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# Cost of agency nurses strains health budget



by Kathie Griffiths

kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

## Festive sparkle as event lights up St Conan's Kirk

Ellie-Mae McKechnie, five, enjoys the fairy lights at St Conan's Kirk Christmas tree festival. This year's event featured 62 trees, with organisers hailing it as the biggest and best Christmas tree festival in Scotland. For full report and photographs, see page eight.

Costs of agency nurses at Oban hospital and a higher than expected demand for social care services continues to challenge overspending by health bosses.

Even though the latest overspend figure by the end of the year is forecast to be £4m instead of a previously predicted £4.6m, challenges to cut costs and make faster savings are ongoing.

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute's Health and Social Care Partnership said it was 'a significant improvement', but with a number of factors causing the overspend, it was still working towards reducing the amount even more.

The financial position was reported to members of the Integration Joint Board last week. At a meeting on September 26, the board was told the forecast year end overspend was £4.6m.

The HSCP needed to save £10.6m in 2018/19. So far it has saved £3.364m with another £7.236m to be achieved.

A HSCP spokesman said: 'We recognise the financial position is extremely challenging and we are working towards reducing the overspend further.'

Various risks and pressures contributing to the overspend forecast were listed in a budget monitoring report to the IJB meeting. The main ones highlighted included ongoing use of agency nurses in Oban and Lochgilphead hospitals, locum GP wages on Mull, funding locum psychiatrists and experiencing a higher than expected demand for social work supported services.

Councillor Kieron Green, vice-chairman of the IJB and Argyll and Bute's policy lead for health and social care, said: 'We will continue to plan to deliver services which best meet the needs of our communities and give people

'The availability of housing here is a barrier for many people looking to work in the area'

access to high-quality patient-centred care. However, when designing future service provision we must also consider the funding given to us, along with workforce availability and national targets and priorities.'

Addressing two of the main overspending factors, he added: 'Oban has a particular problem with recruitment in that the availability of housing here is a barrier for many people looking to work in the area. We recognise that. Local housing associations are planning to deliver a significant number of houses but it's still going to be an issue for the foreseeable future.'

As far as extra demands on

health and social care, he said a bad winter had escalated people's needs for services.

At last week's meeting, the leader of Argyll and Bute Council, Councillor Aileen Morton, also called for better communication on the finances of the HSCP after the IJB was asked to accept funding offers from the council and NHS Highland which it had already agreed to take on by the end of September.

Councillor Morton said she felt 'frustrated' as a relatively new board member.

'In the scheme of integration, it says the chief financial officer will provide reports on a monthly basis with details of any actions required. My frustration is that as a relatively new board member, I can't grasp where the scale of risk sits in terms of red, amber, green,' she said.

'I speak from a genuine sense of frustration that I don't have a grasp on it and, as a board, we need to be clear on how this is progressing.'

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OT

# Crash scene has a safety message

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

More than 200 high school students saw first-hand this week how two seconds of distraction behind the wheel of a car can change lives forever.

Emergency services worked together to stage a real-time crash scenario in front of years five and six pupils who watched the drama unfold at Mossfield Stadium on Monday.

The hard-hitting event, carrying a strong safety message, was co-organised with Youth Services, marking the Year of Young People.

Ewan Shearer, 17, takes his driving test next month and said the shocking scenario will stick in his mind when he takes to the road.

'When I start driving, I'll



Pupils look on as the head-on crash drama unfolds.

remember what consequences your actions can have. It was shocking. There will absolutely be no mobile phones used. It's made me think about distractions, even about waving to friends,' he said.

Rescue services and young people acted out what happens at a crash scene, starting with a call for help to the

police. It went on to involve a young driver being cautioned by police, a trapped person being cut out of the wreckage and a fatality being removed from another car involved in the head-on collision.

The real-time crash happened when the driver took his eyes off the road for just two seconds to look at a mobile phone.

Verina Litster, road safety partner at Lochgilphead Community Fire Station, said the event was about making young people stop and think hard about their driving which, in turn, will hopefully reduce the possibility of future collisions and fatalities on Argyll and Bute's roads.

Almost a quarter of all road accident in which someone is killed or seriously injured in Argyll and Bute in the past three years have occurred on the A83 between Furnace and the Rest and Be Thankful, many of which involved young drivers.

'It's the dangers to young drivers on rural roads that we wanted to get across. We're particularly encouraging them to download an app which will stop texts when you are driving,' she said.



Emergency services assist a 'casualty' trapped in one of the cars.



Young actors joined emergency services to present Monday's real-time crash scenario.

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 **Oban  
Dental Care**

## Islanders blast Jura fish farm plan

Islanders say there can be no mitigation when it comes to building a fish farm in the Sound of Jura.

The community met last month to voice their concerns over Kames Fish Farming's proposal to construct a holding pen at Corpach Bay.

Scott Muir, of Jura Community Council, said: 'Our jobs depend on this landscape. There is nothing you can offer us that will alter that.'

There was a 'strong' turnout at the village for the meeting on November 14, which was attended by those who live and work on Jura, as well as representatives from Feedback charity, Islay Community Council and Kames Fish Farming.

Lizzie Massie, on behalf of the Jura community, said:

'With so many jobs dependent on Jura's unspoiled wilderness and heritage, its wild Atlantic coastline, its deer, and wild salmon and trout populations, it is not a risk the local community is prepared to take.'

'The presence of a fish farm here at all, in whatever capacity, threatens all this. There can be no mitigation.'

Craig Rozga, who chaired the meeting, added: 'We are very proud of Jura's wild nature. It's why people come here.'

'We have a vision for the island in which preservation of our natural resources is not only the right thing to do for the island and its wildlife, but also a financially secure one for us as a growing population who want to live here.'

'No short-term incentive

can offer us what the wilds already have and will continue to give us if managed properly.'

A spokesperson for Kames Fish Farming said: 'As yet the proposal is very much at an early stage.'

'Obtaining local community comments, along with those of other stakeholders, is part of the process so that all views can be considered.'

'At the right time, when further work has been undertaken, I would be happy to explain the proposal and discuss any concerns with members of the local community.'

An online petition to stop the development, started by residents Louise Muir and deer stalker Craig Rozga in September has now been signed by 2,739 people.

## Memorial tree has been relocated

The Dunblane memorial tree at Oban High School has been temporarily relocated while work to complete the £32 million school is carried out.

Pupils moved into the new school in April of this year and the old one was demolished to make way for a new car park and recreation

and seating areas. Both hard and soft ground works are proceeding at 'a good rate', according to the school's newsletter, with underground rock being removed.

The Dunblane memorial tree will be replanted once the preparatory work is complete. Trees have already

been planted to the south of the school, as well as on the new pathway.

In its monthly newsletter, the school said: 'We appreciate your co-operation and patience during these works and we will continue to ensure any disruption is kept to a minimum.'

# Funding snub for rape crisis work in Argyll

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Rape survivors in Argyll and on the islands have missed out on government aid to get support more quickly.

Crisis centres in Argyll and Bute and the Western Isles have not been awarded a share of £1.5 million funding from the Scottish Government.

The snub has angered workers who say their centres have been 'unfairly treated' because the fund-giving rationale was solely based on waiting lists.

'If we don't already have funding to put workers on the islands, survivors won't come forward so there's no waiting list,' said Argyll and Bute Rape Crisis manager Elizabeth Thompson.

Minister for Older People and Equalities Christina McKelvie announced the funding in October but Argyll and Bute Rape Crisis was one of just three centres across the country to be missed out, with the others being the Western Isles and Orkney.

Ms Thomson warned that funding raised by the Argyll and Bute centre, which has

an office in Oban supporting male and female survivors in island communities, was now coming to an end.

She is worried that other funding sources might be put off from giving them money because they will be under the perception that the centre now has government funding when it could not be further from the truth, said Ms Thompson.

Argyll and Bute Rape Crisis had an increase in clients of 20 per cent in the past year and, according to Police Scotland, sexual crimes in the area have increased by 38 per cent year on year.

'Oban has a couple of workers but there's no one on Mull, Tiree or Islay. The Oban office does its best but most of its support is on Skype or on the phone. If you don't have money to put workers in those communities, you just don't have a waiting list so that's why we feel so angry.'

'This is very wrong. The Oban girls work over their hours to see survivors. We still desperately need funding to get workers on to the islands,' said Ms Thompson.

'We have managed with no additional funding from Scottish Government and yet because we have managed the situation, we are penalised.'

'Waiting lists were not a fair indicator for many reasons - rural Rape Crisis centres have different challenges. A lot of our work goes on development to enable survivors to a come forward by challenging rural attitudes and by providing local support - hence more premises costs and staff travel.'

'Rural communities have many obstacles to surmount before they come forward. Everyone knows everyone so there is a lack of anonymity, the perpetrator can be well-known and liked or related to someone in the village; they can become the focus of local gossip; attitudes may be outdated. These can all contribute to feelings of low confidence, self-esteem and anxiety, and development is critical to overcome this but that takes time and resources,' she added.

The recording of sexual crime is at the highest level seen since 1971.

## POLICE FILES

■ At about 4.45pm on Monday November 26, at Superdrug in Oban, a 32-year-old man stole cosmetics. He was charged and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

■ At about 12.40pm on Thursday November 29 at High Street, Oban, a man, 29, was arrested for behaving in an abusive manner towards a woman. He was charged and a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

■ At about 12.05pm on Thursday November 29, in Crannaig-A-Mhinister, Oban, a 69-year-old man was arrested for breaching bail conditions. He was charged, held for court and a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

■ At about 11.20pm on Thursday November 29, on Sunderland Drive, Oban, two tyres on a parked

black Vauxhall Astra were punctured.

■ At about 11.55pm on Thursday November 29, in George Street, Oban, two men assaulted another man. Police are appealing for witnesses.

■ At about 7.25pm on Friday November 30, on Market Street, Oban, a black Ford Fiesta left the road and collided with a wall. Police attended and a man aged 19 was charged with careless driving.

■ At about 1am on Saturday December 1, in Victoria Crescent, Oban, a man aged 25 behaved in an aggressive and agitated manner. Police arrested the man who was found to be in possession of cannabis.

The man later damaged a police cell. He was charged and a report will be sent to the procurator fiscal.

■ Between 9am on Friday November 30 and 11am

on Saturday December 1, on Drimvargie Road, Oban, a grey Infiniti car was damaged by having the driver's door scratched.

■ About 11.15pm on Saturday December 1, in George Street, Oban, two men assaulted another man. Police arrested the two men aged 34 and 36. They were both charged and a report was sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

■ Between 9am on Friday November 30 and 10am on Sunday December 2, at Achaleven recreation ground, Connel, a metal chain on a fence post was damaged by being cut and a piece of it was stolen.

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



## Firefighters are out on collection watch

Oban Station firefighters Graham Webster and David MacInnes were out in George Street on Saturday with their collecting boxes in aid of the Firefighters Charity. Whether injured, ill or in need of psychological support, the charity helps the everyday heroes of the UK fire community.

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## Beetle drive and coffee morning

Oban Congregational Church at the top of Argyll Street is holding two events this weekend.

A beetle drive for all ages will be held on Friday December 7 at 7pm. Attractions include tea, coffee, biscuits and cake and a visit from Santa. Donation £3. And on Saturday, the church is holding a coffee morning from 10.30am until 12.30pm with tea, coffee, homebaking and stalls with homemade crafts, knitted goods, toys and bric-a-brac.

## Water treatment works completed

Scottish Water has completed one of its biggest investments in Argyll and Bute, with its new £29million water treatment works in Oban now operational.

Its completion means that more than 12,000 customers in the Oban area will continue to enjoy clear, fresh drinking water for years to come. The Oban Tullich WTW supply zone reaches north to Port Appin and south to Seil and Luing.



**Seil Sound presents an afternoon of festive music and words this Sunday.**

## Seil singers sow festive seeds for charity

Seil Sound presents an afternoon of festive music and words this Sunday, December 9.

The community singers will be at Seil Community Hall from 2-4pm in aid of the Seeds For Life project.

The charity, based on Seil, has helped more than 100 farmers reclaim hundreds of acres of wasteland in Malawi, one of the poorest countries in the world.

Money raised helps buy seeds and fertilisers to get the

smallhold farmers started. Choir leader Maggie Thorpe said: 'It will be an informal afternoon of festive music and words for people to come and enjoy with us. It's free entry, with donations to Seeds For Life.'

Oban, Lorn and the Inner Isles Health and Wellbeing Network is inviting community groups to get involved in a project that could benefit them by £2,000.

The network has already given out £17,000 through its usual grant programme this year. Now a pilot project is to be set up that will allow communities to vote for the projects they would like to receive funding.

Chairwoman of the network, Eleanor Mackinnon, said: 'This is about exploring how we can involve communities better – letting them make the final decision about where funding goes within their local community.'

'Although we can only fund a few projects, we want to create a fun atmosphere on the day. Rather than groups competing with each other, it's an opportunity for them to get together and share the hard work that they're doing and make links with other groups who are working in the health and wellbeing field.'

The community vote day will be held in Oban in February



and any eligible projects that are not successful in the public vote will automatically be taken forward to first round of funds in the spring – subject to the network receiving continued funding.

Eleanor **continued:** 'Although projects will have to meet the aims of the Health and Wellbeing Fund, which this year has a particular focus on increasing physical activity and enriching the lives of people with long-term health conditions, we are very aware of all the great ideas out there that have not yet come forward through the normal route of application.'

'This is an ideal opportunity to access funds to bring your idea to fruition.'

To find out more about the fund or request an application form contact Eleanor by emailing: [oliwn@gmail.com](mailto:oliwn@gmail.com)

## Have your say over community spending

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## New barriers at Dunbeg are slammed

by David McPhee

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



An Oban driving instructor has condemned safety barriers at Dunbeg, saying they actually decrease road safety.

John Christie, of Christie School of Motoring, said the new barriers on the Dunbeg junction make it harder to see other vehicles.

'You can see the roof of the car, but you can't see its headlights,' he said.

'It's okay if it's a bus, but if it's a small car, it makes it harder to see it. Instead of improving, it is decreasing road safety.'

'I think it's in a bad place. It has always been a bad junction to see coming out of and I feel this makes it harder, especially when leaves start to grow on the trees.'

The roadside barriers were

completed in the area last week as part of an ongoing road safety project along the A85 between Oban and Connel being carried out by BEAR Scotland.

Phase two of the project saw two kilometres of safety barriers installed or upgraded along the stretch from the Esso Halfway House filling station to the start of Connel.

### Barriers

The work follows a previous barrier upgrade between Oban and the filling station earlier this year, which saw more than 1,800 metres of new barriers installed. Both phases cost a combined £590,000.

Speaking about the barriers as a whole, John said: 'I feel it is an unnecessary expense – they spent a fortune.'

'If someone hit the barriers, they are going to bounce

back on to the road.' However, a spokesperson for roads organisation BEAR Scotland said: 'The new safety barriers are engineered so that any impact from an errant vehicle is absorbed and minimised to bring it to a controlled stop.'

'Safety barriers are not designed to bounce vehicles into the road and the current barrier works will see the new barriers set back 1.5 metres from the edge of the road into the verge.'

'Road safety is a top priority for both BEAR Scotland and Transport Scotland, and, while discussions about changes of the speed limits remain ongoing, we will continue to work to find engineering solutions to help further improve road safety on the A85 between Oban and Connel.'

# Mull fears losing remote area nurse

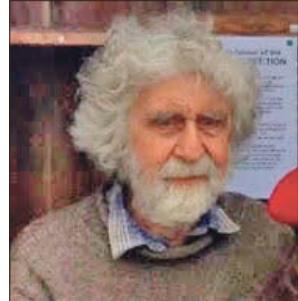
by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Islanders living in remote parts of Mull fear they are soon to lose their community nurse to the mainland.

The concerns were voiced by campaigners in Bunessan and on Iona who mustered at two public meetings this week to ramp up their demands for continuous GP care rather than relying on locums, costing the NHS a fortune.

After resident GP Frank Teunisse retired earlier this year, the Bunessan surgery has been manned by a number of different locums and now there is real concern among the community that health bosses plan to strip them of the nurse who looks after their needs three days a week.

Jonathan Knight, who was behind a petition signed by hundreds resisting plans



Jonathan Knight.

to create a new single, island-wide GP service, said: 'There are plans to relocate our local nurse to the mainland. Because we no longer have a resident doctor, she is the only person who actually knows her patients and their histories, giving us the continuous care that is so important and we want to keep. For the same reason, we need a resident GP. Continuity of care would also save money for the NHS.'

When The Oban Times

approached the Health and Social Care Partnership, a spokesman admitted relying on locums was not 'ideal', blaming 'significant difficulties' in recruiting but saying it will implement a marketing strategy to fill the three GP posts in January. However, Mr Knight has lodged an official complaint with NHS Highland after it failed to respond to a letter he sent.

He wrote to express outrage at the 'gross waste' of NHS resources on funding locums when he says they should have already been directly advertising for and putting resident doctors in place without delay at the Bunessan, Tobermory and Salen/Craignure surgeries.

Mr Knight said in his letter he had also told health chiefs the community knew of a doctor interested in the Bunessan job but because the NHS response was so late, that doc-

tor can no longer be located. 'They took ages to advertise for a lead GP. That's closed now but we've heard nothing. We don't know if they got applicants or if there have been interviews. We know we want to keep our nurse and a GP back in Bunessan,' he said.

The HSCP was staying tight-lipped about the specific future of Bunessan's nurse, but said: 'We have a duty to provide primary care services for the local communities on Mull and Iona, and at the moment we are having to rely on locums, which we acknowledge is not ideal.'

'We will continue to work collaboratively with the Locality Planning Group and wider stakeholders and have also given an undertaking to the community that we will look at other alternative models if an integrated island-wide model cannot be achieved.'

## Oban chef needed TV subtitles for Americans

Oban-born chef Graham Campbell's broad accent baffled co-stars so much on a hit Netflix cookery show that he had to be subtitled.

But Mr Campbell, who was Scotland's youngest Michelin-starred chef when he was 25 and now runs Dundee's Castlehill restaurant, didn't find it too hard to stomach.

'They had to subtitle me all the way through the American show but I think that's funny. I'm cool with that. It made me stand out from the others. I'm proud of my accent,' he said.

The Final Table cost Netflix around £20 million to make, and viewers will see Mr Campbell get through various episodes of the contest, battling it out with other international chefs. By episode three, he was the only UK chef still left in the contest.

Mr Campbell, who has also been on the BBC's Great British Menu show, told The Oban Times that featuring on The Final Table was an



Graham Campbell.

'incredible experience' and he was thrilled at filming in Los Angeles and being put up in a hotel in Beverly Hills.

Raised in Soroba and a former pupil at Rockfield Primary School and Oban High School, his first job was at the town's Waterfront Restaurant, followed by a stint as a hall porter at the former Caledonian Hotel, now known as the Perle. He retained The Ballachulish Hotel's Michelin star when he was head chef there. He has also worked with Marco Pierre White and Gordon Ramsay.



Oban Rotary president Iain MacIntyre received the cheque from Rotary secretary David Finlayson with other Rotarians and members of Friends also present.

## Oban Rotary presents cheque to hospice

The Friends of Oban Hospice are putting the final touches to this year's Light up a Life, the organisation's chief fundraiser.

The event sees people in the Oban community invited to remember a loved one who has died by making a donation in return for the names of the loved ones being recorded in a special book which is available for

viewing throughout the year at the Dove Centre.

The remembrance is also celebrated at an evening at the Corran Halls, which this year is on Tuesday December 11 at 7.30pm, with music, singing and appropriate readings.

A total of 8,370 subscription forms have been sent out for this year's event and the Rotary Club of Oban handed

over a cheque for £1,000 to help cover the cost of printing the forms, the envelopes and the postage.

Oban Rotary president Iain MacIntyre, who is also chairman of the Friends – the fundraising arm of the local hospice – received the cheque from Rotary secretary David Finlayson with other Rotarians and members of Friends also present.

