Hospital, Macaulay Road, Stornoway.

# WHAT'S ON @ CORRAN HALLS



## DECEMBER

THUR  
06



SAT  
08

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Saturday 8th Matinee 2pm  
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SAT  
15  
DEC



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Standing show

SAT  
22  
DEC

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## JANUARY

WED  
2  
JAN

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11  
JAN

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AMERICAN  
COUNTRY**

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SAT  
19  
JAN



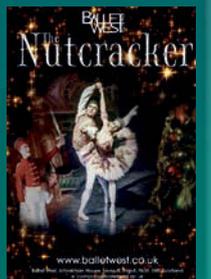
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26  
JAN

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LT

# Youngsters shine at dance



Ballet West's primary ballet dancers.



Ballet West's primary jazz routine was well received.

Scores of talented primary and secondary school youngsters from across Lochaber came together over three nights last week to thrill audiences with a fantastic display of dance and gymnastics.

Held at Lochaber High School, the annual Lochaber Dance Platform extravaganza is a key part of the Active Schools' calendar and features primary and secondary school pupils showcasing a huge variety of dance styles and costumes.

A number of pupils from Lochaber High School, alongside former pupils, parents and school staff, ran after-school dance sessions leading up to the event allowing all local primary schools to perform a dance.

As well as most of the local primary schools being involved, students from the region's high schools choreographed and danced their own routines.

Stepping down from her role with Dance Platform after 15 years, and going from dancer to dancer leader and

then co-organiser - alongside Bridget Thomas - was Sarah Gillanders, who was delighted with this year's performances.

'Everything went amazingly. The youngsters thoroughly enjoyed themselves. They really get into it and cheered for their peers,' she told the *Lochaber Times*. 'The primary schools can start their sessions after the summer holidays and the build up is exciting for them as they get their costumes as well.'

'For the high school children, they must have their dances completed for the audition process. I assisted with the primary and high school groups if they needed advice or guidance on a dance.'

'The schools were all from the area - Banavie, Caol, St Columba's, Inverloch, Lundavra, Ardnamurchan, Kinlochleven and Mallaig.

'We also had gymnastics, Nevis School of Highland Dancing, Ben Nevis Allstars, Connexion and Jane Douglas School of Dance with routines.'



Mallaig High School's Connexion group.



The S1-S2 group performs.

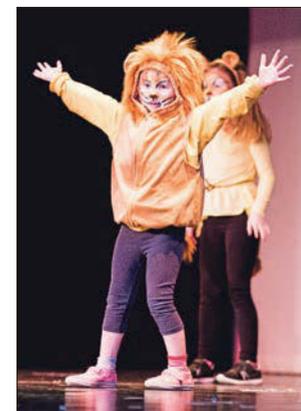
Photographs:  
Abrightside  
Photography and  
alba.photos



Lundavra Primary School's routine was energetic.



Ballet West senior group in action.



A young 'lion' from Ardnamurchan High School has fun.



Ben Nevis All Stars turned on the style at Dance Platform 2018.

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# platform



Columba's dancers.



Dancers from Nevis School of Highland Dancing go through their routines.



Invergarry Primary School dancers.



Sean Bridge Primary School youngsters brought plenty of attitude and confidence to their routine.

## A82 is voted the best road trip route in Britain

Who needs Route 66 when you have the A82?

The route from Loch Lomond to Glencoe has been picked as the ideal British road trip in a new study.

The trip featuring Bridge of Orchy and the gorgeous Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park was chosen by more than a quarter of drivers (26 per cent). The scenic second place routes

were Barnstaple in Devon to Newquay in Cornwall and a trip around the New Forest, both of which picked up 13 per cent of votes.

No matter where people were driving, there was no doubt who the perfect passenger would be – their partners.

More than 85 per cent of the 5,000 British drivers surveyed by webuyanycar.com would

choose their beloved partner for the road trip, ahead of a celebrity, no matter the star power.

Around a quarter would hire out a special set of wheels courtesy of credit cards to enjoy the road trip in style, while 42 per cent would take the journey in their own car, believing it is about the journey rather than the vehicle.

The most popular choice

for the drive was an Aston Martin (24 per cent), followed by a Range Rover (22 per cent) and then a Ford Mustang with 10 per cent.

Richard Evans, head of technical services at webuyanycar.com, said: 'Scotland boasts so many areas of outstanding natural beauty, we can certainly see why the drive from Loch Lomond to Glencoe came out on top.'



## Finfish aquaculture Consultation information event

The finfish aquaculture sector relies on Scotland's high quality environment and abundant freshwater resources. However, medicine used by Scottish salmon farms is significantly impacting local marine environments.

We have set out firm, evidence-based proposals for a revised regulatory regime and are consulting on a sector plan for finfish aquaculture.

Have your say and enrich the decisions we take every day to protect and enhance Scotland's environment.

Community drop in events will give you the chance to speak with a range of SEPA staff, find out more about the proposals and answer your questions. No booking required.

**Date:** 5th December 2018

**Time:** 2.30pm – 7.30pm

**Venue:** Isle of Mull Hotel & Spa, Craginure, Isle of Mull PA65 6BB

[sectors.sepa.org.uk](http://sectors.sepa.org.uk)

LT

## MV Loch Seaforth to support New Year Iolaire service

Caledonian MacBrayne has confirmed the MV Loch Seaforth will participate in the New Year's Day Service to commemorate the centenary of the Iolaire tragedy.

At midday on New Year's Day, a special Iolaire Memorial Service will take place at the Iolaire memorial at Holm.

Due to the logistics and space constraints, there will be a limited number of people allowed down to the site for the service.

CalMac stated the MV Loch Seaforth will sail out into the bay at 11.15am on January 1 to coincide with the service beginning at noon.

A total of 201 pupils from across the islands will throw flowers into the sea to represent the 201 men who were tragically lost on the Iolaire. The service on board will be led by Rev James Maciver of the Stornoway Free Church.

There is space on board for 250 members of the public. To secure tickets for the service on the MV Loch Seaforth, the CalMac ticket office will be allocating tickets on a first-come-first-serve basis strictly between 9-11am and 3-5pm from Monday, December 3 until Friday December 7.