## Video-link makes history at Oban Sheriff Court

History was made at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday when its first video-link sitting was held. Sheriff John Herald was presiding.

The accused, who is awaiting trial, has been remanded in custody and the hearing

of the intermediate diet was conducted via the link-up.

Until Tuesday, anyone denied bail while awaiting trial, reports or sentencing is held in custody in the central belt.

For them to appear in court in Oban involved an early

start and a long journey in a prison vehicle, for what can often be a few minutes in the dock as the legal process unfolds. The process is expensive in terms of transport and staffing costs and can be an arduous experience.

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OT

## Santa prepares to visit Oban

Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

editor@obantimes.co.uk

WHERE IS THIS?



For once, I took my own advice and had a quiet weekend and took time to stop and smell the roses – or, in this instance – the Christmas trees at St Conan's Kirk, and I can now say I officially feel Christmassy.

What a wonderful event it was – congratulations and thank you to the organisers and everyone who took part and decorated a tree.

Now I can't wait for this weekend because I get to be an elf again with Oban and Lorn Lions.

Santa will be visiting Homebase this year and he's told me he's got lots of presents to bring with him for all the boys and girls who visit him on Saturday between 11am and 3pm.

I can't wait!

I'm also very relaxed because I've now almost finished my Christmas shopping without leaving Oban or shopping online. The range of gifts available was especially good this year

eat, drink and be merry. It's also worth taking time to decide what to get people.

If in doubt, LoveOban vouchers fitted the bill perfectly as so many of the local businesses accept them, and you can get anything from a haircut to golf balls, so everyone is happy.

It's time now to start enjoying the run up to Christmas and all it entails, with nativity plays in schools and churches, the Rotary carol concert on Sunday December 16 and lots and lots of excuses to go out to

Last week's photo was of the building that houses Oban Electrical Services in Stevenson Street and this week's isn't too far away.

# Oban is urged Hope Kitchen'

by David McPhee

dmcphée@obantimes.co.uk



An Oban charity is asking people to donate £5 to pay for someone's lunch this Christmas.

Hope Kitchen, which provides food and companionship for those in need, will open its doors on Christmas day from 11am to 3pm.

The festive period is the busiest time of year for Hope and the charity does its best to provide some cheeriness to get people through the long, cold days.

Last year, the charity hosted a three-course Christmas dinner on December 20 for 38 people, as well as a lunch on Christmas Day.

Hope's manager, Lorraine MacCormick, said: 'It's really important to be open. This is the third year we have done it. We will be the only place that is open for people.'

'I have said we want to involve the whole community – anyone who is on their own, or anyone who wants to volunteer on the day, or if people want to just come in for an hour to give people company. It will be lovely.'



Thirty-eight people enjoyed Christmas dinner at Hope Kitchen

The charity is located at 2 Soroba Road, Oban.

'For a number of years now we have given Christmas-themed boxes filled with the donations we received over the course of November and December.'

'Last year, we gave 55 boxes to local families and individuals in need the week before Christmas.'

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## Timeline revealed for Seil £5.6m waste water solution

Scottish Water has revealed its timeline to get a planning application in by early next year for its new £5.6 million waste water treatment site on Seil, writes Kathie Griffiths.

The saga of where to locate the plant has rumbled on for more than two years, splitting opinion among islanders.

But a favoured proposal unanimously agreed by a group of stakeholders is now moving forward.

The option also has the support of independent consultant Chris Chubb, who said he was 'firmly of the opinion' that it offers the best environmental outcome for the residents of Seil.

Last week Scottish Water hosted a drop-in session to update islanders on the project.

Scottish Water's head of corporate relations, Alan Thompson, said: 'We believe we have been through a robust

process, with unanimous agreement from the stakeholders group, to come to the proposal we are going forward with, but we always knew we would not get unanimous support from everyone on the island. We do believe it is the best option that people can live with but we will continue to engage with people.'

Third generation islander Isobelle Smith is all for the option that will see a new treatment plant tucked into a hillside opposite the current works site. A new access road, altered to minimise impact on pine martens, badgers and otters, will also have to be built.

Ms Smith, a golfer, said doing away with the horrors of the current failing site would literally be a breath of fresh air. She said stray golfballs landing on the shoreline were often covered in sewage.

'As far as I have learned, this is the solution to a problem

that has been ongoing for too long. My only statement to Scottish Water is to get it started as soon as you can. I would like to have an area of the golf course that is not being polluted by next summer,' she said.

But Donald Macpherson, who has lived on Seil most of his life, disagrees with the proposal and accused Scottish Water of 'bulldozing' the option through. He and many others, he says, have strongly objected to it and will keep on opposing it.

Paul Milligan from Amey-Black & Veatch said, 'it won't smell of roses' but added sealants are a lot better now. Spills from the current system means raw sewage is entering Seil Sound and Balvcar Bay about 200 days a year.

Last month planners approved Scottish Water's plan to give houses at Seaview their own underground septic tank.

# Back-to-back 's appeal



'We give gifts like toiletry sets, hats, scarves, toys and books to children and Christmas-themed food'

a contribution to us this year.' The charity is also on the hunt for a new exhibition to be displayed in the premises.

The current exhibition is Moving Minds and is about the lives of gypsy travellers.

The one before was designed by Jamie Yates, who turned to drawing while he was in hospital.

The football fan has donated his 'First 11' pictures to Hope Kitchen to thank the charity for helping him.

Lorraine added: 'It was really good and the money raised is coming to Hope Kitchen. People found it really moving.'

'It fitted in with Andy's Man Club. People saw that you can get better. He is doing really well.'

To make a contribution to Hope, visit [www.hopekitchen.org.uk](http://www.hopekitchen.org.uk) and click on the donate button.

on December 20 last year.

'We give small gifts like toiletry sets, hats, scarves, toys and books to children, and Christmas-themed food that people who struggle can't afford to buy.'

'We would really appreciate donations of these things of anyone is thinking of making



The Rockfield Centre's connections officer, Emily Firth, renovated the red phone box. 17\_T48\_RockfieldPhonebox

## Phone box at Rockfield becomes information hub

There is now a direct line to find out what's going on at The Rockfield Centre.

The red telephone box has been revamped and kitted out with informative leaflets and posters.

The box, which was delivered this summer, will be open 24 hours a day.

This will give those, who otherwise wouldn't be able to, the chance to find out what is on

and how they can get involved and volunteer.

Rockfield connections officer Emily Firth renovated the information hub and furnished it with a winter theme. She said: 'I have done up The Rockfield Centre's old red telephone box with signs and information inside that people can come and look at and take away. People can come in at any time to find out about us and what's on.'

## Argyll and Bute schools are given good report

Education inspectors have paid another visit to Argyll and Bute's schools and were so impressed that they are not coming back.

HM Inspectors of Education made their fifth visit to the council area in less than two years in October, having reported from their previous one in May that positive progress was being made.

The department has now praised the area for its 'significant improvements' to the quality of children's achievements and attendance.

And it has announced that the area is operating to such a high standard that no subsequent visits in connection with the original inspection, which was in March 2017, will take place.

A report by the inspectors

said: 'At the broad general education stages, data provided by the authority indicates that attainment has improved from 2016 to 2018 in several important measures. The attainment of children and young people in reading, writing, listening and talking has improved at almost every stage which is measured - P1, P4, P7 and S3.'

'There are important im-

provements in numeracy too, particularly at the primary stages. Across the authority, staff have worked well together to ensure that teachers are making more confident and accurate judgements of pupils' progress.'

'Over recent years, the attendance of pupils at primary, secondary and special schools has been higher than the national average.'

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Music was provided by Oban Community Singers.



A dazzling star topping just one of the 62 trees on display at St Conan's Kirk over the weekend.

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# Tree festival hailed biggest and best

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Organisers of this year's St Conan's Kirk Christmas Tree Festival have hailed it the biggest and best in Scotland.

There were 62 trees on display in the historic church on the shores of Loch Awe that also attracted a record number of visitors.

From trees made out of slices of bread to feather dusters, hand prints on a tree from Dalmally Tots group, one constructed completely out of crackers and a Victorian take on a wreath-style tree hanging mid-air – there was plenty to please the eye.

Youngsters had fun seeking out elves hidden around the kirk, while Oban Community Singers entertained and visitors tucked into home-baking.

One of the festival organisers Liz MacKay said: 'We've

had 62 trees this year, last year it was 47.

'We had 800 visitors last year and by the end of the second day this weekend we'd already had more than 700 visitors. It's just amazing. We have been so busy.'

'With 62 trees this year we must now be the biggest and best Christmas Tree festival in Scotland.'

'We've had people coming up to say they'd like to do a tree next year.'

'We'll find room for more and once we get the crypt refurbished we'll be able to extend into there!'

Visitors throughout the weekend were encouraged to vote for their favourite tree. The winner was Ballet West's Tutu Tree. Other popular choices included Achaleven School's Plastic Fantastic, Roni's Chainsaw Art and St Conan's Does Strictly.



Flagging up the international flavour at St Conan's Christmas Tree Festival.



A record number of visitors packed into St Conan's Kirk over its Christmas Tree Festival weekend.



Branches were decked with seasonal delights.



Cracker of a read – The Oban Times tree.



Lots to look at for young and old at St Conan's 2018 Christmas Tree Festival.



Cupcake baubles on one of the Christmas trees.



Mr Snowman was just one of the smiley faces at last weekend's festival.



St Conan's Kirk Does Strictly – just one of the 62 trees on display.

# Festive fairs and markets



Anyone for cake? Bethany and Eva Bisp at Rockfield Primary School's PTA Holly Tea.



Sarah Campbell and Irene Main with homemade Christmas puddings at St John's cathedral coffee morning in aid of Young Carers and St John's funds.



Bumper stalls at Appin's Christmas Craft fair on Saturday.



Cate Lee with her cosy Catkins knits at Seil's Christmas craft fair on Sunday.

Makers and crafters across the district were out in force at the weekend's flurry of Christmas fairs and markets over the weekend.

Face painters worked their magic at Rockfield Primary PTA's Holly Tea on Saturday and home bakers fed visitors a festive feast at Taynuilt's Christmas fair raising funds for Muckairn Parish Church.

Irene Main was so inspired by the work of young carers on a TV show that she organised a seasonal coffee morning at St John's Cathedral in Oban at the weekend to help those locally, some proceeds also going to-

wards the cathedral's upkeep. Kilchrenan Does Christmas was a good excuse to get the community together for a social gathering and to raise funds for the village hall, said Issy Grant, one of the co-organisers, with Kathleen Christie who made all the mince pies.

From painted sea stones to decorated tiles, woodwork and cards, the crafters of Appin attracted lots of interest at their fair on Saturday and on Sunday singers from Seil Sound were in fine voice at the community hall as the Christmas fair was in full flow.



Left: Issy Grant with a wreath made by Varinia Thompson on sale at Kilchrenan Does Christmas event.

For more Christmas photographs visit [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

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OT

# Oban celebrates St Andrew's with music and talent

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



St Andrew's celebrations culminated three weekends of winter celebrations in Oban.

Oban High School's Traditional School of Music, now in its seventh year, put on a live performance at a ceilidh on Friday night in The View in George Street.

Guests were treated to a lively evening of pipes, fiddles, accordions, whistles and flutes to name but a few of the instruments that accompanied dancers of all ages.

The weekend's event followed two previous packed weekends bringing in thousands of visitors to the town.

On the Saturday, young

entrepreneurs from around Oban showcased their creative talents at a market in the distillery bar and new snug area.

Among them were SAMS PHd student Becky Giesler, 27, with her Inkfish Art and 16-year-old Ben Selfridge whose inspiration to set up his own business came from a woodworking class at Lochgilphead High School.

North Connel artist Joseph Upton, 26, who takes commissions from Instagram, was also there, as was Edie Elliott with her colourful rock art.

Callum Reu, Oban Distillery's senior site manager, said: 'We've just loved having the young entrepreneur

market here. There's so much incredible talent. We've been proud to have so many of this year's Winter Festival events here. We'd like the distillery to be at the heart of the community, after all it's been here a very long time.'



Community groups looking for a space to host events can get in touch. A Winter Festival spokesperson said: 'The market was our way of marking Year of Young People. Everyone's been blown away by the talent being showcased by our local entrepreneurs. They've been really busy.'

**Left:** Take your partners for more ceilidh dancing.

**Right:** Celebrating St Andrew's day at the ceilidh were, left to right, Mila Mackiewicz, aged five, Deimante Kairyte, Luka Mackiewicz, three, and mum Sandra Mackiewicz.



Dancing the night away at St Andrew's Ceilidh in Oban.



St Andrew's Day Ceilidh with Oban High School's Traditional School of Music.



Artist Joseph Upton from North Connel.



Domhnall Colhart and Sarah Garvin at Friday's ceilidh night at The View.



Young entrepreneur SAMS PHd student Becky Giesler with her Inkfish Art.



Rock artist Edie Elliot from Oban who was just one of the young entrepreneurs at Saturday's market in the distillery bar.

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# Argyll population decline concerns

Argyll and Bute Council's leader wants to involve cabinet ministers in the battle against the area's declining population.

Councillor Aileen Morton has sent a letter to finance secretary Derek Mackay and communities secretary Aileen Campbell, along with the other eight council leaders whose areas are hit by depopulation.

The council leader in neighbouring West Dunbartonshire has also signed the letter, along with the leaders of Inverclyde, Western Isles, Dumfries and Galloway and all three Ayrshire authorities.

Councillor Morton said: 'We outlined in our letter the various impacts arising from projected population changes which risk undermining the sustainability of our communities, as well as the ability of the western Scottish region to deliver inclusive economic growth.'

'These include barriers to business sustainability, in-

vestment and growth due to scarcity of labour and skills, risks to specific key sectors like agriculture, aquaculture, tourism and food and drink and threats to public services resulting from reduced funding due to declining population - creating a vicious cycle from which we cannot escape.'

Argyll and Bute is projected to lose two per cent of its households by 2041 - despite the fact its population increased over the year to the end of June 2016.

Councillor Morton added: 'We made it clear that we acknowledge the substantial investment in hand or planned across Scotland through the Growth Deals programme, but that this approach alone will not address the scale of challenge facing the west coast.'

'We have asked to meet urgently with the two cabinet secretaries to explore a partnership approach to tackling population growth on the West Coast.'

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Easdale's multi award-winning Puffer pub is on the look-out for a new owner.

After 10 years of running the bar and restaurant, its present owner Keren Cafferty is ready for a change.

The former Edinburgh florist and deli boss who bought the dream business and settled on the island in 2008, says she will be staying on Easdale to pursue new challenges.

The Puffer, valued at £180,000, is being sold as a whole business complete with stock. One of its awards was VisitScotland's 2018/2019 Taste Our Best.

There has been a flurry of genuine interest not just 'pipe dreamers' said Ms Cafferty, who had to completely gut the two former old quarriers' cottages linked by a timber extension that make up the Puffer. It had previously been shut for



Keren Cafferty outside the Puffer pub and restaurant on Easdale. Photograph by Murdo Macleod.

more than a year. This is the second time Ms Cafferty has put it back on the market. It went up for sale in 2012 as 'a knee-jerk reaction' when the chef left unexpectedly.

'I decided not to bother and just carry on, the chef came back and he's still with me now. All's good. I've just celebrated 10 years here and now I'm up for a

'The right person taking on the Puffer could live the dream.'

new challenge,' she said. 'It's the thrill of the challenge

setting up something new that I love the most. I've got lots of ideas of what I'd like to do on the island next.'

'A lot of people know what that is and it will be good for the island,' she added.

Ms Cafferty is keeping tight-lipped about her new venture but said: 'I've been thinking about it for the past four years.'

'Running the Puffer is wonderful but all-consuming, although I have found time to do volunteering on the island. With the new idea I've got, I need to put my heart and soul into it.'

'Easdale is massively important to me. I just love it - it has a real pull. We have a great community, it's unique. We all like a good party.'

'Life's never boring here. The right person taking on the Puffer could live the dream.'

Interested? Visit [pufferbarandrestaurant.co.uk](http://pufferbarandrestaurant.co.uk) or email [pufferenquiries@gmail.com](mailto:pufferenquiries@gmail.com)

## MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk

I am no follower of boxing and nor did I know anything about Tyson Fury up until the extensive coverage he's had in the past week since his recent heavyweight title fight against American Deontay Wilder.

However, the story of his comeback from the depths of depression, ill health and deprivation is inspiring and grabbed my attention when I heard him speaking in a post-fight interview.

There is a very fine line we all walk between the rise and the fall. One step in the wrong direction coupled with some bad luck can bring about a downward spiral in the lives of even those who are perceived to be flying high.

Conversely, just one step in the right direction at the right time, coupled with some good fortune, can be the catalyst for a virtuous circle of ascent from the depths of low to the very highest pinnacle of achievement and the regaining of peace and happiness in one's life.

Everyone goes through ups and downs in the rough and tumble of life and it is important to try to remember that no matter how black the dark days may feel, you are only one step away from the road



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Between the hero and the fool there is no golden rule - one turn of fate can pull the hero down,

So fight with blood and sweat and up again you get and never let the demons keep you from your crown.

We may be just one step away from the coming of our day and the morning rays of golden blessed beams.

Before you quit and break, just one more step you take and lay your stake to live again your dreams.

So get up and carry on, fight or sing another song, keep stepping on and pushing for the goal.

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OT

# Mull couple's first aid efforts win top award

## Outstanding work to bring training to remote communities

A young husband and wife from the Isle of Mull were recognised at a first aid awards ceremony in Glasgow on Friday November 23 for their outstanding efforts to bring first aid to their local communities.

Alec, 29, and Kayleigh Brown, 26, received the Douglas Bremner Special Commendation Award at the St Andrew's First Aid Scottish First Aid Awards, as a result of their positive and successful drive to encourage members of their community to learn life-saving first aid skills.

Alec had been taught first aid after attending a free training session delivered by St Andrew's First Aid in Oban in January this year. Just a few weeks later he had to put his skills into practice when his eight-month-old baby Ruaridh stopped breathing and turned blue while sitting in his high chair.

Thankfully, through Alec's

recognition of the situation, swift actions and first aid training, he was able to save his son's life using the infant CPR skills he had learned at the demonstration.

Following the incident, Kayleigh was determined more people on the island should have the opportunity to learn first aid.

Living in a remote community where emergency services can take time to reach a location, having first aid skills could be the difference between life and life lost. She contacted St Andrew's First Aid to ask if they would go to Mull to deliver a series of demonstrations. She then rallied her community, booked a hall and used various communications platforms to let people know and invite them along.

More than 100 people attended the sessions, which also raised more than £1,300 for three charities including St Andrew's First Aid.



Alec and Kayleigh pick up their award.

'When Ruaridh stopped breathing, I went into autopilot and remembered what I had been taught.'

Stuart Callison, chief executive of St Andrew's First Aid, said: 'The Browns are a credit to their family, their community and to us. Their recognition that first aid is a vital skill to have was so clearly shown when faced with their own distressing

situation. Kayleigh's passion for first aid and determination that others should have the opportunity to learn how to save a life has really paid off and there are now more than 100 people living in local communities on Mull, who can come to someone's aid should they need it.'

'Their efforts to protect and educate their community are nothing short of inspiring and they are very worthy winners of the Douglas Bremner Special Commendation Award.'

Alec Brown said: 'When Ruaridh stopped breathing,

I went into autopilot and remembered what I had been taught. I checked to see if he was choking then checked his airway before beginning CPR. It felt like half an hour before he started breathing again but I suspect it was only a minute.'

'I'm just so glad I made the effort to go to the demonstration. The ambulance arrived after 20 minutes but had I not known what to do, the ending could have been very different. I can't recommend strongly enough that people take the time to learn how to do even basic first aid. Many of the sessions are free and it could literally be the difference between life and death.'

Kayleigh Brown said: 'We are delighted to have won this award. I can't talk enough about the importance of learning first aid and the fact you can do it for free means there should be no excuse not to.'