There will also be a maximum of four tickets per household.

Due to the safety restrictions at Holm, there will be a number of tickets reserved aboard

the vessel for those with accessibility requirements.

Managing director of CalMac Ferries Ltd Robbie Drummond said: 'There were many seafarers who lost their lives in this incident who had close ties with the company.'

'Current master of the MV Loch Seaforth John Gilles had a relative who drowned, so it is fitting that a Caledonian MacBrayne vessel is playing such an important role in this 100-year commemoration service for those who perished.'

Norman A MacDonald, chairman of the Iolaire Working Group, added: 'We are grateful to CalMac for all its support with the commemoration events and for making the MV Loch Seaforth available for this special commemoration service on January 1.'

'The safety advisory group has indicated that there will be a need to keep the Iolaire path at Holm clear for the service onshore to allow access for the emergency services.'

'Therefore, the advice is for those with accessibility requirements to join the service on board the MV Loch Seaforth.'

'We would remind the public that there will be a limited number allowed at both the service at the Iolaire memorial and on board the MV Loch Seaforth.'

# Emma qualifies as first female helm for Kyle lifeboat

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

A member of Kyle RNLI's volunteer crew has become the first female to command the lifeboat since the station was founded almost 30 years ago after passing her qualifications.

Last week Emma Noble sat and passed the assessments required to become one of the two newest helms of the Kyle lifeboat, Spirit of Fred Olsen.

Although there have been a number of female crew members in the past, Emma has become the first to sit and pass her helm assessments, which now enables her to command the lifeboat.

The 31-year-old graphic designer and picture framer has been a part of the Kyle lifeboat crew for the past five years, and has been working towards qualifying to become a helm for the past year.

Speaking of the achievement, lifeboat operations manager Sandy Murray said: 'It is an historic day for our lifeboat station, as Emma



Emma Noble, above left and below right, has become the first female helm at Kyle RNLI. She is pictured with fellow volunteer crew member Sandra MacRae. Photograph: Jack Lowe

has become the first woman to hold the position of helm since the station was started almost 30 years ago.

'Emma has been a dedicated volunteer with us for a number of years, and this

was the natural evolution for her. Everyone at the station would like to congratulate both Emma, and fellow crew member Andrew MacDonald, who also qualified.'



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## Meet our new columnist

This week we launch our new occasional column from the Edge of the World – or more correctly the Western Isles or the Outer Hebrides!

Cath MacDonald is a well-known figure on Harris – she began her working life as a teacher, working in the islands and Inverness.

She taught Gaelic in Lochaber schools while based in Fort William and afterwards had a spell in Colombia running the school for the children of the British managers at textile firm J&P Coats.

Her return to the UK saw her take up the post of lecturer/staff tutor in bilingual education for Aberdeen College of Education and the Western Isles Council.

Cath takes up the story: 'By the time that contract ended I had decided to return home as my mother had passed away and my father was on his own, with the rest of our family all being on the mainland.

It was then that I started my column for the Stornoway Gazette. Last year when the paper was 100 years old I was invited by the BBC to do an interview about it.'

Later Cath was encouraged to stand for the council which she did, serving as a councillor until 2017.

'I am now a member of the North Harris Community Council. I also represent it on the Harris Forum which is made up of representatives of the community councils, the land-owning Harris Trusts and other groups.

'I am also a member of the Outer Hebrides Tourism Association. Back on the croft, I run a small tourism business in Harris which I inherited from my father. Having been a member of the council means that I have knowledge of what goes on in the other islands outwith Harris.'

## VIEW FROM THE EDGE with Cath MacDonald

It was mid October, that time of year when many who run a tourism business from the spring right through the summer months, close down and look forward to some leisure time for themselves.

Many from the Western Islands have family members on the mainland and here now is an opportunity to visit and spend some relaxing time with them. I am one of them.

After a calm and pleasant sail on the MV Hebrides to Uig, the drive along the scenic roads through Skye and Glen Shiel was as fascinating as ever. I have done it many times but always find it interesting.

A weekend was spent in Inverness giving the opportunity to go around some shops, which is specially appreciated by those who live in remote, rural areas.

From Inverness, I went on a four-hour journey by bus to Glasgow. I was on my way to visit a family member in Largs, so on arrival at Buchanan Street Bus Station, I boarded a bus for Largs after 4pm.

This was a lengthy journey, mostly in the dark. The journey took longer than the expected time as there were many stops along the way as people made their way homewards, laden with shopping bags, etc.

My sister was relieved when we eventually arrived in Largs as it had been a bitterly cold evening as she waited to meet me at the bus stop.

The following day we went on a journey I had much looked forward to – from Largs to Taynuilt, as it was my first time in this part



Cath MacDonald will be writing an occasional column about her life on Harris.

of the country. The scenery was beautiful as we drove along by the Firth of Clyde and crossed by ferry from Gourrock to Dunoon.

On the other side of the road were the tree-covered hills, where the beautiful and varied autumn colours were in some places backed and shown to their advantage by the deep green conifers behind them.

At Taynuilt I stayed with a niece in a house on a croft which was on a hill slightly above the village. The house looked on to Ben Cruachan.

Cows grazed in the green field down from the house. It was a beautiful spot.

Some Remembrance events were being held in the area. One of those was at St Conan's Kirk, a very large old church.

We attended the event – an evening of prose, poetry, music and song.

Pipers played Battle of the Somme and Bloody Fields of Flanders. A Gaelic choir sang. A young member of our family was participating, reading a lament by Wilfred W Gibson along with a schoolmate.

On a fine day, we visited Oban which is a short distance from Taynuilt.

Back in Largs we attended a Great War Armistice

Centenary Service of Remembrance on November 11. Four churches in Largs joined together for this service – St Columba's Episcopal Church, St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, St John's Parish Church and the Clark Memorial Parish Church where the service was held at midday after wreath laying had taken place at the war memorial.

The previous day some sheltering had been put up near the war memorial and although it was a morning of very heavy rain the wreath laying event went on and all was done as usual.

I first heard of Largs when in school and we had to learn the dates of battles. The Battle of Largs happened in 1263, where the Scots fought and defeated King Haakon's Norwegian forces.

A great number of our place names in the Western Isles are of Norse origin. Centuries later Largs became a popular tourist town.

Despite the weather being wet and misty at times my first visit to this area of Scotland was most interesting and enjoyable.

There were obvious similarities with the Outer Hebrides but there were differences.

Although we have trees in the Western Isles we do not drive along miles of tree-lined roads.

Once again, an area of Scotland with something different to offer and a great place to visit.

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# Hania's artwork wins trip for Caol school class

Young Hania Loboda's artistic talents have secured a trip to Blair Drummond Safari Park for her Caol Primary School class.

More than 100 primary pupils from Fort William and Oban entered a competition to draw an oil tanker organised by the firm Oilfast.

Oban councillor Roddy McCuish had the tough task of choosing a winner from all the entries from Caol primary and Rockfield Primary School, Oban.

'The quantity and 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.

Youngsters from both schools were also all given hi-vis vests by the heating oil supplier to help keep

them safe when they walk to school. Oilfast has been based near Oban Airport for almost two years and the company's Graeme Edment said the competition came about because Oilfast believed in supporting the communities that in turn support its business.

'As a result of this ethos, we created the Draw a Tanker competition. This was designed to promote health and safety with the chance to win an educational prize, but in a fun way that engaged the youngsters,' said Mr Edment.

'Pupils from Rockfield and Caol are required to wear hi-vis jackets to and from school to stay safe on the roads, but these are usually paid for by the schools. To help the schools, we gave pupils a hi-vis jacket.'

The winning class, Caol's primary four, also wins an

educational trip to Blair Drummond Safari Park, fully funded by Oilfast.

Hania also receives a £30 book voucher and an engraved glass award.

Oilfast received more than 100 entries from pupils across both schools and the standard was impressive.

Mr Edment commented: 'I am amazed at the talent of these young pupils.'

'We would like to thank all the pupils who participated in the competition as you have truly strengthened our ethos at Oilfast and hopefully inspired more local businesses to do more for their community.'

'Thank you also to all of our loyal customers who allow us to continue helping our local community as without your support, it would not be possible.'



Caol pupil Hania Loboda receives her award, of a glass trophy and day out to Blair Drummond Safari Park for her whole class, from Dail Beattie, area director Oilfast, Oban. Picture Iain Ferguson, alba.photos



Left: Hania's winning drawing of an oil tanker.

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## LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)  
or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HBParking furore is  
slap in face for Fort  
residents and traders

Fort William has been quick to rally round Councillor Andrew Baxter after his shock resignation as chairman of the council's education and housing committee last Thursday following Highland Council overturning the area committee's move to introduce two hours' free parking for six weeks in the run-up to Christmas.

The matter was made worse because councillors had checked with officials ahead of the move and had been told they had the authority to make the decision.

And it was not an unreasonable request given other local authorities do it, helping shoppers and traders make the most of the festive season.

But rather than forgo the cash and instead hand out some good will, Highland Council has decided to play Scrooge and lost a hard-working chairman in the process.

The fact that some large towns in the Highlands have so far refused to introduce parking charges at all and the council appears to be doing nothing to change that makes this decision all the more galling.

Mistakes happen and the council officials who gave the advice are not the main issue, the issue is that the council executive has come in heavy handed and rather than agreeing a compromise has delayed a decision, which most people will expect to be a resounding NO.

Even if the full council did suspend parking charges at the meeting on December 13, it would seem that that particular reindeer and sleigh have already bolted.

We all know the council is strapped for cash and that Fort William contributes nearly a third of all the parking fees in the Highlands, but this is one town that is getting pretty fed up of one rule for its residents and traders, and another rule for everyone else.

We are so much better off  
being part of the EU

D Cameron's attempt to justify Brexit on the backs of fallen heroes in two world wars is at best just plain wrong, and at worst mendacious and malicious (Letters, November 8). To do it at the time of remembrance is an obscenity, and cannot pass unchallenged.

I was born in Birmingham in 1942 during an air-raid, which, fortunately, we all survived. But my grandfather was killed on the Somme in 1918 and he never saw his daughter – my mum – though he did send her a first birthday card – in silk – and delivered after his death. My dad was injured in Normandy in 1944, Mentioned in Despatches and invalided home.

I spent a large part of my professional life seeking to extend mutual knowledge and understanding via a series of initiatives involving teachers and students in France, Germany, Austria and Hungary. They were very successful and would have been completely impossible without a range of over-arching EU initiatives, not least the TEMPUS programmes.

For a long time I had become increasingly worried by trends in English politics, especially Margaret Thatcher's turning selfishness into a virtue (remember "There is no such thing as society?"), and I resolved to leave as soon as I could.

My chance came in 2002, when I was able to move to Scotland, which I found much more congenial, culturally and politically, having a level of personal and public consideration and humanity I found generally more lacking south of the border.

In 2014, I voted for independence and, when this failed, I joined the SNP. In 2016, in common with 62 per cent of my fellow persons of Scotland, I voted to remain in the European Union. We have had 40 years of peace and great benefits. Britain's place in the EU was and is a huge bargain, not least retaining our own currency while simultaneously enjoying all the benefits of full membership – the envy other members.

To give up on all this is total madness. It is the last convulsion of Empire. So let's consign D Cameron and his sidekick Colonel Blimp to the dustbin of history where they belong, and ignore the lies of the Tory posh boys and Moggites. Let's achieve independence, stay in the EU, remember the Declaration of Arbroath and make Scotland great again.

**John Gosling,  
Siskin, Barcaldine.**

## YOUR PICTURES



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

simply send it to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk), post it to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB or hand it in to our offices in Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, or in High Street,

Parking charges resonate  
with classic song lyrics

The scramble for the last of Oban's space and to turn it into high charging parking spaces, rekindles memories of the classic Joni Mitchell song from 1970, Big Yellow Taxi.

The song should remind the council that it is Argyll, the paradise, that tourists come to see and not its non-functional parking meters and

overworked, harassed traffic wardens.