The thankfully positive outcome of our own experience was enough to spur me into action and I am really happy with how many people turned out on the day. I hope to continue working with St Andrew's to encourage even more people to become first aid ready.'

## 'Awesome' new book delivered to Argyll pupils

Copies of Diary of a Brilliant Kid: Top Secret Guide to Awesomeness have been delivered to schools in Argyll. Schools receiving the books include Oban High School, Tiree and Tobermory High Schools, Campbeltown Grammar School, Islay and Lochgilphead High Schools and Tarbert Academy.

Based on the science of positive psychology, Diary of a Brilliant Kid is an interactive collection of science, stories, theories, top tips, quotes – and occasional mayhem.

Co-written by Gavin Oates, Dr Andy Cope and Will Hussey, the book is packaged so that children can learn to take charge of their own well-being and includes pages allowing 'tweenagers' to add their own input and drawings.

Gavin Oates, an award-winning comedian who is managing director of Scotland-based company Tree of Knowledge and an international keynote speaker, said: 'The book is all about positive psychology for children, but it has the right balance between being funny, cheeky and informative with all the right messages to help kids navigate life. I hope youngsters, their teachers and parents across Argyll will enjoy it and benefit from it.'

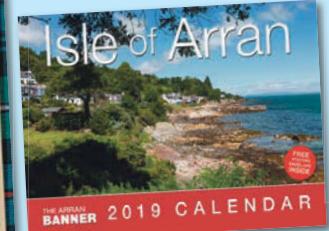
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# Life saving with the ANPs

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

Stuart MacDonald is one of Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership's (HSCP) Advanced Nurse Practitioners (ANP) based at Lorn and Islands Hospital.

The ANP role was developed on the back of the European working time directive (EWTD) in 1998 that stated no one should work more than 48 hours in one week.

This led to a reduction in the hours that junior doctors worked and introduced a scheme called Hospital @ Night, producing the role of the ANP, who, with advanced training, could take on some junior doctors' roles by way of bleep filtering calls overnight, dramatically reducing the workload of the junior doctor without jeopardising care.

The team of ANP nurses have received advanced training to add to the comprehensive skills and significant clinical experience they



already have as nurses. There are ANPs who are Accident and Emergency based and hospital ANPs who cover the whole hospital.

The ANPs at Lorn and Islands Hospital are responsible for ensuring a high quality handover is delivered to ensure the best possible care is given to each patient.

They work in collaboration with the medical and surgical consulting teams. Stuart Macdonald is one of six ANPs based at the hospital.

After leaving Inverness High School with no qualifications, Stuart started his career with the NHS in 1983. Through the Youth Opportunities Scheme at Raigmore Hospital, he secured a job to gain work experience as a porter.

He enjoyed the interaction with patients as he wheeled them along to the X-ray department where he was based, but wanted to provide

more care for people. He applied successfully for a post for a nursing auxiliary where he worked in a male medical ward for seven years until 1990. He really wanted to do nurse training and, as he had no qualifications, he sat an entrance test which gained him access to the course.

He qualified in 1994 and moved to Oban in 1995. He worked as a staff nurse in medical/high dependency for 14 years until becoming a deputy charge nurse in 2009. He then left in 2012 to become a prescribing support nurse. As he was part-time, he had time to go back to university and complete masters level courses, so that he could apply for his dream job of becoming an Advanced Nurse Practitioner.

As autonomous practitioners, the ANPs utilise their advanced practice skills and expertise when recording a

patient's history, undertaking physical assessments, providing immediate care and early intervention. The ANPs initiate treatment and, when required, refer the patient for professional clinical assessments. They also respond to acute and critically unwell patients immediately by way of a pager system. The ANP's role is recognised as crucial, particularly in crisis response and admission.

As a senior clinical nurse, Stuart provides leadership and clinical support to nursing, junior medical staff and other health and social care multi-disciplinary staff. He has to keep up-to-date on the most recent, evidence-based research regarding available treatments and services. He also has to attend neonatal, paediatric and maternity emergency courses as part of his ongoing development and training.

'Out of hours' site management is one of the biggest roles for ANPs when they work nightshifts and weekends. ANPs undertake site management duties such as managing bed capacity/occupancy levels across the hospital; leading clinical and non-clinical emergency response teams and taking responsibility as acting fire warden duties during out of hours.

Stuart said: 'There are many values associated with nursing, but the one which I care about most is empathy and

delivering person-centered care. By adhering to altruism I maintain a concern for the welfare and wellbeing of everyone in my care.'

'We work closely with the junior doctors and ward nurses. Part of our role is to monitor blood results and interpret results. We also carry out clinical assessments when there are any concerns for any of our patients.'

In the event of a cardiac arrest, the ANPs, along with other team members, usually lead on resuscitation. This can be an extremely stressful situation for family, nurses and medical staff. The ANPs ensure the emergency situation and treatment is managed professionally.

The ANPs identify risks on duty and they are responsible for managing, reporting issues and vocalising any concerns they may have to various multi-disciplinary teams throughout the hospital. They also report directly to senior management to ensure the hospital runs as smoothly as possible.

On nightshift, the ANPs work more closely with the A&E department and also provide more senior clinical assistance when necessary on the wards.

Stuart said: 'The key to the success of our role is communication. Our daily priority is most definitely patient safety. Our team work closely with other health professionals to

ascertain the level of clinical care people need. Priorities are handovers for early patient reviews, patients who are critically unwell or have the potential to become unwell, bed occupancy and any other clinical duties.'

Stuart's proudest moment, apart from becoming an ANP, was qualifying as an ALS (Advanced Life Support) instructor. This is one of the hardest, most credible courses that a health professional can achieve in acute care. He takes pride in his resuscitation skills and enjoys being able to teach these skills to other health and social care staff.

He loves living in Oban with his partner, Lucy, and their sons Finlay and Struan. The rural aspect gives an edge over living in the city. He said: 'The town is thriving, complemented by its beautiful countryside and amenities for young and old, which can only be a good thing. There are real healthy aspects to living in Oban such as two gyms, a weekly 5K parkrun, a swimming pool, plus many other community activities.'

'Lorn and Islands hospital is a fantastic place to work and meet new colleagues. I would advocate anyone thinking about coming to work here "do it now". There is an air of positivity throughout the hospital and I am proud to be part of the workforce and local community.'

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OT

## Charities benefit from memorial fundraiser

Four charities received cheques last week from money raised at the John MacEachen Memorial Trophy. The event attracted 152 players and raised £5,400.

The money was donated to the Dove Centre (Friends of Oban Hospice), Marie Curie, Pink Ladies and the Macmillan Day Care Unit.

John was a former captain of Glencruitten Golf Club and an enthusiastic golfer, and the competition is a tribute to him. In his younger days he played shinty for Oban Celtic, football for Oban Saints and rugby for Oban Lorne, and was instrumental in getting the rugby clubhouse built.

The MacEachen family would like to thank everyone who supported the event and are looking forward to making it an annual event.



## Man issued threats to boss

A man whose 'frustration snowballed' when chasing wages he claimed he was owed was fined a total of £1,150 at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday.

Sheriff John Herald told Daniel Guy, 44, of 114 George Street, Oban: 'I accept you had a grievance but you did not go about it the right way, did you?'

Guy, who had been working as a fencing contractor,

admitted sending text messages to his former boss that were grossly offensive or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character, which included threats of violence; driving a motor vehicle without insurance; destroying or damaging a television and shelf; and driving a quad bike without reasonable consideration and excessive speed, colliding with the side of the roadway.

The offences happened on June 21 on roads around the Isle of Lismore and at the home of his former employer.

The texted threats included: 'Next time it will be your fingers.'

Guy, who had no licence, had used the quad bike when working on private roads, but took it onto the public road at Achinduin; he was disqualified from having a licence for three months and should he

apply for one it would be endorsed. His former employer returned to his home to find the damage.

Guy's defence agent referred to a social report which described him as 'impulsive, reactive and reckless'.

Having worked for six to eight weeks, 'he had been promised wages, which time after time were not forthcoming' and his 'frustration snowballed'.

## Black Lynn quick flood fix waiting for barrier

Council bosses say a flood barrier to go next to the Black Lynn footpath is being made and will be put in place as soon as possible.

Workers from the council were at the site last week building up the burn with mounds of earth and positioning sandbags.

Hugh Carmichael, whose home was left nine inches

under water after the October floods, said he was relieved to see the workmen, but said: 'I'm glad they've done what they've done but it's just a temporary fix.'

'The sooner this new barrier arrives, the safer I'll feel. The burn still needs clearing out and trees need to be cut. I won't give up until it's all done.'



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# Pampering puts ladies in the pink



Nicky Murphy: 'It is about friendship and laughter.'



The ladies enjoyed refreshments and a lovely lunch.

This year's Pink Ladies Day was held at the Loch Fyne Hotel in Inveraray on Friday November 30.

Organised by founder Nicky Murphy, the event depends on fundraising which this year saw hundreds of people attend afternoon teas, buy raffle tickets and tombola tickets, sponsor a twilight walk or simply donate money out of the goodness of their hearts.

Nicky said: 'We raised more than £5,300 this year, which was fantastic. Having been diagnosed with breast cancer five years ago, I wanted to create something really special for other women who have been through the same thing.'

'Things get a bit crazy during cancer treatment and it can be an extremely challenging time. All of life's pressures are still there on top of dealing with a life-threatening illness that requires an extreme programme of treatment.'

'Living in a rural area, there is also extensive travel involved, which is incredibly tiring. Add that to the physical and emotional impact that hits often af-

ter treatment and it all equates to really needing, deserving and craving a day of complete self-indulgence and relaxation, where the vibe is very positive, fun and supportive.'

Now in its fifth year, the Pink Ladies Day was another huge success.

More than 60 women came on Friday to be preened and pampered by an army of amazing stylists, beauty experts, holistic therapists and make-up artists, who all gave their time and expertise voluntarily.

The day offers a choice of treatments, including hair, make-up, nails, massage, facials, reiki, yoga, specialist Meso Vytal skin treatment and, new this year, podiatry. The ladies also enjoyed a three-course lunch and refreshments all day.

Nicky added: 'It is about friendship, pampering, laughter, relaxation and meeting like-minded women. Anyone interested in coming next year should email [pinkladiesday@outlook.com](mailto:pinkladiesday@outlook.com). See the personals page in this Oban Times for a full run-down of thank-yous!'



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# BUSINESS NEWS

## Argyll and Isles firms to the fore ahead of EU exit

Four west coast companies were in London last week to showcase their iconic produce as part of the UK Government's Taste of Scotland event.

Loch Fyne seafood, First Milk creameries on the Mull of Kintyre and Outer Hebridean companies Harris Tweed and Ishga – which produces organic skincare products – attended a reception last Thursday which was hosted by the Scottish Secretary and promoted Scotland's finest producers.

Scottish Secretary David Mundell said: 'Scottish food producers are world-renowned. New and innovative companies are thriving while iconic brands remain much-loved household names.'

'Today's Taste of Scotland event is not just a St Andrew's Day celebration, but a fantastic opportunity for producers to build on Scotland's great export record. That is as important as ever as we prepare to leave the EU and the deal secured by the Prime Minister in Brussels this week creates positive opportunities for Scottish companies – continuing frictionless trade with the EU and opening up new markets across the globe.'

Held at Dover House in Whitehall, the companies were selected as an exemplar brand of Scottish produce to promote to influential guests from around the world including Ambassadors and High Commissioners.

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# Fiuran Property launches Christmas charity giveaway

Fiuran Property is celebrating its fifth anniversary with a charity giveaway.

The firm, which is based in Oban and Fort William, wants people to vote on its Facebook pages for one of four charities on each branch's shortlist: for Oban, Argyll Animal Aid, Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease, Andy's Man Club Oban and Alzheimer Scotland; and, for Fort William, Abbeyfield, Dyslexia Scotland Lochaber, Ewen's Room and the Glengarry Centre. The charity that receives the most votes in each of Oban and Fort William will benefit to the tune of £300.

Fiuran Property was started in Oban by Laura and Gillies Pagan in 2013 and since its inception, has grown considerably until, in 2017, it became the biggest estate agent in the Oban area by volume of sales.

Now 2018 has been a big year for Fiuran Property, celebrating its fifth anniversary and expanding into Fort William, which was a long-held ambition.

The expansion into Fort William was relatively smooth as it was backed by an established company with a proven track record.

Expertise in property is essential to the success of any estate agency, as moving home can be one of the most stressful events in life.

The business can be as much about people as it is about property, and Kelie Cooper, who heads up the Fort William operation, is an expert at dealing in both. With a legal background, and having lived in Lochaber for more than 30 years, she was the perfect person to lead this expansion.

Kelie said: 'I'm delighted to be part of such a dynamic company that places so much em-



The Fiuran team of Gillies Pagan, Kelie Cooper, centre, and Laura Pagan.

phasis on customer satisfaction. Property has always been a passion of mine, and I'm thrilled to be able to work in this industry in my home area. Getting out and meeting clients and prospective buyers is one of the best bits of the job.'

Gillies said: 'We at Fiuran greatly appreciate the support that the people of Oban and Argyll have given our business since we started it five years ago, and we are equally grateful to the people of Lochaber for support they have given Fiuran Property in Fort William since we opened there earlier this year, with a significant number of sales achieved already, many of these within a week of the property going on the market.'

'We wondered what would be the best way to show our appreciation of the communities

that have supported us, and we wanted to give a little something back, so we decided that both branches of Fiuran Property could each make a donation of £300 to a local charity.'

'However, with so many wonderful causes doing so much good work in our local areas, it would be impossible for us to choose which charity should benefit, so we thought we'd let the people choose.'

'We put a post on both the Oban and Fort William Fiuran pages asking for nominations for charities. Having got a shortlist, the public can now vote for their chosen charity simply by liking their chosen charity's logo on the Fiuran Property Facebook pages. The voting is open now and closes at midday on Friday December 14, with the winner announced soon after.'

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## TSL Contractors appoints new managing director

Mull-based construction and haulage company TSL Contractors Limited has announced the appointment of Iain Lumsden as the firm's new managing director.

Iain joins TSL from Balfour Beatty's North Scotland business where he worked for nearly 25 years, most recently as managing director.

Iain will be moving to the Oban area with his partner, Vanessa, to take up his new position with TSL early in the new year.

Iain's appointment coincides with TSL's 40th year in business, a period during which the company has grown from a small family quarrying firm on the Isle of Mull to a multi-location construction, civil engineering, building and road haulage business employing more than 100 people.

The company has won Business Insider's Scottish Fastest Growing SME 300 award for the past two years in a row and this will be the first time in its history that a non-family member has held the position of managing director.

Company principal Andy Knight said: 'We are very pleased Iain will be taking such a crucial role as we consolidate our leading position within the west of Scotland's construction industry.'

'He brings with him not only a wealth of



Iain Lumsden.

experience and exciting new ideas but also a commitment to our core values.'

Iain's career spans some 35 years working in construction, through which he has accumulated an extensive and diverse experience

in building, civil engineering and private and social housing projects across both the public and private sectors.

Born in St Andrews, he began his career as an apprentice quantity surveyor in 1983 and worked his way up through the ranks, holding various commercial and senior business management roles before being appointed managing director of Balfour Beatty's North Scotland division in 2016.

Iain was instrumental in the company's transition from operating in an extensive competitive tendering market to achieving significant success in negotiated works and frameworks. At the time of leaving, the company's entire workload was based upon negotiated repeat business and collaborative working relationships.

Iain said: 'I am delighted to be joining TSL and I am very excited about the prospect of working with Andy and the TSL team to realise their huge potential to be the contractor of choice in the west of Scotland.'

'We have many shared values and a genuine desire to provide a high-quality service that delivers best value for our customers. We are also strong believers in engaging with, and making a meaningful social contribution to, the communities in which we work. I can't wait to get started.'

## Council worker wins prestigious award

An Argyll and Bute Council worker has scooped a prestigious award for her work to combat the problem of empty homes.

Empty Homes Officer Kelly Ferns has been named Outstanding Individual at the Howdens Scottish Empty Homes Champions of the Year Awards for her commitment and dedication to empty homes work. Her collaborative approach and passion as well as consistent results were recognised by the panel.

Councillor Robin Currie, Argyll and Bute Council's Policy Lead for Housing, said: 'This is wonderful news. Kelly has a real passion for the work she does, and goes above and beyond to provide the best possible outcomes for empty homes in Argyll and Bute. Kelly is an extremely worthy winner and a credit to the service. Well done.'



Kelly with Housing Minister Kevin Stewart MSP.

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## New Iolaire exhibition opens in Sandwick hall

An exhibition on the Iolaire tragedy is to be held in Sandwick Community Hall – the hall nearest to the site of the disaster – and will be formally opened today, Thursday December 6, at 6pm.

The exhibition has been put together by Stornoway Historical Society (SHS) and will be on display throughout December, January and February, three days a week. Although it will shut for Christmas, it will be open on New Year's Day, the 100th anniversary of the disaster.

The idea for the exhibition came from Sandwick Community Council, which began planning a commemoration programme for the Iolaire back in 2013.

It was strongly felt that material about the Iolaire should be exhibited in Sandwick Community Hall as this was the public venue closest to the disaster site, being less than one mile away from the Beasts of Holm, where the vessel hit the rocks with the loss of 201 lives.

The idea for an exhibition in the local area was taken up by SHS and has also been supported by Point Community Council and Point Historical Society.

Organised by the women of the SHS committee, society chairman Malcolm Macdonald – who has written a book on the tragedy, *The Darkest Dawn* – said the exhibition would be 'substantial', adding: 'Point and Sandwick Community Councils and Stornoway Historical Society got together to recognise that Holm is the place where the tragedy occurred and a lot of the dead are buried in Sandwick Cemetery. It was certainly very important to those living in the community that the exhibition was in Sandwick Hall and the Stornoway Historical Society backed that.'

Councillor Angus McCormack, chairman of the exhibition working group and a Sandwick resident himself, said: 'Stornoway Historical Society has been absolutely excellent and very committed. I'm absolutely blown away by the commitment – it's first class.'

'I think a lot of people are going to come to this exhibition. There is a lot of interest in anything to do with the Iolaire. Everything sells out right away.'

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# His Majesty the G

## Morvern lines

IAIN THORNBER

iain.thornber@btinternet.com

Albert Einstein, in his book, *The World as I See It*, said: 'The most beautiful experience we can have is the mysterious. It is the fundamental emotion that stands at the cradle of true art and true science.'

Nowhere are there more mysteries to be found than in the natural history world. As fine an example as any is why do two species of birds from the same family choose different material with which to line the inner cup of their nest to lay eggs in?