**Big Yellow Taxi**

*They paved paradise  
And put up a parking lot  
With a pink hotel, a boutique  
And a swinging hot spot.  
Don't it always seem to go  
That you don't know what you've got  
Till it's gone  
They paved paradise  
And put up a parking lot*

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# DISTRICT NEWS

## FORT WILLIAM

Fort William Town Team held a meeting on Monday November 12 at the West End Hotel. Members were updated on the following:

**Backlands:** Sue Keen took a call from Mark Timmins of Travelodge on November 1. The car park has not been re-opened because Travelodge is changing its automatic number plate recognition contractor. The contract is currently out to tender and Travelodge hoped to have the car park open again in a few weeks. Mark reminded the meeting Travelodge needed to put the fence back up. James was to investigate. Paperwork had been completed to enable Travelodge to make its donation to the Town Team.

The team also discussed the possibility of two hours' free parking in the six weeks before Christmas but Andrew Baxter advised this had not yet been agreed with Inverness.

**Cruise ships:** Sixteen cruise ships had been confirmed for 2019 so far, including the Hebridean Princess which will visit four times. There will be eight maiden visits.

There is a possibility of a six-star cruise ship visiting. The ship has helipads and submarines. Sarah Kennedy, James Kennedy and Hamish Loudon gave cruise ship tour company representatives a tour of the town last year. Eleven cruise ships are already booked for 2020, five of which are maiden visits.

One booking has been received for 2021 so far. The first cruise ship in 2019 will be the Astoria on April 8.

There are five ships in May, two in June, one in July, one in August and three in September, plus the four Hebridean Princess visits. During her discussions with the cruise ship companies, Sarah was told Fort William was the only place giving a local welcome.

**Retractable canopy:** Sarah has phoned Mark Smith of the Highland Council on numerous occasions to discuss landowners' consent. She has now raised the issue with Richard Porteous as this is holding up the planning application. Andrew



Invergarry pupils with their new hi-vis jackets.

## Invergarry pupils given safety talk

Morrison Construction and Police Scotland have been talking to Invergarry Primary School pupils about how to stay safe on the way to and from school.

The talk coincided with the Brake charity's annual Road Safety Week from November 19 to 25.

The Highland contractor also gave every pupil a personalised hi-vis vest and hat to help them be seen when they are out and about in the winter.

The sessions were held ahead of Morrison Construction starting work on a major refurbishment of the school, including building two classroom extensions.

Morrison Construction's corporate social responsibility manager Sally Cooper said: 'We have been supporting this campaign to encourage pupils to remain safe and visible when walking to school for many years.'

'This is a timely campaign now that the clocks have changed and the nights are getting darker and by offering the children these fluorescent vests and hats, we hope they take extra care on trips and excursions.'

advised the team was entitled to appeal for non-determination because of the 12-week deadline. Sarah is to email Christine Millard of the planning department and copy in Andrew. Andrew made it clear that because of his involvement with the museum, he is not sitting on the planning committee for this application.

## STRONTIAN

Kilcamb Lodge Hotel, near Strontian, has been recognised in the Best Loved Hotels awards.

It won the Boutique Award for best small hotel, sponsored by PSL Food Professionals.

Owners Sally and David Fox said: 'This award is extra special since it is voted for by our guests, so a big thank you to everyone who voted for us.'

'Special thanks must go to our wonderful team at Kilcamb Lodge for their continued support and professional excellence.'

'This award is theirs, really, and following a third AA Rosette for our



David and Sally Fox from the Kilcamb Lodge Hotel with their certificate.

kitchen, it is another shining accolade in recognition of the great team of people who make Kilcamb Lodge such a special place in the hearts of everyone who visits.'

The Best Loved Hotels Awards, now in their fourth year, recognise the best establishments in the group's UK, Irish and international

hotel portfolio – all independently-owned – across the country's regions and 13 specialist categories. The awards attracted more than 7,500 nominations from customers all over the world.

## ARISAIG

Arisaig SWI held its meeting on the November 22.

Members enjoyed an inspiring demonstration by June Cairns of making various confectionery.

After the goodies were ready members took part in a tasting session and received some sweets to take home.

Business was concluded after tea. The winner of the raffle was Yvonne MacDonald. The next meeting will be the Christmas party on December 13.

## MALLAIG

With almost 600 runners enjoying a great day in 2018, organisers are making Mallaig Pool and Leisure's Festival of Running even better for

2019. A full-length marathon is now being added to the annual running event, while some routes are being redrawn.

Running along some of the most beautiful roads in the UK with amazing uninterrupted views to the islands of Muck, Rum and Eigg, the Festival of Running will now comprise a 5km run, a 10km run, a half marathon and a full marathon.

There is also the Walk on the Wild Side, a walking event that follows the half marathon route.

All profit from this event will go towards Mallaig Pool and Leisure's refurbishment project, which will include a new cafe.

The company is a social enterprise run by a small dedicated team as well as volunteers from the community.

To take part in the festival, visit the Mallaig Pool and Leisure website and book a place.

Let the training commence.

## GLENFINNAN

■ Marine Harvest Hut: The application for change of use has been submitted to Highland Council. The next steering group meeting is on Tuesday December 4 at 7.30pm at Torr Oran (Sandy's house). Under discussion will be the transfer of funds earmarked for the facility projects.

■ Tourist Parking: £269,906 has been awarded from the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund and an official letter from Leader for match funding of £115,674 is still awaited. Following a meeting with Bidwells there are still some issues to iron out and extra costs presenting themselves in the car park design.

A planning condition to create a new, safe crossing over the A830 at the car park bell mouth was discussed. All agreed that linking into the current crossing at the NTS was a better solution and Emily Bryce (NTS) is happy to include this in discussions with Transport Scotland.

Bidwells is to be asked to contact Transport Scotland regarding changing this planning stipulation. Other funding options are to be explored.



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LOCHABER



Lochaber Showstoppers' cast members get ready for Beauty and The Beast - The Panto.

# Showstoppers set to deliver panto fun

Lochaber Showstoppers is putting the final touches to its production Beauty and The Beast - The Panto to be staged in Ballachulish Village Hall next month.

A Lochaber Showstoppers spokesperson said: 'Lochaber Showstoppers is hard at work with plenty of holiday cheer. They say there is a beauty, I think her name is Belle but then again there is a Beast, with a fairytale to tell. Some singing and some dancing too, with costumes wigs and more, before you even know it you will be

shouting out for more. Please come along and see us, we really wish you would. It's time to boo the baddies and cheer loudly for the good. By the time we are finished, you'll be in the Christmas mood.'