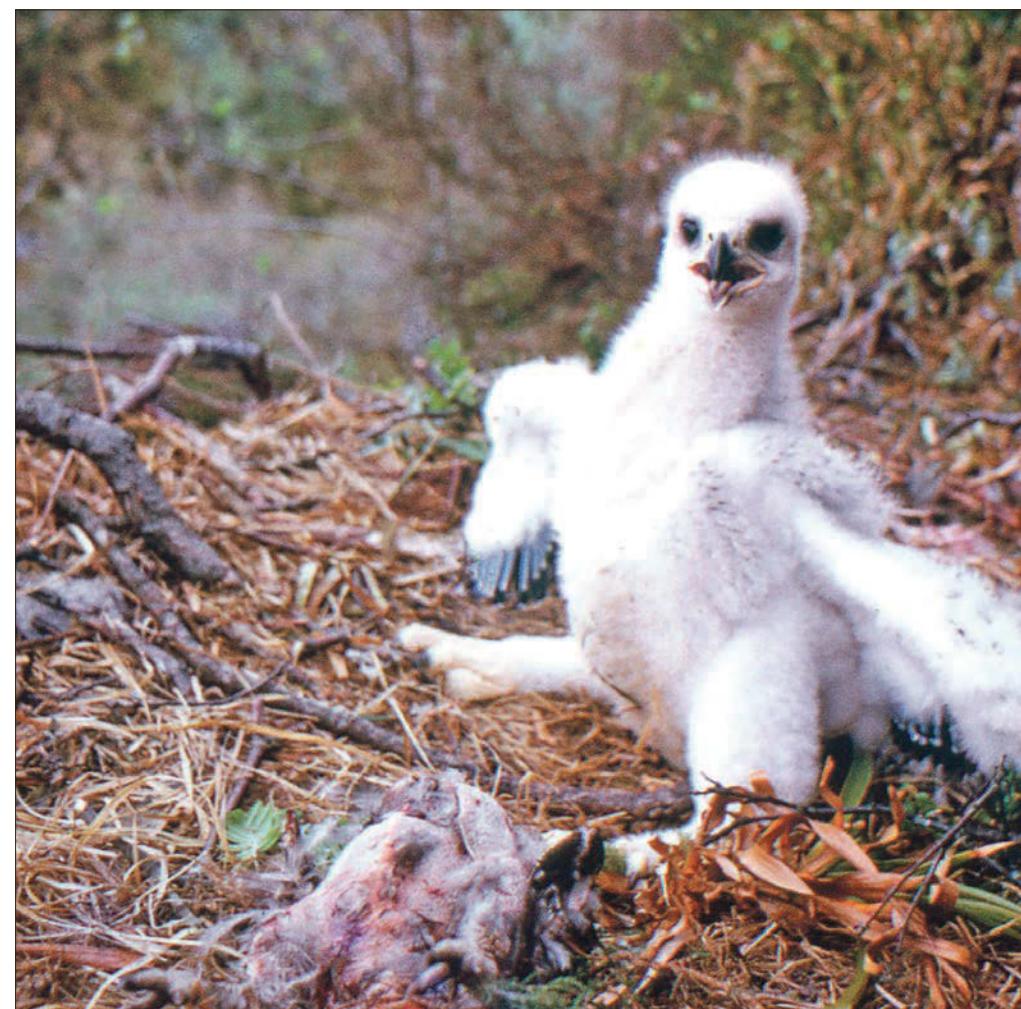
Almost always in the west Highlands, golden eagles have a marked preference for the dried winter leaves of the great woodrush (*Luzula sylvatica*), whereas sea eagles, according to David Sexton, the RSPB Scotland officer for the Isle of Mull, and an authority on the species, line their nests almost exclusively with dead, white purple moor grass (*Molinia caerulea*) which becomes a very distinctive feature and makes them stand out at a distance especially in the sunshine when it turns pale beige – the same colour as the birds' heads.

Neither the great woodrush nor the purple moor grass are rare in eagle country. The former is the largest woodrush whose name is thought to come from the Italian *lucciola* (to shine) or the Latin *luzulæ* or *luxulæ*, from *lux* (light) inspired by the sparkling appearance of the heads of the flowers when wet with dew or rain, while *sylvatica* comes from *silva*, Latin for forest.

John Cameron, in his *Gaelic Names of Plants*, Edinburgh 1883, tells us that *Luzula sylvatica* is called in Gaelic, *Luachar coille*, meaning the bright grass or rush of the wood, which he describes as a very conspicuous plant, more of the habit of a grass than a rush, with the stalk rising to more than two feet and bearing a terminal cluster of brownish flowers, with large light-yellow anthers.

It may well grow to that height on sheltered low ground but wherever I have come across it in Morvern, it has been growing on acidic soils in damp shady habitats above 1,000 feet and, being exposed to the constant wind, is much smaller.

So what is it about the great woodrush that is favoured by golden eagles when there are



A young golden eagle on its nest with a plucked red grouse and a piece of great woodrush. Photograph: Iain Thornber

so many other alternatives, such as the purple moor grass which their cousins, the sea or white-tailed eagles, prefer? Is it because its leaves, which are replaced by heather, moss, wool and sticks soon after the young eagles hatch, are extra absorbent; is it their scent, or can it be that the birds are feeding on the caterpillar of the *Coleophora sylvaticella* moth, whose only food source is this plant?

I have often found ring-ouzels, the mountain equivalent of the closely-related common blackbird, nesting a few feet below occupied eyries suggesting that they may be taking advantage of scraps from something the eagles bring home. As John Muir, the influential,

Scottish-American naturalist, author and environmental philosopher said: 'When we try to pick out anything by itself we find it hitched to everything else in the universe.'

In appearance, at least, if not in character, the golden eagle is the UK's finest wild creature and well deserves the age-old title the 'King of Birds'.

Its tremendous wingspan, often nearer six than five feet, its massive build, the yellow of the beak and feet and the golden sheen on the wing and nape feathers as it wheels and turns in the sun, compel our admiration.

The seasonal clutch consists normally of two, occasionally three, eggs, and if the first are de-



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# Golden Eagle



depends on the interests of the landowners. Where there are too many sheep, eagles are unpopular and shepherds would not care if they were extinct, even though it is usually only the smallest, sickly or dead lambs that fall prey to them.

The miracle of the golden eagle is that they exist at all. For years they have been persecuted almost to extinction. Old records from Skye show that in 1833 no fewer than 25 eagles were killed in a single year by one man. Macleod of Macleod and his principal tenant considered eagles to be vermin and paid out five shillings for every set of talons from a dead one delivered to them. But when this greedy eagle-slayer called MacDonald, asked for his bounty, Macleod gave him only £1 and offered him a place in Glendale.

In Sutherland, the persecution was equally horrendous. Between March 1820 and March 1826, 290 adults and 60 young were killed. Despite this massive cull, another took place between March 1831 and March 1834, when 171 birds with 53 young and eggs were destroyed.

So scarce had they become that by 1848 John Woolley, a notorious English egg-collector, found it [the golden eagle], 'verging on extinction due no doubt to the great death dealt among those birds by the gamekeepers, who were instigated to destroy them by the rewards offered'. No word of his own misdeeds.

Trapping and burning nests accounted for many others. Little more than a century ago more than 50 golden eagles were killed in six years in Jura and five pairs on Rum.

Happily, the situation has changed dramatically and today's estimated 450 breeding pairs of golden eagles are being guarded by stringent legislation and extra special protection areas throughout northern and western Scotland.

Environment Minister Roseanna Cunningham said it was fitting that additional steps had been taken to protect what was becoming one of Scotland's most iconic species. She added: 'People come here from across the world with the hope of catching just a glimpse of one of these beautiful birds in their natural environment.'

'These new protected areas will mean they can continue to do this for generations to come. Along with other birds of prey, golden eagles can bring benefits to the local economy through wildlife watching; a recent study by SNH shows that nature-based tourism brings at least £1.4 billion a year to the Scottish economy, supporting the equivalent of 39,000 jobs.'

stroyed, others are not laid. The young are covered with white down, and great care appears to be taken with their food. At first the liver of its victims is often the sole diet of the eaglets, followed by portions of well-plucked birds, rabbits, hares, fox cubs or other mammals that have been carefully skinned by the parent birds. It is only when the birds are several weeks old that they are given whole victims to deal with themselves.

Even before they can fly, they hunch or arch their shoulders and spread their wings over a recent kill to conceal it from others. This is called mantling – a relic from the days when they lived in flocks like vultures and had to defend their food.

In Scotland, especially in the Highlands and Islands, the golden eagle's presence or absence

## DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



Taken in August 1995, this picture shows Councillor Olwyn Macdonald presenting prizes, but for what and where? If you can help answer the question, please email editor@obantimes.co.uk



Fort William postmen of yesteryear. Photograph courtesy of Jim MacDougall, via Roamer.

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# LETTERS

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

## Overspending on health provision is a cause for concern

There is a disappointing sense of déjà vu in the story we report this week about the overspending of its budget by Argyll and Bute's Health and Social Care Partnership.

The HSCP is staring into a financial black hole of some £4 million for this financial year, admittedly a reduction from the previous estimate of £4.6 million, but it remains a very significant sum of money.

The HSCP has attributed this overspend to a number of causes, including the increased demand for health and social care services, the use of agency staffing to cover vacancies and ongoing challenges in progressing initiatives to reduce costs and release savings.

Furthermore, the HSCP said pressures contributing to the overspend forecast were listed in a budget monitoring report to meeting of the Integration Joint Board (IJB) last week.

The main ones highlighted included ongoing use of agency nurses in Oban and Lochgilphead hospitals, locum GP wages on Mull, funding locum psychiatrists and experiencing a higher than expected demand for social work supported services.

In fairness, health is a difficult and complex service to deliver and there are no simple solutions. However, we sympathise with Argyll and Bute Council leader Aileen Morton, a relatively new board member at the IJB, who also called for better communication on the finances of the HSCP. Councillor Morton said: 'I can't grasp where the scale of risk sits in terms of red, amber, green. I speak from a genuine sense of frustration that I don't have a grasp on it, and as a board, we need to be clear on how this is progressing.'

We accept that efforts are being made to address the overspend and ongoing costs in delivering the service but this situation is serious and cannot be allowed to continue.

## More commercial but without real accountability

Regarding Councillors Baxter's stand over parking charges, according to Highland Council, 'The council agreed in June 2018 that decision-making for off-street parking income and expenditure will be delegated to local/city committees.' ([www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/19425/thc\\_parking\\_policy\\_2018\\_to\\_2023](http://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/19425/thc_parking_policy_2018_to_2023))

It does seem that Highland Council Inverness has grown far too large to represent the people of Highland democratically. For years Fort William has had parking charges while other towns in Highland region have had none.

The council is a taxpayer-funded organisation, it is not, as some of those employed and elected think, a commercial enterprise that can extract as much profit from residents and visitors alike.

It is time that Highland Council was broken up and local democracy and accountability by elected members and none elected employees was returned to local communities.

Inverness and Highland Council may see themselves as the capital of the Highlands but in reality they are far removed from the real Highlands and the people that live in them, as Councillor Baxter has found out.

Do people know that their council is working towards implementing, across Highland region, resident parking permits?

The SNP promised an end to the community charge with a suggested local income tax. What we are seeing now instead is councils increasing their income by indirect taxation - even Councillor Baxter has said that Highland Council wants to become more commercial. More commercial but without real accountability and responsibility.

Cyril Bonnett, Ballachulish.

## Marks & Spencer Macmillan Coffee Morning

Thank you Fort William for helping us to raise vital funds for people living with cancer

Cancer can have such a destructive impact on our lives and a collective effort to raise funds makes a difference.

The M&S Fort William team was overwhelmed by the level of generosity and involvement of the local community throughout

## 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, Fort William. This week's was sent in by Angela Bailey, of Oban, who said: 'I took this at Loch Awe of Kilchurn Castle. My one-year-old border terrier Dolly looks like she is flying, hope you like it.'



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## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk

September for our charity partner's World's Biggest Coffee Morning campaign that saw many of you visit our cafe and foodhall throughout the month.

We would like to say a big 'thank you' to our local customers and colleagues for their support – your generosity has helped raise £2,520 (and counting) towards funding Macmillan professionals who play such a vital role within our communities.

**Sam Nugent, store manager,  
M&S Fort William.**

## Lamenting the loss of democracy in Lochaber

When district councils disappeared from Scotland as a result of the Local Government (Scotland) Act of 1994, Lochaber lost something good. It was called 'democracy' – a big word for localism.

The politicians in Edinburgh maintained council business would be more efficient if it was delivered by area committees. What they didn't say was they would have no authority to set budgets or priorities and that any decisions they took could be overruled elsewhere.

The issue of Christmas parking charges, highlighted on the front page of last week's Lochaber Times, is a typical example of how area committees are not working and how Fort William has become a far-flung satellite of Inverness.

Lochaber councillors agreed a way forward to raise additional revenue, but it seems now that their decision will be thrown out by the full council when it meets in Inverness on December 13.

All that is being asked for by the public representatives in Lochaber is to introduce two hours' free parking in Fort William for a few weeks in the lead up to Christmas. A paltry sum compared to the £3 million-£6 million their Inverness colleagues want to spend on improving the city centre by slowing down traffic and planting trees.

In an age not remarkable for human eagerness to overcome obstacles and when council employees take more decisions than elected members, Lochaber's area leader, Councillor Andrew Baxter, must be admired for taking a stance against the Inverness administration, even to resigning as chairman of the council's prestigious education and housing committee to make his point.

Mr Baxter is clearly a man of principal and fairness and is deserving of high office.

**Iain Thorner,  
Knock House, Morvern, Lochaber.**

## Number of families in poverty in the rises

The introduction of Universal Credit has seen growing numbers of children and families relying on foodbanks and falling into rent arrears in Lochaber and across Highland.

This was highlighted recently in the Lochaber Times with the headline 'Universal Credit woes hit Lochaber families hard', with some families waiting as long as nine weeks for UC payments to be issued.

Last month, a scathing report from the United Nations on UK austerity stated that the introduction of policies such as Universal Credit has 'inflicted great misery on its citizens'. The Child Poverty Action Group in Scotland has also stated that more than one in four children in Scotland are living in poverty and that this is likely to increase after Brexit unless we make serious policy reform. This number has been rising significantly since 2007.

Austerity, Universal Credit and Brexit have been political choices which are putting at risk basic human needs such as housing, food, job security and standards of living.

The Scottish government is aiming to lessen the impact of these policies by offering the option of fortnightly payments instead of monthly for Universal Credit. It has introduced baby boxes, mitigated the worst of the bedroom tax policy and added a premium to carers allowance set out by the UK government.

However, there is a limit to what it can do with the devolved areas it has control over. Sadly, this means the UK, including Scotland, has the highest number of children living in poverty compared to any other European country.

In an independent Scotland the government would have the ability to halt crippling policies such as Universal Credit and would be able to implement a fairer welfare system which will reduce the number of children and families in poverty. We owe it to our children and future generations to take a stand against austerity and forge a better path in an independent Scotland.

**Lia Hunter, Caol, Fort William.**

Gun ach mu thri seachdainean gu latha na Nollaige tha a' mhòr-chuid againn buailteach a bhith a' smaoineachadh air cairdean, cairtean, tiodhlacan, agus subhachas, agus tha iomadh seachdain bho thòisich sanasachd nam bùithtean-mòra ri sparradh oirnn.

'S fhada bho ghreamich malaireachas air an àm seo den bhliadhna a' sniomh miann agus coibhneas ri chèile.

Ach dha mòran aig nach eil an t-airgead tha dòchas chloinne na uallach mòr agus glè thric gan cur ann am fiachan fad mhiosan romhpa. Nach bochd ma-thà gum biodh fèis a th' air a' bonntachadh air naidheachd dhòchasach creideimh a-nise na h-adhbhar iomagain dha uimhir de theaghlaichean.

Air an làimh eile feumar aideachadh gum bheil creideamh air a bhith na mheadhan air còmhstì agus cogaidhean fad linnteann agus chun an latha an-diugh fhèin.

B' e sin màthair-adhbhar a' chogaidh chatharra anns an Yemen a thòisich ann an 2016 agus a tha a' dol fhathast, gu ire mhòr ri linn taice bho thaobh a-muigh na dùthcha dha gach taobh sa blàr. Tha Ameireagaidh agus Saudi

Arabia a' fágail air Iran gum bheil an dùthach sin a' cumail taic armachd ris na Houthis a thòisich an aimhreit ann an 2016 le amas riaghaltas na dùthcha a chur à bith.

Tha feachdan an riaghaltas sin air taic fhaotainn bho Ameireagaidh fhèin, agus bho dhùthchannan Arabach eile a tha a ràir Amnesty Eadar-nàiseanta a' ceannach armachd à Breatainn a tha ga chleachdadh ann an ionnsaighean a tha a' bualadh shiobhaltaich na dùthca.

Suidheachadh duilich matha is gun choltas foise agus tha bhuil ann gum bheil a-nise milleanan an cunnart am beatha bho ghort nach phacas a leithid bho chionn linntean.

Seachd millean deug neach, le còrr air tri millean leanabh nam measg sin, a' fulang le dùth bidh agus bho thòisich am blàr tha tuairmse gun do chailleadh faisg air naochad mile leanabh gun chunntas air inbhich.

Cha b' iongnadh Emily Thornberry, Rùnaire na Stàite airson gnothaichean cèin agus a' Cho-fhlaitheis, a bhith a' sireadh tagradh läidir bho Bhreatann gu Comhairle Thèarainteachd nan Dùthchannan Aonaichte

airson grad-fhois-fòirneart sa Yemen agus fosgladh sa bhad air na bheil de chobhair eadar-nàiseanta a tha ga àicheadh dhan t-sluagh gu ruige seo.

A' sgriobhadh san New York Times bho chionn latha neo dhà rinn Declan Thomas a tha ag obair ann an ospadal an sin dealbh dhòrainneach air dà choimhearsnachd ann am prìomh-bhaile na Yemen, Sana. Thug e iomradh air a' bheagan dhaoine aig am bheil airgead a cheannaicheas biadh, agus na mìltean a bharrachd aig nach eil dad idir agus a tha an cunnart am beatha leis an acras. Am measg úpraid na Nollaige cuimhnicheamaid orra, aig a' char as lughá.

Writing in the New York Times recently, aid worker Declan Thomas gave a harrowing description of poverty in Yemen, which means millions face death from malnutrition.

As many of us enjoy the fellowship and plenty of Christmas, perhaps we can spare a thought, and maybe aid, to those who have nothing.

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



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# DISTRICT NEWS

## SEIL

Potholes on the Ardcapel road are giving drivers a bumpy ride. Community councillors will also be asking Argyll and Bute Council's roads department to fix and reinstate the 30mph sign knocked down just before reaching Clachan Bridge.

A report on the state of Clachan Bridge is still awaited by Seil Community Council.

The condition of Kilniver Bridge is regularly monitored. Community councillors will be adding the bridge at the Ardmaddy road end on to its request for monitoring by Argyll and Bute.

Kilbrandon Church has had its application for a new air-sourced pump heating system approved by Argyll and Bute Council.

A new edition of Seil's phone directory is in the making. Islanders are being asked to put it in writing if they want to be featured in the handy booklet that is sold to raise funds for the community council's work, the church and the school. An agreement slip will be featured in the next Seileachan.

## TOBERMORY

Tobermory High School pupils will present Grease, a school production, from Wednesday December 12 until Friday December 14 at 7.30pm at the Aros Hall. Tickets are from £6.

## PENNYGHAEL

Pennyghael Community hall will hold its Christmas market on Sunday December 9 from 1pm to 3pm serving tea, coffee, soup, cake and mulled wine. Everyone welcome.

## BARCALDINE

Work has started on West Highland Housing Association's £1.4million development of a site at Barcaldine.

The project will deliver 10 new affordable homes and is scheduled to be finished in 2020.

The accommodation provided will



The successful Lochnell Primary School pupils.

## Top class at bike training

Primary seven pupils at Lochnell Primary School successfully completed their I-Cycle training.

The combined theory and practical elements of the course help equip the children with the skills and knowledge required to cycle safely on the roads independently – as well as being 'great fun'.

The pupils were joined by volunteers Bel Cameron, Sarah Hunt and Isla Smith, who also

include four two-bedroom and two three-bedroom houses for rent.

As well as this, two two-bedroom and two three-bedroom houses will be for sale through the Scottish Government's New Supply Shared Equity scheme.

The homes will have renewable energy sources including air source heat pumps for heating and hot water.

Dougie Mackie, West Highland Housing Association's chairman, said: 'West Highland is delighted to be working with local contractor Neil McGougan Ltd to deliver 10 much-needed affordable family homes for Barcaldine.'

## BENDERLOCH

completed the training. A school spokesperson said: 'The volunteers have worked really hard with the boys and girls to bring cycling competency and road sense to a safe level.'

'We really appreciate the time they take to do that with the P7 pupils.'

## MULL AND IONA

A call has gone out for people to volunteer as community first responders and help save lives.

Tobermory, Iona, Dervaig, Ulva and Ross of Mull all need more volunteers to bring them up to strength.

Full training will be provided by the Scottish Ambulance Service. All people need is to be fit and well and keen to help others.