Tickets are available from Ballachulish Tourist Information Centre for the performances on Thursday December 20 - doors open 7pm; Friday December 21 - doors open 7pm; Saturday December 22 for a 2pm matinee with doors opening at 7pm for the evening performance.

## Retro Roamer

fort@obantimes.co.uk

### More Roamerisms from the early 1990s

The 'towrists' never cease to amaze. In the middle of Thursday's 'tropical heatwave', a home counties car and caravan pulled up outside Nevis Bakery in Fort William's High Street. Out of the passenger seat stepped 'the woman of the caravan'. She pulled down the step, clambered aboard and emerged clutching thermos flask and sandwiches and proceeded, with caravan man, to have a pavement picnic. I reckon Archie should have reported them for 'breach of the 'piece'!

I was intrigued by this news item on BBC Highland: 'The golden eagle eggs stolen in Lochaber have been returned to the eyrie. Four men from the north east of England have been charged. The RSPB are hopeful they will hatch successfully...'

There's no getting away from Ski FM, Nevis Radio or Moray Firth Radio. They are all pervading. Quite a fillip for lots of wireless listeners. There's not much on the telly, they reckon. Quite a lot of merriment, too. Take, for example, 'Tradio', the swap shop for unwanted articles and gifts. A bloke from Inverness came on air wanting to exchange his piano for a cheap second-hand car. 'Is it a grand piano?' asked the programme presenter. 'Aye, man, it's an absolute brammer,' - or words to that effect - replied the would-be trader. Right enough!

Up the lane outside Presto's it wasn't a supermarket trolley that had been abandoned. It was a wheelchair - an unattended wheelchair - but not for long once the late 20th century equivalent of the Viewforth Gang got hold of it. They started to use the wheelchair as a motorised skateboard until it was taken into custody by someone a bit more responsible.

Livy was listening to Art Sutter. 'Don't go out in your car in the fog unless you really have to,' was Art's advice. This wasn't an actual conversation between Livy and Art. The morning warning was coming over the wireless. All right, radio. Livy took it to heart. He set off for work on the pushbike and fell off along the back road of the village when the bike skidded on ice. Which explains why Livy has been sporting butterfly clips on his legs - as well as bicycle clips on his trousers.

Next it was Divy, taking a dive after slipping off the step of a High Street shop. 'I wasn't watching what I was doing,' Divy conceded. 'I was trying to read the notice on the glass door of the shop.' And what did the notice advise? Aye, 'Mind the Step'!

The terms 'Brothers, Sisters and Comrades' are figuring prominently in daily greetings in and around Corpach these days. But it came as a complete surprise to Wee Gracie when Graham hailed her with a 'Good morning sister' as she was walking back home from the shops. As Gracie said later: 'How does he know I'm in the Eastern Star?'

Last weekend saw the annual outing of the '41 Club', the Fort William organisation for ageing ex-Round Tablers. Diplomatically, the name refers to its members being 41 and over, rather than them being born in 1941. The Round Table retirement age is 40. The weekend jamboree took the form of a trip to the west - the west end of Fort William, to be precise. First to the Highland Star, then 'Gerry and the Atrics' repaired to The Rock to give the karaoke lalady.

Glencoe 'rained' supreme at the tercentenary commemoration of the massacre. Even Fort William people said they'd never experienced downpours like these. The services at church and monument were impressive, however, and never to be forgotten by the 300 who braved the elements. Later, those who needed a warming revive after standing in the torrential rain, may have opted for soup rather than Scotch.

Plenty tins of Baxter's, Crosse & Blackwell and Heinz in the village shop. But not a can of Campbell's to be seen.

The Camanachd Association's annual general meeting was held in the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William, at the weekend. And one delegate appears to have left his top set of false teeth languishing in the hotel.

The Alex tooth fairy found it/them down the side of an armchair in the foyer. Hotel staff and Camanachd officials have been champing at the bit to locate the possibly down-in-the-mouth owner. So if you are feeling a right wally because you can't gnash your teeth, your top set awaits you in the Alex.

Here's a good question for the sports quiz teams of Mallaig and Fort William. 'Who makes the connection between Onich, Seagull City, An Gearasdan and the Australian national football team? Answer - Alistair Edwards - who scored the 77th minute winner for Oz last Wednesday in their match against Sweden.

Alistair hails from Onich, often hailed as 'the prettiest village in Scotland'. He played for Rangers against Mallaig and Fort William on the Gers' summer tour of the Highlands in the 1980s. And he was man of the match in Mallaig as, indeed, he was in the international.



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## SQUASH

## Success for Oban and Lochaber in recent squash tournament



Players from Oban, Lochaber and Stornoway took part in the Team Squash Competition held recently at Lochaber Leisure Centre. Oban won the overall competition with unbeaten performances by Neil Fraser and Grant Addison, supported by Michael Kelly and David Devine. Alan Love was unbeaten to help Lochaber to second place.

## RUGBY

## Lorne back in action against Helensburgh



## Oban Lorne RFC

Oban Lorne  
Helensburgh

Tennent's West Division 2

Oban Lorne welcome Argyll rivals Helensburgh RFC to Glencruitten on Saturday for the second meeting of the sides this season. Oban won a high scoring match 49-28 at Ardencaple at the start of the season with another entertaining game in prospect this Saturday.

With 10 matches played this season Oban Lorne find themselves comfortably sitting in third place in Division 2 with aspirations of challenging both Uddingston and Lenzie who are currently occupying the promotion



spots at the league summit.

Helensburgh meanwhile sit ninth in the league after a stuttering but improving start to the season. League leaders Lenzie were made to work hard for a 22-3 win at Helensburgh a few weeks ago, a warning shot to anyone in the Oban team expecting a comfortable outcome on Saturday afternoon.

Head Coach Andrew Johnston has a fully fit side available for this Saturday's Argyll derby including the return of utility back David McLaughlin, who will bring some increased competition in the backline.

Johnston has been pleased with his side's start to the season with the team adapting well to their fast paced and attacking game plan introduced at the start of the season.

Kick off is at 2pm.

# First defeat in 12

Oban Saints	0
St Joseph's FP	1
SAFL Premier Division	

Last Saturday at Glencruitten, in front of a large crowd of spectators, Oban Saints entertained old rivals St Joseph's FP in a top-of-the-table premier league clash.

Before the game both teams were sitting on 18 points but the Duntocher side were one goal better off than Saints, although the Oban side had a game in hand.

Co-managers Donald Campbell and Willie Gemmell made a couple of changes from last week's team that won away to Kilsyth in the West of Scotland Cup.

Ruaridh Horne and Matty Kelly came into the starting line-up with Jamie Graham and David Beaton dropping to the bench to join Willie Gemmell, Dougal Graham and Fraser MacFarlane.

Lewis Cameron was missing for the second week running due to tonsillitis, but on the plus side Myles McAuley had returned to training and Brian MacKay was also back from his sojourns overseas. Paul Carmichael and Shaun MacIver were still unavailable.

## Faint-hearted

This wasn't a game for the faint-hearted with two good footballing teams going at it right from the first whistle.

The visitors created the first half chance in the first minute of the game when a free kick was deflected for a corner.

The D & K Lafferty-sponsored Oban side created a good chance in the third minute when Matty Kelly and Donald Campbell combined but Donald's effort was easily saved by St Joe's keeper Scott Urquhart.



Matty Kelly had a great chance but this effort slipped past the post.

The Saints rearguard were caught out by a long punt up the park in the 16th minute, for burly striker Ryan Halpin to run through on goals but his effort was easily saved by Graham Douglas.

The game had started at a whirlwind pace and there was no let-up as both teams went for the jugular, but in truth neither goalkeeper was tested all that much although Scott Urquhart had to touch a Craig MacEwan header over the bar.

Scott Maitland and James Ford combined in the 23rd minute with Ford sending Maitland clear on the left but Scott's attempted cut-back was intercepted by the classy Kearn Docherty, who was outstanding in the heart of the visiting defence.

St Joe's were awarded a free kick in the 29th minute which was floated into the box where Ryan Halpin knocked the ball down for Mick McGowan but he blazed his shot over the bar.

McGowan was impressive all afternoon with his clever play in midfield.

The game was flowing from end to end but generally the defences were on top with

Steven MacLeod and skipper Dene Cassells coping well with the St Joe's front men.

The home side created the next chance when Donald Campbell threaded a great ball through the middle for Matty Kelly but the midfielder had just strayed offside.

Saints were gaining the upper hand as the half drew to a close and they carved open the visiting defence with only a well-timed interception by John Paul Seagrave denying a goal.

Just on the half time whistle Mick McGowan played a one-two with Ryan Halpin but the big striker's effort sailed over the bar.

A pulsating first 45 minutes ended with the scoreline blank but the spectators were certainly getting their monies worth in a cracking game of football.

The second half was exactly the same as the first with both teams going at it hammer and tongs.

Ruaridh Horne fired over a great cross in the 52nd minute but it was just too high for Craig MacEwan.

Saints had a great opportunity in the 58th minute when St Joe's keeper Scott Urquhart

made a great save from Craig MacEwan. The ball fell kindly for Donald Campbell who looked a certainty to score but Keiran Green was on hand to block Donald's net-bound shot on the line before scrambling the ball clear.

## Unsavoury

The game then turned unsavoury in the 64th minute when Ryan Halpin took exception to a Kerr Newbigging tackle on Daniel McKenna. Players from both teams became involved in a 'handbag' session before referee Jimmy Litster quickly restored order.

Both Halpin and Newbigging had been booked earlier which left Mr Litster, who handled a competitive game well, no choice but to show them both another yellow card followed by the inevitable red.

Saints were hit by a double whammy - losing Newbigging and St Joe's being awarded a free kick for his tackle on McKenna. A clever free kick was floated into the box where Davie Gallagher nipped in to glance a header past a helpless Graham Douglas to give the Duntocher side the lead.

Saints should have levelled



St Joe's keeper Scott Urquhart cuts out this cross from Craig MacEwan.



Saints skipper Dene Cassells gets a

# games for Saints



St Joe's central defender Kearn Docherty is put under pressure by David Beaton and Craig MacEwan. Photos: David McPhee

the score in the 69th minute when Craig MacEwan sent Matty Kelly clean through on goal but with only the keeper to beat he fired wide of the target.

The visitors were quite content to sit back and soak up the pressure as Saints dominated the latter part of the game.

Daniel Croarkin made a great run into the St Joe's penalty area and just failed to connect with a low cross into the box.

## Jinked

On two occasions Craig MacEwan jinked past Craig Cameron on the byeline but his cut-backs to the six-yard box failed to find a teammate.

St Joe's were seldom seen as an attacking force as the game wore on but they were defending as though their lives depended on it.

Saints kept plugging away and created another couple of half chances but alas time ran out and they lost by the only goal of the game and suffered their first defeat in 12 matches.

## FOOTBALL

Credit must go to both teams for turning in a great advert for amateur football.

The Saints management duo were disappointed at the result. However, they were happy enough with the way the team played.

Gemmell said: 'This was a hard one to take. It was always going to be a tight game. St Joseph's are a very good side, but we matched them in every department. I thought we were the better team, especially in the second half, and the least we deserved was a share of the points, but it just wasn't our day.

'We'll put this one behind us and keep doing what we believe is the right way to play the game and make no mistake we'll bounce back from this defeat.'

This Saturday Saints travel to take on East Kilbride Thistle for a place in the last 32 of the Scottish Amateur Cup.

Referee in charge is Paul Elliott and kick-off is 2pm.

## Saints to leave the Scottish Amateur FL after 42 years

Oban Saints secretary David Buchanan has announced the club are to leave the Scottish Amateur Football League after 42 years to join the Central Scottish AFL next season.

David said: 'The club felt it was time for a change and a new challenge. We've enjoyed our time in the SAFL and the decision to leave was not taken lightly and we are going with mixed emotions.

'We would like to thank the committee and member clubs of the SAFL for giving us our first major breakthrough in amateur football. We would also like to thank the executive committee and member clubs of the Central Scottish AFL for accepting our application at a specially convened meeting last Thursday.