The next training course will be held soon. Anyone interested should contact Moray Finch at mfinch@mict.co.uk

## Pupils raise healthy sum for charity

Park Primary School pupils have raised £262.59 for the North Argyll Diabetes Group by running a five-a-day takeaway.

The primary seven youngsters have been learning about profit and loss and decided to add fundraising



Park Primary School pupils created a five-a-day takeaway to raise money for the North Argyll Diabetes Group.

## ARGYLL AND BUTE

A booklet published by Argyll and Bute Council capturing the district's events to commemorate the centenary of World War One is to be published.

The booklet will acknowledge the commitment and dedication shown by local communities to mark the anniversary.

At last week's full council meeting, members paid tribute to everyone who helped to deliver events marking the occasion in a respectful and dignified manner.

Over the last four years, the council and the World War One Commemorative Steering Group have worked hard to actively engage with people of all ages to come up with an ambitious programme of events across the area.

The first major event was a parade and drum head service in Oban in

skills to their studies. At the five-a-day takeaway, the children sold fruit cups, fresh fruit and other healthy food. They also got other pupils at the Oban school to dress up in something blue and bring a donation for the group.

2014. This was followed by a Beating the Retreat service in Campbeltown in 2015; a Battle of Jutland commemoration in Helensburgh in 2016; A Call to Arms week-long exhibition by Live Argyll in Dunoon in 2017 and the commemoration of the SS Tuscania and HMS Otranto on Islay in 2018.

The Islay event was also one of the main national commemorative events and involved working with people from across the globe, as well as attendance by HRH the Princess Royal.

A large number of additional events and exhibitions were organised by local groups and organisations and Argyll and Bute's school pupils were actively involved in their own projects.

Provost Len Scouller said: 'A tremendous amount of work has been done by members of the World War One Commemorative Steering

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Group and the people of Argyll and Bute to pay tribute to all those who made the ultimate sacrifice, 100 years ago, during World War One.

"This booklet doesn't aim to retell Argyll and Bute's war story, but to give people an idea of the amount of research, hard-work and commitment that has been done by our communities. It acknowledges and values the time and effort residents of Argyll and Bute have contributed to commemorate the sacrifices of their forebears and to leave a legacy for future generations."

## OBAN



Kathleen Black with Sandra Halkett.

Friends of Oban Hospice raised more than £1,500 for the town's Dove Centre at its annual flower arranging demonstration at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls on Sunday November 18.

The event was co-ordinated by long-standing committee member Kathleen Black who, as usual, had everything down to a 'T'.

The demonstration was by Sandra Halkett, from Elgin, who captivated the capacity audience with her artistry and storytelling. Sandra's end products were stunning and were raffled at the end of the event.

The crowd also enjoyed afternoon tea, sandwiches and home-baking, donated by committee members and their friends and families.

In his vote of thanks, chairman Iain MacIntyre, in addition to complementing Sandra on her professional



## LOCHDONHEAD

Lochdonhead Primary School pupils were 'very excited' to visit a housing development site at Lochdon, Mull.

On Friday November 23, TSL Contractors Ltd welcomed pupils and teachers to the site.

TSL Contractors Ltd is currently building 14 new houses on the island and this was an opportunity for pupils to visit a construction site on their doorstep.

**Left:** TSL Contractors Ltd welcomed pupils and teachers from Lochdonhead Primary School to their site at Lochdon.

and entertaining demonstration, paid tribute to his hard-working committee and the generosity of the local community in supporting the hospice movement.

## LEWIS AND HARRIS

Western Isles Council is to launch a bus passenger survey as part of a plan to redesign a number of council services.

The results will help influence the outcomes of any service changes in advance of new bus contracts being awarded in 2019. The survey runs until Saturday December 15. Paper copies of the survey are available at Stornoway Bus Station, Stornoway Town Hall, Stornoway and Tarbert libraries, Stornoway and Tarbert comhairle offices and on main bus services.

## BENDERLOCH

Benderloch and North Connel Drama Club presents Alan McHugh's Cinderella at the Corran Halls until Saturday December 8. Tickets are £10 and £8.

## DERVAIG

Dervaig producers' market is at the village hall on Sunday December 16 from 1.30pm to 3.30pm.



Taynuilt Primary School pupils are tackling food waste.

## Pupils tackle food waste

Taynuilt Primary School pupils have won a national cooking competition ran by Zerowaste Scotland.

The competition finals were held in Edinburgh last week and completed many tasks aimed at reducing waste.

School cook Mrs Gilbert and the 'Waste Warriors' teamed up and weighed all school lunch leftovers, separating packed lunch, school lunch and liquid

waste. This information was shared with the school in an attempt to cut down food waste.

In classes, the children made pizzas from leftover toppings from home, fruit salad and smoothies with slightly bruised fruit and learned about food journeys and global food issues.

Taynuilt's November village quiz raised £400 for village hall funds.

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# OUTDOORS

## SNH survey shows upland birds in long-term decline

Woodland and farmland birds are thriving in Scotland but upland birds continue to struggle, according to figures published by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH).

SNH tracks the abundance of Scotland's terrestrial breeding birds using results from the BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey. The report shows woodland birds increasing by 69 per cent between 1994 and 2017 and farmland birds up by 14 per cent. In contrast, upland birds have decreased by 17 per cent.

Among woodland birds, the biggest long-term rises were for chiffchaff, great spotted woodpecker and blackcap. Tree pipits, willow warblers and song thrush recorded increases of more than 10 per cent between 2016 and 2017.

Goldfinch, whitethroat and great tit are now more than twice as abundant as in 1994, while corncrake have also increased by more than 50 per cent.

In the uplands, cuckoo, raven and red grouse populations have increased the most since 1994. However, 10 of the 17 upland species surveyed are in significant long-term decline, including curlew and dotterel which have decreased by 62 per cent and 60 per cent respectively.

Climate change and loss of habitat that provides food and cover are factors driving the long-term decline.

SNH and others are taking action to address this, including ambitious habitat restoration work which will help tackle climate change.

The trust is using ground-breaking new mapping technology to gain a better understanding of Scotland's diverse upland habitats.

These improved peatlands will be an essential boost for struggling upland birds and in particular waders such as curlew and golden plover.

Simon Foster, SNH's trends analyst, said: 'Upland waders are a real concern and we are working with others to try and help these birds through a range of measures.'

# Oban firm wins RSPB innovation award

CuanTec, a blue biotechnology company based in Dunbeg, has won the Innovation Award at the RSPB Nature of Scotland Awards.

A project set up to support great yellow bumblebees on Tiree was also highly commended in the Community Initiative section.

The awards were made during a special presentation dinner on Thursday November 22 with co-sponsor Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) as a celebration of the passionate and dedicated people fighting to save Scotland's wildlife and its unique and special places.

CuanTec is a Scottish start-up with a circular economy, zero waste solution to food waste and plastic pollution. They extract the natural biopolymer chitin from inedible bits of scampi and turn it into compostable, anti-microbial food packaging that makes food last longer and provides an additional 48 hours of shelf life for fresh salmon.

A third of the food in the western world is wasted and 10 per cent of the waste occurs between farm and store. Fresh seafood is particularly prone to spoilage and the industry has been working hard to achieve a shelf-life extension of 48 hours, effectively doubling the time salmon steaks can be displayed in a supermarket.

Dr Cait Murray-Green, chief executive officer of CuanTec, said: 'We are delighted and proud that CuanTec's unique solution to food waste and plastic pollution has been chosen by the RSPB.'

'Our environment is plagued by plastic that is damaging to bird and animal life and now the world has awakened to the need for solutions. CuanTec's new approach will provide an alternative that is environmentally supportive and reduces food waste.'

The Tiree project was highly commended in the Community Initiative section of the awards.

The project highlights the importance of crofting for biodiversity.

Great yellow bumblebees are one of the



BBC Scotland TV and radio presenter and wildlife expert Euan McIlwraith, left, with founder of CuanTec Ryan Taylor, Poul Wend Hansen, head of environment with Balfour Beatty, and TV presenter, writer and naturalist Kate Humble.

Photograph: Simon Williams Photography, Edinburgh.

UK's rarest bumblebees and are only found on flower-rich habitats in areas such as the machair of the Scottish islands and around the north coast.

The Tiree project encourages local volunteers to carry out surveys of the bees, as well as planting new areas of suitable forage plants in gardens and the wider countryside. The project is currently producing positive outcomes.

Tiree Ranger Stephanie Cope said: 'This project has engaged successfully with all age groups in our community to share the story of the great yellow bumblebee. Work to conserve this iconic species has inspired a sense

of pride in our island, along with a desire to show stewardship towards Tiree's machair landscape and the threatened wildlife it supports.'

'With guidance from project leader Janet Bowler, our community has come together to safeguard their natural heritage.'

Kate Humble, TV presenter, writer and naturalist, hosted the Nature of Scotland Awards at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Edinburgh, where 11 people and projects received trophies designed by Bryony Knox and sponsored by Turcan Connell.

For the full list of winners visit [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

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The new partnership will give disabled skiers the chance to try out a mountain resort.

## Nevis Range and Disability Snowsport UK join forces for 2018/19 season on slopes

Nevis Range Mountain Experience in Lochaber (the Outdoor Capital of the UK) is to team up with Disability Snowsport UK (DSUK) for winter 2018/19.

The partnership will involve both parties working together to make the UK's highest snowsports destination more accessible to everyone, regardless of ability, meaning more specialist rental equipment will be available for disabled skiers and snowboarders at the resort, together with increased access to DSUK qualified instructor time.

Nikki Stafford, marketing manager at Nevis Range Mountain Experience, said: 'We are really excited about our partnership with Disability Snowsports UK.'

'Partnering with DSUK means that our mountain will become even more accessible to all abilities

at an affordable price. The partnership will also enable us to provide a training for para athletes, as well providing the facilities and equipment to develop the skills of up and coming para athletes.'

'Snow has already started falling on the mountain and we can't wait for the season to begin.'

The Nevis Range prides itself on disability access throughout the venue, including the only gondola system of its kind in Britain, transporting up to 1,700 snowsports enthusiasts up the mountain every hour.

The Nevis Range Snowsports School has one DSUK qualified instructor among its coaching staff.

The partnership will enable more of the school's instructors to acquire this essential disability coaching qualification to increase the availability of specialist in-

struction and support for disabled skiers and snowboarders.

Mark Kelvin, chief executive officer of Disability Snowsport UK, said: 'We're so excited to partner with Nevis Range in making skiing and snowboarding accessible to disabled people.'

'We're looking forward to working with local accommodation providers to package specialised short-breaks so that disabled skiers and snowboarders can experience the thrill and exhilaration of snowsport at one of the UK's finest mountain resorts.'

'This is a fantastic addition to our current adaptive snowsport schools at dry slopes and indoor snow centres throughout the United Kingdom and a great opportunity to try out a mountain resort before joining us on one of our trips abroad.'



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## This week's walks

### 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)

Saturday December 8:

**Arisaig, Scamadale and Beasdale**

A circuit in the rugged hinterland of Arisaig, with coastal and hill scenery. All on paths or tracks, but some rough going with boggy sections. Option to travel on the West Highland Line.

Start from the CP opposite the Post Office in Arisaig village, NM659864. Follow the B8008 NW then turn onto the minor road along the shore for about 400m, until past the cemetery. Pass through a gate and follow the path uphill to rejoin the B8008. Follow it past the Ch and Sch, then fork NE on to a track that continues beyond the A830 to Kinloid Fm. Continue NE on the track for 5Km, crossing the railway at the level crossing, past Sunisletter to reach Scamadale.

Climb E on a path, curving SE up through a conifer plantation. It emerges onto the open hillside and climbs more steeply, turning S to reach a col at NM707885, 460m alt. From here, a diversion may be taken up NW, then N to the summit of Carn a' Mhadaidh-ruaich, adding 0.8Km and 50m ascent to the route. From the col, follow the path, descending gradually S then SE, to cross the Borrodale Burn at NM712874. Stay on the path, which gradually descends SSW to reach the A830 near Borrodale Ho. Transport required 5mins from start, or train from Beasdale Stn (1.5Km E) at 1627 or 1837.

Grade: L; distance: 11km; height to climb: 270m; map(s): LR41/49, EX376. Meet at Longsdale car park, Oban, at 9.15am, or N Ballachulish School at 9.45am for start of walk at 10am. Leader: Graham Innes 01631 562290 or 07767 714503.

### Ardsheal Hill and Cuil Bay, Duror

A short climb to the summit of this small hill is well-rewarded with an extensive panorama from the Isle of Mull to the Great Glen.

Start at the Duror VH, NN 002563, where ample parking is available. Climb up the rough track behind the village hall. When the track bends NE towards the telecommunications tower, continue N on a faint path up to the summit of Ardsheal Hill, 263m. Descend W, curving SW down a long spur to reach the beach just E of Rubha Mor. Follow a faint path SE along the shore towards Cuil Bay to join a track, which leads to the public minor road. Follow the road to its junction with the A828 at Duror, then cross over to follow the cycle track back to the VH.

Grade: L; distance: 11km; height to climb: 270m; map(s): LR41/49, EX376. Meet at Longsdale car park, Oban, at 9.15am, or N Ballachulish School at 9.45am for start of walk at 10am. Leader: Graham Innes 01631 562290 or 07767 714503.

### NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

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

Sunday December 9:  
**Sron an Isean, Stob Daimh, Stob Garbh, Loch Awe**

Start at the junction of the A85 and the B8077 where parking is available. Walk NE along the road for about half a km and turn left on to a good farm track (leading to Castles Farm). Turn left at the junction to go NW climbing steadily. Continue to the head of the glen and nearly to the end of the track. Leave the track and go NW to the col of Lairig Noe. Climb steeply to Sron an Isean and continue to the summit of Stob Daimh on a fairly narrow and steep ridge. Go south down the ridge and up to Stob Garbh. Then follow the broad ridge SE, then curving ESE to the bridge over the Allt Coire Ghais to join a track leading back to the start point.

(14km, 1150m ascent) Suggested by John Burton; co-ordinated by Suzanne Theobald.

Thursday December 13:

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Cajun Chicken.....	£8.95
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# LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

## Winners celebrate trad awards

Hands up for Trad celebrated Scotland's vibrant traditional music scene on Friday with a staggering 20 awards at the MG ALBA Scots Trad Music Awards.

Hosted by world-renowned Gaelic singer Mary Ann Kennedy and award-winning musician Kim Carnie in Perth Concert Hall, the evening champions Scottish music, heritage and tradition and guests were treated to outstanding live sets from some of Scotland's most exciting trad artists.

Màran brought the crowd to their feet followed by artists including Hannah Rarity, Gordon Duncan Experience,



David Kennedy Scottish Dance Band, Eabhal, Isobel Anne Martin and Mr Mcfall's Chamber, Kinnaris, Gerda Stevenson, Karine Polwart Trio, Gaelic rapper Griogair Labhruidh and Croft No Five. The Belhaven Bursary for

The Belhaven Bursary for Innovation in Scottish Music went to Talisk.

Innovation in Scottish Music, in association with Showcase Scotland Expo, supports the winner to progress unique ideas and empower creation. Financially matched only by the Mercury Prize, the prestigious fund of £25,000 was awarded to Talisk.

Martin Hadden, a member of internationally renowned Scots band Silly Wizard and founder at Birnam CD, presented the Album of the Year Award to musician Duncan Chisholm for his album Sandwood. Chisholm

also picked up the award for Composer of the Year. The Community Project of the Year went to Care for a Ceilidh, a scheme for Gaelic singers and traditional musicians who provide short concerts to residents of hospices and care homes.

Club of the Year went to Partick Folk Club to recognise its contribution to the preservation and progression of traditional music.

Gaelic Singer of the Year was awarded to Eilidh Cormack, a talented artist who is also a columnist, an audio archivist at the Digital Archive of Scottish Gaelic and a tutor at Fèisgoil which delivers

language, music, arts and cultural services to schools and community groups.

The Up and Coming Artist of the Year award exists to discover the next generation of folk acts. The recipient was new folk trio Assynt.

Adding to their list of Trad Award accolades, neo-trad quintet Elephant Sessions picked up the award for Live Act of the Year.

The Citty Finlayson Scots Singer of the Year, sponsored by the Traditional Music and Song Association, went to Iona Fyfe.

Folk Band of the Year went

Turn to page 30

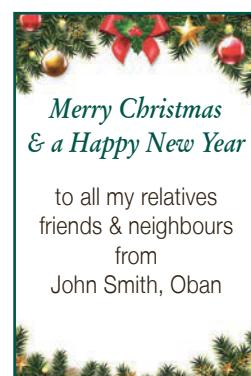
A black and white photograph of four men standing on a set of stone steps. The man on the far left is wearing a leather jacket and a striped shirt. The man second from the left is wearing a dark jacket. The man in the center is wearing sunglasses and a light-colored shirt. The man on the far right is wearing a dark jacket. Overlaid on the bottom half of the image is large, glowing orange text that reads 'HIPSWAY'. Below this, in smaller white text, it says 'PLUS SPECIAL GUEST STEPHANIE CHEAPE'. At the bottom, it says 'SATURDAY 15 DECEMBER OBAN CORRAN HALLS' and '0844 844 0444 WWW.TICKETMASTER.CO.UK'. There is also a small logo for 'regular music presents' in the top left corner.

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Published on 13th December

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Alan Windram.

## Publisher highly commended

An Oban publisher was celebrating on Friday November 30 after being highly commended in this year's Saltire Literary Awards.

Alan Windram, director of Little Door Books, which publishes children's picture books, was singled out for the commendation in the Emerging Publisher of the Year category after judges decided he should be recognised for all he and Little Door Books have achieved in a relatively short time.

Following the event, he told The Oban Times: 'I am really proud to have received the award. It was very unexpected, but I was really chuffed the judges had taken the unusual step to give me the commendation.'

# Tobermory main street lights up for Christmas

Tobermory enjoyed another successful late night shopping and Christmas lights switch-on event on Friday November 30.

This is the seventh year the event has been held. This year Santa had a new grotto and his helpers had pulled out all the stops to ensure it was a magical evening for all the young visitors.

Tobermory High School Pipe Band provided musical entertainment at the lights switch-on, while the island's Natural Voices Choir got people into a festive mood with carol singing round the shops.

The town's Christmas window competition was a huge hit and this year's winner was Tobermory Pharmacy.

This year the magic bell was rung and the lights were switched on by the children of Sophie Asher Cattanach, who owns the Isle of Mull



Tobermory's Christmas shopping night was a huge success with the high school pipe band and Santa's grotto just two of the highlights.

Soap Co. She said: 'What an honour for the brilliant lights team to ask our boys to ring the magic bell and turn on the lights this year, a memory to keep forever. A huge thank you to everyone who came out to support our local shops as

well as local causes. It was an amazing turn out. We got through 10 litres of mulled wine alone in the soap shop. It was nice to see visitors coming to make a weekend of it - a great boost for the local economy.'



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SOUTHWORTH Europe

# Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk

## Care for a Cèilidh wins award

Last weekend, Perth hosted the MG Alba Scots Trad Awards and there were many Glasgow-based winners returning trophies to Glasgow in the days that followed.

The result that pleased me most was the bestowing of the Community Project of the Year upon Care for a Cèilidh. I always think this is a particularly nice category because it does what it says on the tin by focusing on projects that give back to their local communities and, therefore, gives us all time to reflect on the power of traditional music to make a positive difference to people's lives.

Care for a Cèilidh is such a perfect example of that, which is why I write so often in this letter about the great work Donnie Maroot does in regularly organising cèilidhs in care homes throughout Glasgow and beyond - even from his current base in the Isle of Man. The award came



the same week that Donnie received photographs from Cuba of children dressed proudly in the various Scottish football tops that were donated to them through Donnie's recent Fitba 4 Cuba charity.

I am sure the evidence of his charity work helping the people it was designed to help (whether youngsters in Cuba, or old folk in Glasgow) means more to Donnie than any award or trophy ever could

but it is lovely, nevertheless, to see Care for a Cèilidh getting the recognition from the folk music community that it deserves.