'We now look forward to a new challenge which will hopefully help lift Saints to a higher level for everyone connected with the club including our much-valued sponsors and supporters.

'This is going to be a big challenge for us next season as the Central Scottish is reckoned to be the best amateur league in Scotland, but the players are really looking forward to a new challenge. We have a good squad this season and have plenty of excellent youngsters ready to step up to the senior ranks.

'Hopefully we can leave the SAFL with some silverware in the cabinet. Despite Saturday's defeat we're still well in contention for the league title and still in all the major cup competitions.'



shot on target.



James Ford is closely marked by John Paul Seagrave.

## ATHLETICS



Sixty runners took part in Sunday's Druimfada Race. Photo: Abirghtside Photography.

## Tresidder pips Prikulis to set Druimfada Chase record

It was a record-breaking day of racing in the second Winter League race this year, the Druimfada Chase, with 60 runners taking to the start line at Corpach on Sunday.

Es Tresidder and Denis Prikulis ran an extremely tight race that almost came down to the line, with Tresidder just edging into first place with a time of 47:40, with Prikulis close behind in 47:49. Javier Cabrera Valdes finished in third place with a time of 50:02. That victorious time from Tresidder actually broke the route record of 47.48 set by Finlay Wild in 2013.

The first lady home was Karen Lyons in an impressive time of 58:34, while Isla Mackay finished second in 1:00:49 and Lisette Walter came in third with a time of 1:02:21. All 60 runners were through the finish in 1:27:29.

The organisers thanked all the marshalls: Kathy, Billy, Corrina, Markus, Elma, Theresa, Ian, Ellen, Davy, Helen, Margaret-Rose, Allan, Aileen and Cammy.

## YOUTH SHINTY



Captain of the North Under 14 team Euan McCormick with the Fraser MacPhee Memorial Trophy. For match report see shinty pages.

Photo: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

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## RUGBY

## Lochaber fail to raise team for Mull away

Lochaber travelled to Mull on Saturday to play their 10th match of the season, however, due to many injuries and players being unavailable the Banavie side failed to get a full team together.

Due to this, the game was played as a development game which is a new option for this season. If either team can't get a full team together the other team gets an automatic 28-0 win to ensure they get a five-point win.

Mull gave Lochaber three players and they played a 12 v 11-a-side game. With Mull themselves only having 15 players, Lochaber felt this was a winnable game away from home if they had travelled with a full team.

Lochaber picked up two minor injuries in the first half reducing them to nine players. Despite this they still managed to score four tries, two either side of half time through Jonathan McCook, Angus Jenkins, William Stewart and Calum MacLachlan.

This Saturday Lochaber travel away to Birkmyre. The game kicks off at 2pm at the Parklea Playing Grounds in Port Glasgow.

## SPORTS NIGHT

## Legion members enjoy sports night



Members of Fort William and District Branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland enjoyed an indoor sports night in Sunny's Sports Bar last Thursday.

Photo: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

## LOTTERY

## Lottery numbers

This week's Fort William Golf Club lotto numbers were 7, 16 and 17. There were no winners this week. The jackpot for the draw today (Thursday November 29) will be £200.

Numbers drawn in the Caol Regeneration lotto were 7, 16 and 17. There were no winners this week. The prize for next week will be £200.

Ballachulish Shinty Club's lottery numbers for this week were 7, 16 and 17. There were no winners this week. Next week's draw will have a prize of £200.

The Caol Community Centre bingo club lotto numbers this week were 6, 8, 17. There were no winners this week and so next week's jackpot will be £200.

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The Kilchoan side that faced Mallaig last week.

# Mallaig take the honours in a 10-goal derby

Kilchoan	3
Mallaig	7
Friendly Fixture	

Four goals separated Kilchoan and Mallaig in their recent friendly match which saw both teams throw caution to the wind.

This end of season west Lochaber derby fixture, played at a neutral venue in Glasgow, has become a bit of a tradition in recent years as both sides make the long trip down to the city. After a long and successful season, the newly crowned Skye and Lochalsh League champions, Mallaig, were keen to continue their winning ways.

However, the league champions started the game slowly and it was Kilchoan, dubbed the most westerly football club in the UK, who took the lead. A questionable bit of goalkeeping, to concede a corner, resulted in the Kilchoan goal as a shot came in from the edge of the box and took a heavy deflection before flying past the helpless keeper Johnston.

Mallaig were soon back on terms as Cameron Muir made no mistake inside the box with a cool finish low

past the Kilchoan goalkeeper. Not long after that Mallaig were ahead and it was James MacQueen who this time put the ball in the right net to give Mallaig the lead.

Kilchoan struck back with two goals before half time and again there was some questionable defending from Mallaig, who only had themselves to blame for surrendering the lead.

However, the Skye and Lochalsh champions were

able to respond as Cameron Muir continued to be clinical inside the box with another cool finish after some brilliant build up play from Mallaig. This was followed up by a superb second half performance.

Mallaig really started to run away with it as Muir notched up his hat trick to put Mallaig 4-3 in front.

They then further extended their lead from the penalty spot before getting their sixth

## FOOTBALL

goal courtesy of a Sean Powrie finish over the on-rushing Kilchoan keeper.

Mallaig's scoring was rounded off by Robin Harvey who ended a fantastic debut with a header from an Andrew Sneddon corner.

Kilchoan were able to commiserate on their loss as they held their annual end of year dinner and awards ceremony in Glasgow after the match.



Mallaig were the Skye and Lochalsh League winners last season.

# Fort William bowlers enjoy annual awards ceremony

Fort William Railway Bowling Club held its awards ceremony recently in the Railway Social Club in Inverloch after a good season and the improvements to the green proving successful.

The winners of the domestic competitions over the season were as follows:

Two bowl: winner Kevin Fraser, runner up Robert Hunter.

Mixed pairs: winners Alan Lawrie and Liz French, runners up Robert Hunter and Trish Miller.

Balloted pairs: winners Wilson Thain and Kevin Fraser, runners up Eddie Downs and Robert Hunter.

Nominated pairs: winners Alan Lawrie and Helen Ross, runners up Kevin Douglas

## BOWLS

and Liz French.

Ladies' singles: winner Suzanne Williamson, runner up Lyn Donald.

Gents' Singles: winner Bill Clark, runner up Gus Fraser.

Championship: winner Eddie Downs, runner up Bob Lawson.

**Eddie Downs, winner of the Fort William Railway Bowling Club Championship, received his trophy at the club's award ceremony at the Railway Social Club in Inverloch.**



Members of Fort William Railway Bowling Club at the annual awards ceremony. Photos: Anthony MacMillan.

# Alleycats are the top dogs in bowling league

After week four of the Lochaber Building Supplies ten pin bowling league at the Nevis Centre in Fort William, Alleycats are the only team at the top of the scratch division with the maximum possible 20 points followed by Council on 18 points with British Legion Fort William and The Empire both on 12 points. The handicap division is much closer with Triple B being the new leaders with 16 points followed by last week's leaders Alleycats in second place with 15 points and Old Spice Girls in third on 13 points.

Individually the best scratch game in week three came from Tony Weldon (British Legion Fort William) with a 163. Simon Hardiman (Rotavators) had the top handicap game of 237 and the best two-game handicap series of 435 whilst Steve Day (Triple B) had the top two game scratch series of 299.

The best team scores of the week came from Alleycats with the top scratch game

of 519 and the top two-game scratch series of 983 whilst Triple B had the top handicap game of 795 and the top two game handicap series of 1520 was achieved by both Rotavators and Triple B.

The top scratch averages are currently held by Brian Johnstone (Alleycats) on 163 followed by Steve Day (The Dominos) on 150 and Pam Weller (Alleycats) on 149.

### New leaders

The fifth round of the league took place last week. The Council became the new leaders of the scratch division with 23 points followed by last week's leaders Alleycats, who drop to second place with 22 points after losing 3-2 to British Legion Fort William. The Empire are in third place with 17 points. The handicap division is led by Triple B with 18 points followed by Retrovators and The Empire, who are both on 17 points.

## TEN-PIN BOWLING

Individually the best scratch game in week three came from Gaynor Weldon (British Legion Fort William) with a 186. Also this week Gus Fraser (Council) had a 180. Gaynor Weldon swept the board elsewhere with the top handicap game of 248, the best two game scratch series of 357 (the season high) and the top two game handicap series of 475.

The best team scores of the week came from Council who had the top scratch game of 559 and the top two-game scratch series of 1,043 whilst Retrovators had the top handicap game of 818 and the top two-game handicap series of 1620.

The top scratch averages are currently held by Brian Johnstone (Alleycats) on 163, followed by Gus Fraser on 149 and Steve Day (The Dominos) on 144.



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## WEATHER

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Temperatures  
7°C to 10°C.

**Friday**  
Light rain showers and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures  
6°C to 9°C.

**Weekend Outlook**  
**Saturday**  
Light rain and a gentle breeze  
**Sunday**  
light rain showers and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures  
7°C to 10°C.



## TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday November 29, 2018** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

<b>Thur</b>	03.54	1.2	09.47	3.5
	16.52	1.5	22.39	3.1
<b>Fri</b>	04.59	1.3	11.08	3.3
	18.11	1.6	** ** *	**
<b>Sat</b>	00.39	3.0	06.11	1.4
	13.05	3.3	19.36	1.6
<b>Sun</b>	02.01	3.1	07.25	1.4
	14.17	3.4	20.45	1.5
<b>Mon</b>	02.58	3.3	08.33	1.3
	15.09	3.6	21.37	1.3
<b>Tues</b>	03.40	3.5	09.30	1.2
	15.50	3.7	22.19	1.2
<b>Wed</b>	04.15	3.7	10.20	1.1
	16.26	3.8	22.56	1.1

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

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

## Ferry Crossings/Sea States

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

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



**INSIDE  
THIS WEEK:**  
Fort William bowlers enjoy  
annual awards ceremony

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# Five star Rothes sink Fort

Fort William	0
Rothes	5
Highland League	

Although unable to emulate the 11-1 scoreline that sunk Fort William the last time the two sides met in the league, Rothes still managed to find the net five times at Claggan Park on Saturday to secure victory over the struggling home side.

Three goals in the first half all but secured the win for the visitors, who added a further two goals in the second half to ensure the three points returned to Speyside.

There was a surprise addition to Fort William's starting line-up as former player John Campbell made a return to the team. The veteran goalkeeper turned back the clock and made a trialist

appearance at Claggan Park on Saturday, deputising between the posts after regular keepers Callum Ligertwood and Mateusz Kulbacki were unavailable.

The Fort got off to a solid start, buoyed by the return of David McGuirk at centre back, who lined up alongside Fort stalwart Andy Martin.

### Encourage

Despite holding out the Rothes attack in the early exchanges, the Speysiders finally opened the scoring midway through the first half thanks to Kris Duncan.

That seemed to encourage the visiting forwards, who pushed for more goals before the break.

Rothes' Gary Kerr marked his comeback from a lengthy lay-off following a serious knee injury earlier this year with a goal just after the half



Andy Martin blocks a shot from Rothes' Jamie Wilson in front of the goal of John Campbell. Photos: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

hour mark. Just before the referee blew for half-time, the visitors got their third goal, courtesy of Jamie Wilson, which gave them a commanding lead.

### Chances

Keen to make a mark on the match, Fort William came out in the second half and took the game to Rothes, with forwards Michael Gillespie and Craig Rennie working hard to create chances to give the Fort a lifeline.

However, the team's endeavours fell short and Jack Maley's converted penalty early in the second half put the match further beyond the grasp of Fort William.

Defender Bruce Milne capped off the afternoon's scoring for the visitors by netting from a fine header.

Although a marked improvement from the team's previous fixture, the Fort will be disappointed with the scoreline in a match which they feel they could have got more from. The defeat leaves Fort William 10 points adrift at the foot of the Highland League, while Rothes move up to 11th.

The Fort are away to seventh-placed Buckie Thistle this Saturday (December 1) in what will be another tough challenge for the league's bottom-placed side.



The Fort's Sean Grant moves past Rothes' Alasdair Stark.



Fort William forward Joshua Knowles, hotly pursued by Alasdair Stark.

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