## Glasgow winners galore

Other winners who made a triumphant return to Glasgow included Partick Folk Club for Club of the Year, Iona Fyfe for Scots

Perth Concert Hall was the venue for this year's MG Alba Scots Trad Awards which saw lots of worthy winners returning to Glasgow in the days that followed.

Singer of the Year, Assynt for Up and Coming Artist of the Year and Drygate Brewery for Venue of the Year.

The Belhaven Bursary for Innovation in Scottish Music was deservedly won by the brilliant Talisk, a three-piece band featuring concertina, fiddle and guitar, who also spend a lot of their time playing in the vibrant session scene around Glasgow.

Duncan Chisolt had an extremely successful night - claiming the prestigious Album of the Year award and being named Composer of the Year.

Live Act of the Year was won by my good friends, The Elephant Sessions, while Scottish Dance Band of the Year was won by Susan MacFadyen who plays regularly at cèilidhs and dances

around Glasgow and also in the Park Bar.

Dàimh were named Scottish Folk Band of the Year and Inveraray and District Pipe Band are the Scottish Pipe Band of the Year.

Finally, and perhaps most deserving of all, Runrig were given an award for Services to Gaelic and, after they called it a day on a 45-year career in August, I imagine it would be difficult to find anyone who would disagree with that award.

Turn to pages 27, 30 and 31 for a full report.

## What's on

■ Friday December 7: Glasgow Skye Association Annual Concert and Dance, 7.30pm, Glasgow University Union.

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

■ Saturday December 15: Highlanders' Club Ceilidh Dance in Partick Burgh Hall, 8pm.

## Uist book festival success

As an Tobar/Wellsprings, the Uist book festival, celebrated its second successful year welcoming authors and artists from the islands and beyond.

The festival, a recent addition to the Highlands and Islands literary circuit, saw more than 200 people attend events coinciding with Book Week Scotland (November 19-25).

More than a dozen events, including author sessions, children's book readings, literature workshops and cèilidhs, were organised across North Uist, South Uist and Benbecula by a working group representing Ceòlas Uibhist, Cothrom, Taigh Chearsabhaig and the Western Isles Libraries.

Among those taking part were established authors Donald S Murray and Robin Crawford, illustrator Doug Robertson and emerging writer Marion F NicIleMhoire, who was 2017's New Gaelic Writer Award recipient. Gillebride MacMillan presented his new album of self-penned songs, Freumhan Falaichte.

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01631 562168 info@northargyllhouse.org

# M' ALBA

## MY ALBA

**DIARDAOIN 06 AN DÙBLACHD 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 ÙR | NEW: Èòrpa
- 21.00 Dennis Nilsen – Gràdh a' Bhais? (rpt)
- 22.00 Func (rpt)
- 22.30 ÙR | NEW: Slighean Sgoile an t-Saoghal
- 23.15 Dhan Uisge (Spar Cave) (rpt)
- 23.25 ÙR | NEW: Belladrum 2018 Highlights
- 23.30 Seòd a' Chidsin (rpt)

**DIHAOINE 07 AN DÙBLACHD FRIDAY 07 DECEMBER**

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne Children's programming
- 18.35 Machair (rpt)
- 19.00 An Là - News
- 19.25 Fraoch Bay (rpt)
- 19.30 Cearcall (rpt)
- 20.00 Fonn mo Beatha (rpt)
- 20.30 Puir-adhair (rpt)
- 21.00 Dileab Thormoid (rpt)
- 22.00 An Klondike (rpt)
- 22.50 Dhan Uisge (Spar Cave) (rpt)
- 23.00 Billy the Kid (rpt)
- 23.50 Binneas – Na Trads (rpt)

**DISATHAIRNE 08 AN DÙBLACHD / SATURDAY 08 DECEMBER**

- 16.00 Prògraman Chloinne Children's programming
- 17.45 An Là - News
- 18.00 ÙR | NEW: Scottish Premiership – Livingston v St Mirren
- 20.00 Machair (rpt)

**DILUAIN 10 AN DÙBLACHD MONDAY 10 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 Puir-adhair (rpt)
- 21.00 Trusadh – Mgr.
- 22.00 Cuim@ Celtic – Mairi Nic a Ghobhainn (rpt)
- 22.30 San Fhuil (rpt)
- 23.00 Func (rpt)

**DIMÀIRT 11 AN DÙBLACHD / TUESDAY 11 DECEMBER**

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne Children's programming
- 19.00 Turas a' Bhradain (rpt)

**BBC ALBA**

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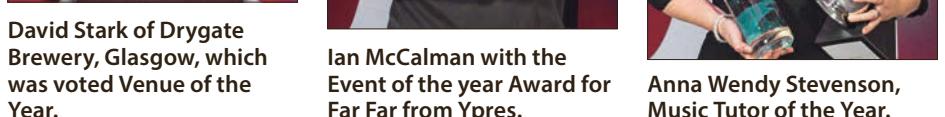
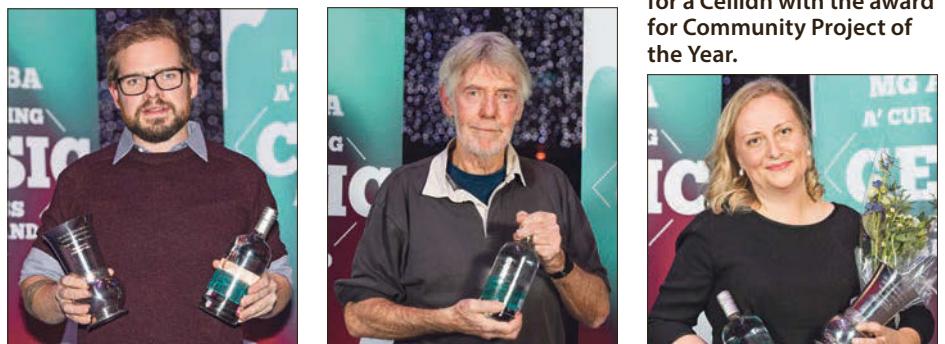
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## Hogmanay at The Nevis Centre

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**Show 9:30pm - 1:00am**  
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\*16-18s may be permitted if accompanied by parent/grandparent, please ask reception for more info



Anna Wendy Stevenson, Music Tutor of the Year.

# Celebrating

Continued from page 27

to Gaelic supergroup Daimh who won the same award in 2015.

The evening also included a number of exclusive recognitions, including Services to Gaelic, where Scottish Celtic rock band Runrig were praised.

The Hamish Henderson Services to Traditional Music Award was presented to Pete Shephard.

The evening continued through to the early hours with the Bob Turner Ceilidh Band and The House of Song led by Doris Rougvie.

Hands Up for Trad's creative director Simon Thoumire said: 'What another great year of Scottish trad music. There is so much vitality in

the scene right now and it is only getting stronger. Roll on 2019.'

Iseabail Mactaggart, MG ALBA's director of strategy and partnership, said: 'The richness and innovation of Scotland's traditional music scene is wonderfully represented by each of these winners. We at MG ALBA are proud of the partnership with Hands up for Trad. These awards recognise all of Scotland's rich cultural tapestry, with Gaelic and Scots and all of Scotland's diverse musical traditions so superbly represented. We congratulate all the winners.'

'All of this is celebrated at the MG Alba Scots Trad Music Awards, with every nominee playing their part. Congratulations to everyone who made the list, especially, to those who emerged as 2018's winners.'

'It's really great to know that in the year Runrig brought their pioneering career to a close, the likes of Talisk,

Gaelic Singer of the Year Eilidh Cormack.

MUST ACROSS SCOTLAND



Citty Finlayson, Scots Singer of the Year.



Elephant Sessions, Live Act of the Year.



Susan MacFayden and Shona McFadyen with the Scottish Dance Band of the Year award.



Pete Shepheard won the Hamish Henderson Services to Traditional Music Award.



Right: The Trad Music in the Media award was presented to Gary West of BBC Radio Scotland's Pipeline.

# Trad Awards

Iona Fyfe, Elephant Sessions, Eilidh Cormack and Assynt are primed and ready to carry Scotland's traditional music heritage into the future.'

Gordon Muir, marketing controller for Belhaven Brewery, said: 'We are delighted to unveil Talisk as the second recipients of the Belhaven Bursary for Innovation in Scottish Music.'

'The energy and changing moods of their music and their connection with their audiences made them the stand-out act in a shortlist full of talented artists, each of whom takes the wonderful spirit of traditional Scottish music and takes it forward in new ways.'

'We very much look forward to working with Talisk on an

exciting bursary programme which starts in May, including applying their creativity to co-inventing a celebratory beer and of course concerts including the Post Parade Party at New York Tartan Week.'

Other winners included:

Event of the Year Sponsored by VisitScotland - Far Far from Ypres

Gaelic Singer of the Year Sponsored by Macmeanmna - Eilidh Cormack

Instrumentalist of the Year Sponsored by Royal Scottish Country Dance Society - Calum Stewart

Scottish Dance Band of the Year Sponsored by National Association of Accordion and Fiddle Clubs - Susan MacFadyen

Scottish Pipe Band of the Year - Inveraray and District Pipe Band

Trad Music in the Media Sponsored by Skipinnish - Pipeline, BBC Radio Scotland

Music Tutor of the Year Sponsored by Creative Scotland's Youth Music Initiative - Anna Wendy Stevenson

Venue of the Year Award Sponsored by Musicians' Union - Drygate Brewery, Glasgow

The Hamish Henderson Services to Traditional Music Award sponsored by Fèisean nan Gàidheal - Pete Shepheard

Services to Scots Language Sponsored by Scots Radio - Janet Paisley

# WHAT'S ON IN OBAN

In partnership with Oban Town Diary bid4oban.co.uk

## THURSDAY 6TH DECEMBER

### Oban Health Walk

Oban Congregational Church Hall  
10am - 11.30am

### Entertainment @ Markie Dans

FREE JUKEBOX EVERY THURSDAY

### Simba Support Group

The Rockfield Centre  
10.00am - 11.30am

## FRIDAY 7TH DECEMBER

### Oban Dance Academy

#### Cheerleading

Glencruitten Church Hall, All Day

### Entertainment @ Markie Dans

Gunna Sound Open till 3am

### Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar

From 9pm, Free Entry

## SATURDAY 8TH DECEMBER

### Oban Dance Academy

#### Cheerleading

Glencruitten Church Hall, All Day

### Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar

From 9pm, Free Entry

## SUNDAY 9TH DECEMBER

### Entertainment @ Markie Dans

QUIZ NIGHT at 9.30pm

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### Art Tours of Main Building

The Rockfield Centre

12.00pm - 3.00pm

### Hill Walk

Lochawie, All Day

## MONDAY 10TH DECEMBER

### Slimming World

Union Street/Argyll Street,

Lochgilphead

5.30pm & 7.30pm

Tel; Rhona 07880 878906

## WEDNESDAY 12TH DECEMBER

### Slimming World

Glencruitten Church Hall, Oban

9.30am, 11.30am, 5.30pm & 7.30pm

Tel; Gillian 07796 040803

### Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar

Lorne Pub Quiz

Starting at 9pm

£25 bar voucher prize and free pizza

Events may charge. Please visit [www.obanwhatson.co.uk](http://www.obanwhatson.co.uk) for more details. To list your event, please call 01631 568000

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

Tel: 01631 562905 or see

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

### FRIDAY 7

13:30	NEITHER WOLF NOR DOG	15
16:00/18:00	RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET	PG
16:00/18:30	THE GRINCH	U
20:30	ANNA AND THE APOCALYPSE	15
20:30	BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY	12A

### SATURDAY 8

11:30/14:30/16:00	THE GRINCH	U
12:00/13:30	RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET	PG
16:45	FANTASTIC BEASTS;	
	THE CRIMES OF GRINDELWALD	12A
18:00	NEITHER WOLF NOR DOG	15
19:45	BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY	12A
20:30	ANNA AND THE APOCALYPSE	15

### SUNDAY 9

12:00/14:45	RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET	PG
12:30	THE GRINCH	U
14:30	NEITHER WOLF NOR DOG	15
17:00	BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY	12A
17:15	FANTASTIC BEASTS; THE CRIMES OF GRINDELWALD	12A
19:45	FAHRENHEIT 11/9	15
20:15	ANNA AND THE APOCALYPSE	15

### MONDAY 10

13:30	FAHRENHEIT 11/9	15
16:00/18:00	RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET	PG
16:00/18:30	THE GRINCH	U
20:30	ANNA AND THE APOCALYPSE	15
20:30	BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY	12A

20:30	ANNA AND THE APOCALYPSE	15
20:30	BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY	12A

### TUESDAY 11

13:15	BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY	12A
16:00/18:00	RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET	PG
16:00/18:30	THE GRINCH	U
20:30	ANNA AND THE APOCALYPSE	15
20:30	FANTASTIC BEASTS;	
	THE CRIMES OF GRINDELWALD	12A

### WEDNESDAY 12

13:15	FANTASTIC BEATS;	
16:00/18:00	THE CRIMES OF GRINDELWALD	12A
16:00/18:30	RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET	PG
20:30	THE GRINCH	U
20:30	ANNA AND THE APOCALYPSE	15
20:30	BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY	12A

### THURSDAY 13

14:00/16:00/18:30	THE GRINCH	U
16:00/18:00	RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET	PG
20:30	ANNA AND THE APOCALYPSE	15
20:30	FANTASTIC BEATS;	
	THE CRIMES OF GRINDELWALD	12A

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## Tiree Music Festival early bird ticket rush

Tiree Music Festival (TMF) is celebrating its fastest ever ticket sales for the tenth annual event.

Seven hundred and fifty early bird tickets sold out in 52 minutes and all glamping and campervan tickets sold out in 10 minutes.

Next year will see the 2,000 capacity festival celebrate its tenth birthday and a special year of celebrations will mark the decade, beginning in January with TIREE: A Toast to 10 Years of Tiree Music Festival show at Celtic Connections. This one-off night will be hosted by Tiree natives Skerryvore and Trail West at Glasgow's Old Fruitmarket where a number of special guests alongside new collaborations from musicians who have played the TMF stages over the last 10 years. TMF10's line-up will also be officially announced as part of this celebratory night and remaining tickets will also be released on general sale.



The provost was joined by children from Glendale Gaelic Primary and Glasgow Gaelic Primary schools.

## Mòd Flag handover signals event's return to Glasgow

Glasgow's Lord Provost accepted the Mòd Flag, signalling the return of the Royal National Mòd to the city, at a special handover outside the City Chambers on November 27.

Lord Provost Eva Bolander was presented with the flag by children from the city's Gaelic schools. The pupils and the flag were then transported to the City Chambers in a taxi featuring the branding of Mòd Ghlaschu 2019, sponsored by Glasgow Taxis.

The Lord Provost said: 'I'm thrilled to have this opportunity to welcome the Royal National Mòd back to Glasgow after 29 years.'

'As a keen amateur piper and proud ambassador for our city and its rich cultural heritage, it's an honour to

accept the Mòd Flag. I know everyone involved in this exceptional event is very excited. We've been preparing for this unique event with An Comunn Gàidhealach and its local organising committee since our successful bid in 2015. Competitors and visitors can count on a warm reception experiencing our citizens' world-famous hospitality and friendliness.'

'Gaelic has been spoken and heard in Glasgow for hundreds of years but the language began to grow with the movement of people from the Highlands and Islands who came here to live and work on the banks of the River Clyde. We're now seeing a modern-day surge in Gaelic's development in our communities and schools.'

# Native American sell-out at Oban

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

many acclaimed films, and it is now the most successful non-Hollywood Native American themed film in years.

Steven has great expectations for it in the UK. He said:

'I reached out to small town cinemas and Oban's Phoenix reached back out to me. I've been really excited about it. We were pre-selling tickets. When I'm going to other cinemas, it's a big help as a self-distributor if I can tell them just how we filled seats in Oban. In big cities it's hard to work up a head of steam but word seemed to get round in Oban.'

Adapted from the acclaimed novel Neither Wolf Nor Dog, by Kent Nerburn, the storyline follows a white author who gets sucked into the heart of contemporary Native American life in the sparse lands of the Dakotas.

The cast includes Lakota elder Chief David Beautiful Bald Eagle in what was to be his last film role.



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Billy Connolly... Healthy recipes...  
Adventure photographer  
Hamish Frost... Perfect party tips...  
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# In film is in cinema



Neither Wolf Nor Dog was Chief David Beautiful Bald Eagle's last film.

'It has been the best-seller just now. It's a bit different for us but then that's what we are all about,' said Phoenix duty manager Marco Pacitti just before the first screening on Friday, which was followed by a second showing on Saturday night.

Three extra showings of the film have been added to the Oban Phoenix Cinema programme: Friday December 7 at 1.30pm; Saturday December 8 at 6pm and Sunday December 9 at 2.30pm.

Steven added: 'I'm thrilled we had two sold out shows last week. Now people who couldn't get in have three more chances to see it. We even had someone drive from Cumbria to see the film.'

He died aged 97 in July 2016 having starred in 40 films, including Dances With Wolves.

## Inveraray and District Accordion and Fiddle Club

Chairman Niall Iain MacLean welcomed a full house to the Inveraray Inn for the November meeting of Inveraray and District Accordion and Fiddle Club.

Supporting players were Fyne Folk, with Jake MacKay on 'moothie', Sally Hall and Alex John MacLeod on fiddle and Agnes Liddell on keyboard. Also playing were James MacArthur, melodeon; the Dalriada Ceilidh Band; Ishbel Fraser on 'moothie'; Peter Stewart on accordion; Jimmy MacDonald on keyboard. Their varied selections were much enjoyed.

Guest artists were the Addie Harper Quartet, below, who had made the long journey from Wick.



With Addie on accordion and steel guitar, his mother Isobel on keyboard, Emily Morrison on fiddle and Callum Wallace on drums, they delighted the audience with a great mixture of sets. Emily enthralled the crowd with her beautiful fiddle playing and it was hard to believe she is only 18 years of age – definitely a star in the making. Callum also sang a couple of well-known songs.

The chairman thanked Addie and the band for a superb night and all the 'local' players for their contributions.

Next week the club looks forward to welcoming the Donald MacLeod Trio from Drymen as guest artistes.

## Your local radio listings

Community Radio - your local radio station  
Tune in to 103.3 or listen live at [www.obanfm.com](http://www.obanfm.com)



For requests, competitions or questions please email: [studio@obanfm.org.uk](mailto:studio@obanfm.org.uk) or call us on 01631 570057

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

**TUESDAY:** 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 10.00 Ken Hunter's Tuesday Morning, 13.00 Macky on FM, 17.00 Drivetime Jim Lynch, 19.00 Highest Praise - Stuart Chalmers, 20.00 Archie Darling'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, 21.00 Gordon's Grooves with Gordon Macintyre

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

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

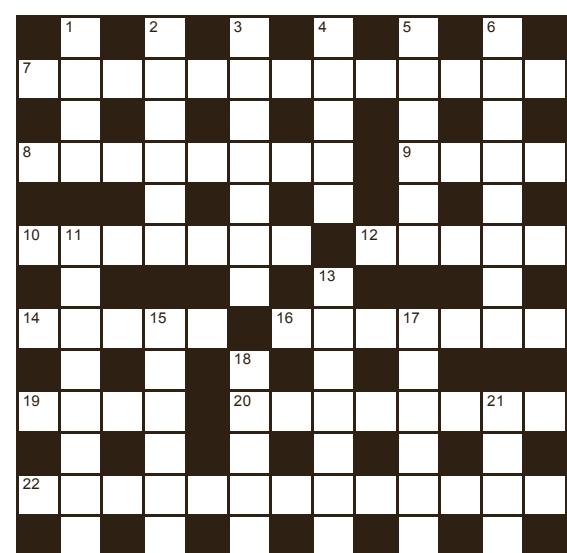
**FRIDAY:** 08.00 Breakfast Show with Laura, 10.00 Teeny and Tiny, 17.00 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 17.30 Drive Show, 18.45 Sports View, 19.00 Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig, 20.00 Lewis Bingham, 21.00 Peter Rannine

**SATURDAY:** 08.00 Breakfast Show with Stephen

10.00 Sat Morning Live, 11.00 Saturday Morning, 12.00 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crowther, 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 Breeze, 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 Entwhistle, 21.00 Drum & Bass - Graham Scott, 23.00 Station Close Down

## Crossword



### Christmas Wreath Making Saturday 8th December

11am- 3pm

**Hope Kitchen**

**2 Soroba Road, Oban**

All materials provided  
Donations welcome for  
Hope Kitchen

### Hand Bells and Christmas Carols

Oban Parish Church  
Saturday 8th December 2018,  
at 3pm

Featuring  
Muckairn Ringers  
Oban & Kilmore Parish Church Choir  
Oban Gaelic Choir  
Entry by donation  
In aid of Carr Gomm  
Supporting People & Communities  
Charity Number SC033491  
Contact: Oban Carr Gomm 01631 562614

### Inveraray & District Accordion & Fiddle Club

**Inveraray Inn**

Wednesday 12th December  
At 8.00pm

Guest Artistes  
Donald MacLeod Trio  
Supporting players  
most welcome

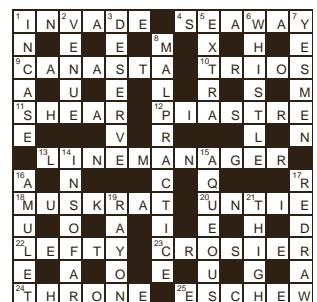
### Across

- 7 Childhood disease (6,7)
- 8 Aquarious for example (4,4)
- 9 Yellow stick (4)
- 10 Margerine (4,3)
- 12 Utter (5)
- 14 Small boat (5)
- 16 Porch (7)
- 19 Voting no (4)
- 20 Fracas (8)
- 22 First and last in Greek (5,3,5)

### Down

- 1 Witty remark (4)
- 2 Ingratiating (6)
- 3 Fireplace furniture (7)
- 4 Spring bloom (5)
- 5 Take (6)
- 6 Empty of people (8)
- 11 Nastily (8)
- 13 Imperfect items (7)
- 15 Plane journey (6)
- 17 Not out (2,4)
- 18 Steel girder (1-4)
- 21 Gigantic (4)

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### An Comunn Gàidhealach – Meur Chruachain **TAYNUILT CHRISTMAS CÉILIDH**

Mary Catherine MacNeil  
Children from the Mòd Academy  
Taynuilt Primary School Choir  
Plus Full Supporting Programme  
Taynuilt Village Hall  
Saturday 15th December  
\*7pm  
(Please note change of time)



# The Tayvallich Inn at Christmas

**Make your Christmas celebrations extra special this year with our new festive menu: Lunch and Dinner from 15th December - 6th January including Christmas Eve**

## STARTERS

SPICED PARSNIP AND CARROT SOUP WTH PARMASAN CROUTONS £5

With warm bread roll and butter (can be served as a vegan option if requested)

SEAFOOD SOUP £6.50

Our own recipe served with a warm bread roll and butter

LAMBS LIVER PÂTÉ £7

Served with red onion jam and toasted brioche

COCONUT COATED KING PRAWNS £8.50

With mango and chilli salsa and lime mayonnaise

FESTIVE MOULES £7.75

West Coast or Shetland mussels steamed in white wine, chilli, garlic, ginger, onions and a hint of cinnamon served with a warm bread roll or swap to chips for £2

DEEP FRIED BRIE £7

Served with cranberry sauce and dressed leaves

SMOKED SALMON AND PRAWN TOWER £8.50

Prawn marie rose and salad leaves wrapped in Murrays smoked salmon

## SIDES

RUSTIC SKIN ON CHIPS £3.25

ROAST POTATOES £3.25

MEDLEY OF ROASTED VEG £3.25

ONION RINGS £3

BRUSSEL SPROUTS £3

BREAD AND BUTTER £2

GARLIC BREAD £3

SOUND OF JURA DULSE SEAWEED £4

## DESSERTS

STICKY TOFFEE CHRISTMAS PUDDING £6

With toffee sauce and Wee Isle vanilla ice cream

FIG AND CINAMON PANNA COTTA £6

Served with a maple vanilla sauce

APPLE CRUMBLE £6

With crème anglaise

PROFITEROLES £6.50

With Wee Isle Dairy vanilla ice cream and chocolate sauce

WEE ISLE DAIRY ICE CREAM

CHILDRENS £3.80 ADULTS £5.70

Made on Gigha – ask us what flavours we have

LEMON SORBET £4

SCOTTISH CHEESE BOARD £8.50

A selection of Scottish cheeses served with oat cakes and red onion chutney

## MAIN COURSES

FESTIVE MOULES MARINIÈRE £13.95

West Coast or Shetland mussels steamed in white wine, chilli, garlic, ginger, onions and a hint of cinnamon served with a warm bread roll or swap to chips for £2

SCOTTISH TURKEY WITH CHRISTMAS TRIMMINGS £16.50

Rosemary roast baby potatoes, chipolatas wrapped in bacon, sage and onion stuffing, sautéed sprouts with pancetta and chestnuts, roasted seasonal vegetables and gravy

WILD CAUGHT HAKE WRAPPED IN PARMA HAM £19.50

Topped with sound of Jura dulse seaweed with a lemon and dill cream served with smoked salmon mash and chargrilled asparagus

VENISON ESCALOPES WITH CHRISTMAS TRIMMINGS £20

Tayvallich Estate Venison fillet with a blackberry jus served with rosemary roast baby potatoes, chipolatas wrapped in bacon, sage and onion stuffing, sautéed sprouts with pancetta and chestnuts and roasted seasonal vegetables

WILD MUSHROOM AND PORT BROCHE £10

A toasted brioche bun filled with wild mushrooms in a garlic and port sauce, served with lyonnaise potatoes and chargrilled asparagus

(can be served without the brioche as a vegan option)

SCALLOPS, HADDOCK, & SMOKED SALMON GRATIN £19

Oven baked with a cheese, cream and leek sauce topped with crispy breadcrumbs and served with salad and rustic chips

10OZ SCOTTISH SIRLOIN STEAK £23

On a bed of chargrilled asparagus with lyonnaise potatoes, onion rings and peppercorn sauce or Laphroaig whisky cream sauce

OUR CLASSIC FISH & CHIPS £12

Fresh haddock fillet in our own beer batter with tartare sauce and mushy peas

## CHILDRENS MENU

### STARTERS

STARTER FESTIVE MUSSLES £3

SPICED PARSNIP AND CARROT SOUP OR SEAFOOD SOUP £3

Served with a warm bread roll and butter

PRawn COCKTAIL £3

Prawn marie rose served with salad leaves and cherry tomatoes

### MAINS

HADDOCK AND CHIPS £7

In our own beer batter served with salad

MINI TURKEY WITH CHRISTMAS TRIMMINGS £6.50

MACARONI CHEESE £6.50

Served with chips

FESTIVE MINI MOULES MARINIÈRE £6.50

With bread or chips

KILTED SAUSAGES £6

Sausages wrapped in bacon with chips and baked beans

## What's on

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

Saturday 22nd December

Live Music in the bar

1st January from 9pm till late

Take a few days break in beautiful Tayvallich  
(We'll even do the cooking)

## Boatmans Cottage Availability in February and March

Three nights' accommodation in a two bedroom holiday cottage, dinner at the Tayvallich Inn and a self service continental breakfast.

Availability Friday to Monday or Tuesday to Friday.

Three course lunch or dinner on three days.  
(Supplements will apply to main courses over £22).

Prices from just £45.50 per person per night

2 people for 3 nights £63 pp/pn (£378 total)

4 people for 3 nights £45.50 pp /pn (£546 total)

including breakfast & lunch or dinner



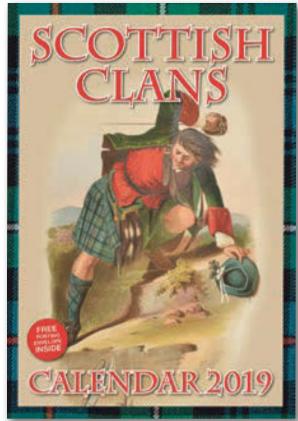
Call or email to reserve your stay  
Tel: 01546 870687 Email:  
[bookings@tayvallichinnholidays.com](mailto:bookings@tayvallichinnholidays.com)

We are open 6 days a week for lunch and dinner. Closed Monday 17th December, Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Wishing our customers and staff a very merry Christmas!

For reservations contact us on 01546 870282

Tayvallich, Lochgilphead,  
PA31 8PL [www.tayvallichinn.com](http://www.tayvallichinn.com)

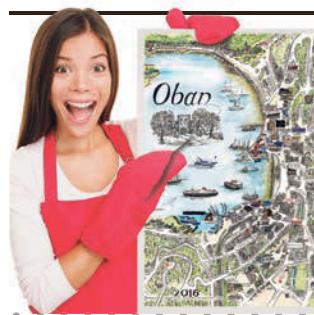




## Scottish Clans 2019 Calendar

The beautifully illustrated Scottish Clans 2019 Calendar is available from [www.scottishcalendars.co.uk](http://www.scottishcalendars.co.uk)

from £7.95 P&P charges may apply



## Oban souvenir tea towel

The beautifully illustrated Oban map tea towel is available from [www.kriscards.co.uk](http://www.kriscards.co.uk)  
from £6.95 P&P charges may apply  
\*other towns / areas available

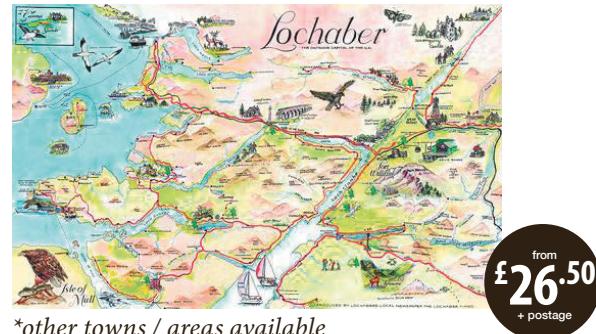


## Scottish Field 2019 Calendar

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from £11.95 P&P charges may apply

## Quality Giclee A3 Printed Map

Lochaber Quality Giclee Printed Map hand drawn by Anne Gardner. Available from [www.kriscards.co.uk](http://www.kriscards.co.uk)



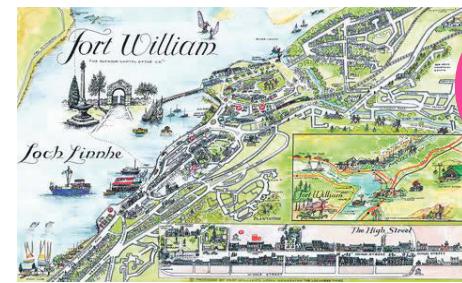
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\*other towns / areas available

## The Oban Times 2019 Calendar



The beautifully photographed Oban Times 2019 Calendar is available from [www.scottishcalendars.co.uk](http://www.scottishcalendars.co.uk)  
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## Fort William tea towel



FROM £6.95  
P&P charges may apply

The beautifully illustrated Fort William map tea towel

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\*other towns / areas available

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Christmas and New Year order deadline closes 15th December 2018



we're  
 celebrating  
 already!

*Time was that Scotland did not celebrate Christmas that much - so when it comes to eating and drinking we have a lot of catching up to do!*

*Did you know that Christmas day was not classed as a public holiday until 1958?*

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Made with Kelp & Machair Botanicals from the Inner Hebridean island of Tiree. Alongside the core botanicals, the predominant flavour of Tyree Gin is achieved through six locally foraged botanicals: Eyebright, Ladies Bedstraw, Water Mint and Angelica collected from the island's rich and fertile machair ground together with Kelp and Sea-Belt from the wild Atlantic Ocean which combine impeccably to create a true taste of Tiree.

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An Act of the Parliament of Scotland back in 1640 made the celebration of Yuletide frivolities illegal. This was repealed in 1686, but it took the nation roughly another 400 years to come round to the idea that Christmas was a good thing.

That's why we in Scotland have always made much more of Hogmanay than the English and Welsh ever have over New Year's Day.

Amongst our festive food specialities are steak pie and black bun for January 1, and it seems a shame that these are now starting to decline a little in people's consciousness - so let's make an effort to bring them back into the limelight.

When it comes to throwing a party or hosting a feast we are so incredibly lucky here in the West Highlands and islands that we have some of the finest ingredients in our larders.

Now, for the sake of this article, we are looking at two larders - the one of produce and 'dried goods' and the other a cold larder, what our great-great grandparents used to have before refrigeration.

*"And let's not forget the cellar where all the drinks are stored."*

In the dry goods larder we have a profusion of local makers of jams, jellies, chutneys and pickles. Not only is every church or charity sale full of jars we also have many small businesses making these products and they are thriving.

And what better to serve these with than a good, locally made cheese. There are some brilliant cheese makers here in Argyll. The lush pastures of Kintyre and the islands make for happy cows producing beautiful, creamy milk. The pedigree herds of Kintyre are consistent winners at the Royal Highland Show.

They are also very happy cows - many are fed on the distillery draff left over from the whisky-making process.

That is before we get on to the fine art of biscuit, oatcake and cake baking.

Shortbread is another delicacy which is now known globally but has its origins here in Scotland.

*"When it comes to our cold larder, prepare to be amazed. The meat and fish reared and harvested here in the West Highlands are world-class."*





Our fish and shellfish farms and fishermen do not just supply the local market; their produce is in demand across the world and consistently wins major food awards. Scottish smoked salmon is considered a world leader and our smokehouses also produce an incredible number of smoked cheeses and meats.

Lamb from the West Highlands is a nature intended; the sheep are left on the hill and have a natural diet. So is the beef and you can taste the difference. There are plenty of wild deer here in Argyll and the venison suppliers across the West Highlands have some of the choicest meat, joints and cuts plus sausages, burgers and pies on offer.

*"When it comes to the cellar - well what can you say? Argyll can boast of two unique malt whisky regions - Campbeltown and Islay."*

Islay and Campbeltown produce some of the most-coveted malts in Scotland. Every year thousands of tourists from all over the world beat a path to visit the homes of their favourite malts - and we have them on our doorsteps to enjoy.

Scotland is synonymous with celebrating the changing of the year and seeing in the New Year without a dram is near unthinkable.

One remarkable thing that has happened here in the West Highlands and islands over the last two decades is the rebirth of local breweries and the revival in the fortunes of gin.

When it comes to brewing we have an impressive portfolio of beers to enjoy, all made at micro breweries throughout the region. These originally sprung up in protest at the mass-produced beers and lagers which dominated the industry and these days some of these breweries are not so micro - as they beers and lagers gain in popularity and esteem.

Gin has become fashionable once again - amazingly so. Never forget that Scotland, and the west coast in particular, is a historic centre for the production of gin. Today it seems that every village and island has its own brand of gin. So many gins . . . and so little time.

*"So enjoy the contents of your larders this Christmas. take time to stock them up and take pride in the local produce therein."*

And also be very proud that Christmas and New Year celebrations and feasting around the world includes products from our country - shortbread, smoked salmon and whisky.

*"Ooh. and we forgot to mention marmalade - that's ours as well!"*

And remember these vital points if you are the cook this year and are feeling pressured . . . if it isn't a white Christmas, just drink the red or rose instead and did you know that stressed is desserts spelled backwards, so tuck in!



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Is a young, independent, organic whisky distillery that exists to create experimental spirits and pioneer sustainable production. The Botanical Spirit is made by redistilling the fruity new make spirit (unaged whisky) with foraged botanicals. Perfect with tonic, and delicious in a martini. For distillery information and product sales [www.ncnean.com](http://www.ncnean.com)

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**Ben Nevis Distillery**  
This Highland single malt was distilled in 2008 and matured only in first fill casks using a mixture of ex Bourbon, Sherry and Wine. Released as a small batch, Batch No.1, late 2018, it was bottled at a cask strength of 62.4% and features a hand numbered back label with tasting notes by Charles MacLean. [www.bennevisdistillery.com](http://www.bennevisdistillery.com)

**Murray Smoked Products**  
Is a long established family run business producing QUALITY Smoked Products including Salmon, Trout & Halibut. The Murray Smoked Products shop is located at 28 Argyll Street, Lochgilphead and stocks a great variety of Fresh & Smoked Fish, Shellfish and Local produce. [www.murraysmokedproducts.co.uk](http://www.murraysmokedproducts.co.uk)



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# Deadline nears for Scots beef support scheme

Eligible farmers and crofters are reminded to apply to the Scottish Suckler Beef Support Scheme (SSBSS) before the deadline of December 31.

The scheme provides support to specialist beef producers and has an annual budget of €38 million for beef calves born on the Scottish mainland and €6.6 million for claims from the Scottish islands.

Support is available for calves provided they are at least 75 per cent beef bred, born on a Scottish holding and kept there for 30 days. This means that animals born on or after December 2, 2018, will not be eligible until next year.

There is no limit to the



**Andrew McCornick.**

number of claims eligible farmers and crofters can make by December 31. The scheme rate per animal will be determined by the total number of eligible animals claimed.

NFU Scotland president

Andrew McCornick said: 'The beef calf scheme is vital to Scotland's beef sector, particularly given the higher costs of producing beef from the suckler herd.'

'This year, every penny available under this scheme for those producing suckled beef calves will be needed given the rise in prices for straw and other inputs and the challenging forage conditions driven by the rainfall shortage this summer.'

'This coupled support payment helps maintain our iconic beef sector, which produces sustainable beef based on Scotland's natural ability to grow grass. I would urge farmers and crofters to take advantage of this support.'

McCormick said: 'Our thousands of farmers and crofters work day in and day out to provide the fine Scottish produce many will enjoy over the festive period.'

'At a time of year when farmers and crofters are working hard to ensure you have food on your plate on Christmas day, what better way to support them than to buy fresh, Scottish produce.'

are also guaranteed of high quality, with traceability back to the farm, knowing that the food they are tucking into on Christmas day is the finest quality.

Visiting a local farmers' market, a farm shop or going directly to the farmer, ensures the meat and vegetables you buy are produced to the highest of standards.

NFUS president Andrew

McCormick said: 'Our thousands of farmers and crofters work day in and day out to provide the fine Scottish produce many will enjoy over the festive period.'

'At a time of year when farmers and crofters are working hard to ensure you have food on your plate on Christmas day, what better way to support them than to buy fresh, Scottish produce.'

## Around the markets

Dalmally – United Auctions sold 561 cattle of all classes at their show sale held at Dalmally Auction Mart on Saturday December 1. Cattle sold in keeping with current levels and a good show of stock of all ages sold to the usual strong force of buyers present. Bullocks sold to average £646.45 per head or 213 pence per kilo (- £37.55 per head or -12 pence per kilo). Heifers levelled out at £529.06 or 194 pence per kilo (- £10.18 per head or -5.15 pence per kilo). Mr William

Cameron, Keith, judged the various classes and his awards were as follows: Autumn-born bullock: 1st and 3rd = M/s MacInnes, Ruaig, Tiree; 2nd = M/s MacVicar, Lephinchapel. Autumn-born heifer: 1st and 2nd = M/s MacVicar; 3rd = Mr A Ritchie, Barbreck. Spring-born bullock: 1st and 2nd = M/s MacVicar; 3rd = M/s Bennie, Merkins. Spring Born Heifer: 1st and 2nd = M/s MacVicar.

Champion = M/s MacInnes – autumn-born bullock. Reserve Champion = M/s MacVicar – spring-born heifer.

Principal lots and prices.

Top prices per head.

Bullocks

AAx: 213p(6) – Otter Estate : 213p – Dalrannoch.

BSHx: 210p – Stronmagachan.

BRBx: 282p and 279p(3) – Lephinchapel : 258p – Ruaig, Tiree : 255p(3) – Lephinchapel : 250p and 249p – Ruaig : 244p(3) – Lephinchapel.

CHARx: 257p(10) – Laggan Farms : 257p – Point Farm : 257p – Merkins : 245p(9) – Laggan Farms : 243p(4) and 240p – Couston Farm : 232p(2)

– Point Farm : 226p(4) – Kildavaig : 225p(3) – Moleigh.

LIMx: 263p – Kilmalieu : 257p – 2 Kiel Crofts : 256p – Lephinchapel : 254p – 2 Kiel Crofts : 246p – Merkins : 246p – Tullochcan :

245p – Merkins : 241p – Kilmalieu : 236p – Tullochcan : 234p – Ruaig : 233p(2) – Craignafeoch : 232p(7) – Stonefield Farms.

SALx: 220p(4) – Otter Estate.

SIMx: 254p(4) – 2 Kiel Crofts : 234p(3) and 233p(4) – Blarghour Farm : 232p(3) – Duallin.

Heifers

AAx: 199p(2) – Point Farm.

BRBx: 321p, 286p, 267p, 253p, 250p and 240p – Lephinchapel.

CHARx: 239p(9) – Laggan Farms : 236p(5) – Kildavaig.

LIMx: 243p – Ruaig, Tiree : 233p and 231p(2) – 16 Carnoch : 228p(7) – Garraron Farm : 227p – Kilmalieu : 227p – Tullochcan.

LUING: 239p – Laggan Farms.

SIMx: 223p – Tigh Na H-Albhe : 220p(2) – Blarghour Farm.

Breeding cattle.

In-calf heifers.

£1600 – Dall Farm : £1550(2) –

Ledcharrie : £1500 – Barguilean,

Ledcharrie and Dall Farm : £1400 –

Dall Farm and Duncroisk(2)

Cows and calves: £880 – Sonachan.

Cows RWB: £830 – Kirkton : £800 –

Sonachan.

Heifers

AAx: 710(2) – Point Farm.

BSHx: £600(4) – Ashgrove.

BRBx: £1170, £1060, £910, £900 and £850 – Lephinchapel.

CHARx: £910(3) and £850 – Point Farm.

LIMx: £940 – Barbreck Farm,

Lochgilphead : £940 – 16 Carnoch :

£830 – Ruaig, Tiree. SHx: £640(2) – Glenure Estate. SIMx: £670 – Duallin.

Top prices per kilo.

Bullocks

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BSHx: 210p – Stronmagachan.

BRBx: 282p and 279p(3) – Lephinchapel : 258p – Ruaig,

Tiree : 255p(3) – Lephinchapel :

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# ISUZU D-MAX WINS PICK-UP OF THE YEAR AT THE COMMERCIAL FLEET AWARDS 2018

Continuing a very successful year, the multi award-winning Isuzu D-Max picks up yet another award, this time at the Commercial Fleet Awards 2018 where it won 'Pick-Up of the Year'.

The Commercial Fleet Awards celebrate the contributions of outstanding individuals, companies and manufacturers within the commercial fleet industry. More than 600 automotive guests attended the event which is seen as an integral part of the commercial fleet industry calendar and offers a vital opportunity for the industry to come together, network and celebrate its successes.

Manufacturer categories compare vehicles across a number of core fleet criteria, including payload, safety, technology, running costs, fuel efficiency, reliability and aftersales service so it is a great accolade that the Isuzu D-Max emerged victorious, beating strong competition from rivals in a highly contested sector.

The Isuzu D-Max was praised for meeting Euro 6 standards without the need for AdBlue, unlike most of its competitors. It has a 3.5-tonne towing capacity, over one-tonne payload and provides a quiet, economical driving experience. The breadth of the

Isuzu D-Max range also impressed judges; with single, extended and double-cab formats available, as well as a wide choice of trim levels. Coupled with the attractive five-year/125,000-mile warranty package and five years' roadside assistance (in the UK and Europe), the Isuzu D-Max proved it was truly built for the professionals who use it.

Christopher Macgowan, OBE, former chief executive of the SMMT and chairman of the judging panel presented this coveted fleet award to William Brown, Isuzu UK managing director, who commented: 'The award for the Isuzu D-Max is a demonstration of the truck's capability, practicality and reliability which meets the needs of fleet customers across the industry.'

The award-winning Isuzu D-Max has already had a successful 2018, being crowned Pick-Up of the Year at the 2018 WhatVan? Awards, Most Reliable Pick-Up for 2018 by Professional Pick-Up & 4x4 magazine, Best Workhorse Pick-Up for 2018 by Trade Van Driver, Best Pick-Up 2018 by Scottish Field, Van/Truck Brand of the year 2018 by On The Tools and Pick-Up of the Year at Export and Freight Transport and Logistic Awards 2018.



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CAPACITY

OVER  
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TONNE  
PAYLOAD

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PS

OVER  
**40**  
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COMBINED

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ADBBLUE

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# THE NEW ISUZU D-MAX UTAH V-CROSS WILL MAKE YOU V-HAPPY



Isuzu UK, the pick-up professionals, are pleased to announce the launch of the new Isuzu D-Max Utah V-Cross double cab. A special edition in the D-Max range, the Utah V-Cross will be produced in a limited volume of 100 vehicles in total and will be available in both a manual and automatic transmission.

This V-Comfortable and V-Capable pick-up retains all the features of the multi award-winning Isuzu D-Max Utah but also includes the following equipment over a standard double cab:

- FRONT SKIRT
- 18" V-CROSS ALLOY WHEELS
- WIRELESS CHARGER
- FRONT CAMERA

Exterior styling is enhanced with a striking front skirt that comprises a grey lower section and gloss black upper section with red stripe detail. In addition, a brand-new wheel for the D-Max range is introduced on Utah V-Cross. This 18" alloy wheel has a 12 V-spoke design and a black diamond cut finish.

Utah V-Cross also contains new technology which has not previously been available on any other D-Max.

A wireless charger has been fitted in the

top glove box with a non-slip pad included to ensure that the phone stays in position. Removing the hassle of forgetting your cable, compatible phones can be recharged without a physical connection to a power supply.

A front camera is located on the front bumper and monitors the area in front of the truck that would normally be in the driver's blind spot.

These images are displayed on the touchscreen to aid manoeuvring when parking. For convenience, the display will toggle between the front camera and reversing camera by moving from first gear (or drive) to reverse.

In addition to the new features mentioned above, the Isuzu D-Max Utah V-Cross

retains its superior 3.5 tonne towing, outstanding 125,000 mile / 5-year warranty (whichever comes first) and 5-year roadside assistance in the UK and across Europe.

Utah V-Cross is available in all standard Utah colours but Isuzu recommend Sapphire Blue, Galena Grey, and Cosmic Black Mica, as these colours provide a particularly strong aesthetic.

Pricing for the new Utah V-Cross manual is only £26,199 CVOTR and £27,199 CVOTR for the automatic. This offers a considerable amount of equipment upgrades for a price walk of only £500 over the standard Utah double cab. Available to pre-order now, the Utah V-Cross will arrive in dealerships from January 2019.

# S&S SERVICES

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## ŠKODA AT THE 2018 PARIS MOTOR SHOW: SPORTY, SUSTAINABLE AND DIGITAL

- ŠKODA allows the show's visitors at the 2018 Paris Motor Show (2 to 14 October) to immerse themselves in a digital world at its stand in pavilion 4
- ŠKODA VISION RS combines sportiness and sustainability
- ŠKODA Kodiaq vRS is the first SUV in the range of sporty ŠKODA RS models
- SportLine and Scout variants are new additions to the ŠKODA Karoq range

Mladá Boleslav / Paris, 1 October 2018 – At the 2018 Paris Motor Show, ŠKODA will be presenting itself not just as

sporty and sustainable, but also as a mobility services provider. The Czech brand is inviting the show's visitors to a special digital experience from 2 to 14 October: At the ŠKODA stand in the User Experience corner, they can go through a fictional day as an avatar that they have created themselves and be guided through tailor-made digital offers.

With the VISION RS concept study ŠKODA offers a look ahead in Paris, presenting a future compact car and the next stage of development for the sporty vRS family. A family that now includes its first ever SUV – the ŠKODA Kodiaq vRS. The SportLine and SCOUT variants expand the range for the ŠKODA Karoq compact SUV.

Developing ŠKODA AUTO from an outright car man-

ufacturer into the 'Simply Clever company for the best mobility solutions' is an important part of the ŠKODA 2025 Strategy. At the 2018 Paris Motor Show from 2 to 14 October, the Czech brand will be demonstrating how the driver and their environment are becoming evermore closely connected.

At the ŠKODA stand, visitors to the show will be able to experience technologies and services virtually which make everyday mobility easier. In the User Experience corner, the visitors can create an avatar and equip their digital alter ego with their own characteristics and needs. Using short videos, the avatar guides the visitor through a fictional day which is made easier by innovations and mobility services from ŠKODA AUTO DigiLab.



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### West End Garage Stirling

Forthside Way, Stirling FK8 1QZ  
01786 235 238 [www.westendskoda.com](http://www.westendskoda.com)

Images are for illustrative purposes only. Model shown is not UK specification and may include features or options which are not available in the UK.

West End Garage is a broker and not a lender and can introduce you to a limited number of lenders, who may pay us for introducing you to them.

\*At the end of the agreement there are three options: i) pay the optional final payment and own the vehicle; ii) return the vehicle, subject to excess mileage and fair wear and tear, charges may apply; or iii) replace: part exchange the vehicle.

With Solutions Personal Contract Plan. 18s+. Subject to availability & status. T&Cs apply. Offers available when ordered by 2 January 2019 from participating retailers. Excludes SE Technology. Indemnities may be required. ^Service plan covers first two consecutive services limited to 1x Oil and 1x Oil and Inspection service. Offers are not available in conjunction with any other offer and may be varied or withdrawn at any time. Accurate at time of publication. Freepost ŠKODA Financial Services.

Official fuel consumption for the ŠKODA OCTAVIA MY19 range in mpg (litres/100km): Urban 40.9 (6.9) to 64.2 (4.4); Extra Urban 61.4 (4.6) to 78.5 (3.6); Combined 52.3 (5.4) to 72.4 (3.9). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for the ŠKODA OCTAVIA MY19 range are 124 to 103 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.

# PUBLIC NOTICES

Oban Times  
PUBLIC NOTICES

Oban Times

## PROPOSED ASSIGNMENT OF A CROFT

Mrs Carole MacDonald is applying to assign the tenancy of the crofts at 87 and 88 Lochside, Fort William, in the Parish of Kilmallie to Donald Kennedy of Caberfeidh, 86 Lochside, 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 January 3, 2018.



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## THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017

The Council has received the following applications from Dickins Hydro Resources Ltd. The applications are developments falling within the Regulations as Environmental Impact Assessment development and accordingly are supported by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

Reference	Description	Location
18/05439/FUL	Installation of a run-of-river hydropower scheme, abstract water from the Allt Fhaolain burn and pipe to a turbine, estimated turbine will be sized up to 425kW (Allt Fhaolain) (revised application - previous 18/02740/FUL)	Land 150M NW Of Inbhirheolian Glenetive
18/05440/FUL	Installation of a run of river hydro-electric scheme (885kW), including one intake structure, buried pipeline, powerhouse building, outfall, bridges, formation of borrow pits and access tracks (Allt Mheuran) (revised application - previous 18/02741/FUL)	Land 650M SW Of Coilettar Glenetive

The applications and the accompanying Environmental Impact Assessment Reports are available for public inspection between the hours of 9.30am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 4.30pm Monday to Friday at the following location:

The Service Point, Charles Kennedy Building, Achintore Road, Fort William, PH33 6RQ They can also be accessed online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/> (search using application numbers above)

Printed copies of the complete individual Environmental Impact Assessment Reports can be purchased from Dickins Hydro Resources Ltd, per Mr William Dickins, Chester House, 81-83 Fulham High Street, London, SW6 3JA; e-mail [william@dickinshydro.com](mailto:william@dickinshydro.com); tel: 0203 286 2203; at a cost of £500.00 each for paper copies and £50 each for electronic.

Any person who wishes to make a representation on the application and Environmental Impact Assessment Report can make them online by visiting <http://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/> or by writing to The Head of Planning and Building Standards, ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX. The deadline for receipt of comments is 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

The Council will acknowledge receipt of comments but is unable to respond individually to points or questions raised. Please note that your comments will be published online. Please quote the application reference number in your correspondence.

Stuart Black  
Director of Development and Infrastructure

## 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
18/02519/PP	Erection of 2 dwellinghouses and formation of vehicular access	Land North Of Morvern Drive Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
18/02487/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Land South West Of Kynsna Glenshellach Road Oban Argyll And Bute
18/02469/PP	Re-spraying of existing glazing and door frames (retrospective)	48-50 George Street Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5SD
18/02352/PP	Demolition of existing stone ruin and erection of garage	Derelict Building West Of 5 Balemartine Balemartine Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute
18/02518/PP	Removal of existing chalet, erection of replacement dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank	Laggan Chalet Stronmilchan Dalmally Argyll And Bute PA33 1AS
18/02499/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 15/02889/PPP (Site for the erection of 2 dwellinghouses)	Land West Of The Cottars Dalmally Argyll And Bute
18/02308/PP	Amendment to planning permission 17/01120/PP (Alterations to existing quay, erection of shed, improved vehicular access and car parking and associated works) - additional small extension and relocation of oil tanks	Milton Harbour Caolis Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute
18/02465/PP	Erection of polytunnel	Land North West Of Dalavich Church Dalavich Argyll And Bute
18/02486/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and workshop, installation of septic tank and formation of access	Land South West Of Narrachan Lochavich Taynuilt Argyll And Bute
18/02507/PP	Erection of single storey outbuilding and installation of 2 rooflights to the rear	49 Frederick Crescent Port Ellen Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA42 7DJ

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



## Argyll and Bute Council

Councillor Roddy McCuish (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)  
Councillor McCuish will be holding a surgery on Friday 7th December 2018 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 1.30pm - 4.00pm  
He can be contacted by email – Roderick.McCuish@argyll-bute.gov.uk and by telephone 01631 567854

Councillor Jim Lynch (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)  
Councillor Lynch will be holding a surgery on Friday 14th December 2018 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 2.00pm - 4.00pm.  
He can be contacted by email – Jim.Lynch@argyll-bute.gov.uk and by telephone 01631 567893

Councillor Kieron Green (E.W. 5 Oban North and Lorn)  
Councillor Green will be holding a surgery on Friday 21st December 2018 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 2.00pm - 4.00pm.  
He can be contacted by email – Kieron.Green@argyll-bute.gov.uk and by telephone 01631 562 444

# West Coast PROPERTIES

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**Regional Press**  
closer to home

**CROFTING  
COMMISSION  
COIMISEAN NA  
CROTEARACHD  
DECROFTING  
APPLICATIONS**

A M Barrie  
79 Lochyside, Kilmallie  
0.08 ha – Amenity ground  
93658

C H Donnachie  
1 Torcastle & Mount Alexander, Kilmallie  
0.111 ha – Site for a dwelling house  
93866

Written comments from any member of the crofting community within the locality of the croft and any expressions of demand for the croft (which may be made public), may be sent to the Crofting Commission by 04/01/19. Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, info@crofting.gov.scot

The Crofting Commission takes the protection of your privacy seriously. To safeguard your personal data and make sure that it is accurate, we only collect and/or store the data necessary to carry out our functions as a regulatory body. You can find a copy of our Privacy Notice at [www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk/openness-and-customer-care](http://www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk/openness-and-customer-care).

**DECROFTING  
DIRECTIONS ISSUED**

P Knight  
25 Auchinahard, Kilfinichen & Kilvickeon  
92227  
0.252 ha

Reason – Existing house site

Condition – No conditions.

T Bryson  
65 Ormsaigbeg, Craigard, Ardnamurchan & Sunart  
91577  
0.0375 ha

Reason – Site for dwelling house

No conditions.

Full details at [www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk)

DONALD EUAN PALMER HOWARD (also known as Lord Strathcona/ The Fourth Baron Strathcona and Mount Royal) (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 Notice is hereby given that any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of The Miller's Cottage Isle of Colonsay Argyll Scotland PA61 7YR, who died on 16/06/2018, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 15/02/2019 after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

**WANSBROOKS**  
Northgate House  
Devizes Wiltshire SN10 1JX T545831

Ms. Karla M. Clark (nee MacLeod) has registered her croft at 4 Acarsaid Mhor, Arcardsaid Mhor, South Uist 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 the 2nd of June 2019.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.r.o.s.g.v.u.k/](http://www.crofts.r.o.s.g.v.u.k/) register/home. The croft registration number is C5437

[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 HIGHLAND COUNCIL OFFICES, 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
18/05364/FUL	Tigh A Righ, Onich		Replacement dwelling house
18/05446/FUL	Grianan House, Arisaig		Alterations and extension to house to form self contained unit
18/05345/FUL	Flat 1, Rowan House, Montrose Avenue, Inverlochy		Installation of 1 x DSLAM telecommunications broadband cabinet measuring 1200mm x 450mm x 1600mm
18/04960/FUL	Kinbreac Duror, Appin		Conversion of barn to self catering accommodation
18/05443/FUL	Land 30M West Of Steall 74 Camaghael, Fort William		Erection of Dwelling House
18/05281/FUL	Land 850M NE Of Reidh-An-Daraich, Inverie Knoydart		Installation of Access Road - Retrospective Application, amended Access Road Line from, 16/00093/FUL
18/05440/FUL	Land 650M SW Of Coilettar Glenetive		Installation of a run of river hydro-electric scheme (885kW), including one intake structure, buried pipeline, powerhouse building, outfall, bridges, formation of borrow pits and access tracks (Allt Mheurhan) (revised application - previous 18/02741/FUL)
18/05439/FUL	Land North West Of Inbhirfhaolain Glenetive		Construction of a run-of-river hydropower scheme, abstract water from the Allt Fhaolain burn and pipe to a turbine, estimated turbine will be sized up to 425kW (Allt Fhaolain) (revised application - previous 18/02740/FUL)
18/05376/FUL	Land 80M South Of Bratach Ban Lettermore, Ballachulish		Change of Use for installation of 7 holiday pods
18/05172/FUL	Kingairloch Fish Farm Loch A Choire, Kingairloch		Marine Fish Farm - installation of Wavemaster 10 x 14.5m raft

**Time period for comments is 14 days**

ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: [epanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:epanning@highland.gov.uk)

**CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS**

YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited.

Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.

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2 The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.

3 The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.

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6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.

7 The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.

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9 The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges

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**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL**

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997  
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT)  
(SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017**

The Council has received **additional information and revised details** for the following applications from Dickins Hydro Resources Ltd. The applications are developments falling within the Regulations as Environmental Impact Assessment development and accordingly are supported by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

Reference	Description	Location
18/02738/FUL	Installation of run-of-river hydropower system, associated plant, buildings and access roads (Allt Charan)	Land 400M North Of Glenview Glenetive
18/02739/FUL	Installation of a 810kW run of river hydro power scheme and ancillary works (Allt Ceitlein)	Land 155M South Of Glen Ceitlein, Glenetive
18/02742/FUL	Construction of run-of-river hydropower scheme including intake structure, penstock pipe and associated buildings, plant and access (Allt Chaorainn)	Land 1000M SW Of Altachaorin Glenetive
18/03024/FUL	Installation of (980kW) run-of-river hydropower system and associated works (Allt nan Gaoirean)	Land 240M NW Of Schoolhouse Cottage Bothy, Glenetive
18/03026/FUL	Installation of (715kW) run-of-river hydropower system, associated plant, buildings and access roads (Allt a Bhiorain)	Land 290M North Of Hollybank Glenetive

The applications and the accompanying Environmental Impact Assessment Reports are available for public inspection between the hours of 9.30am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 4.30pm Monday to Friday at the following location:

The Service Point, Charles Kennedy Building, Achintore Road, Fort William, PH33 6RQ They can also be accessed online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/> (search using application numbers above)

Printed copies of the complete individual Environmental Impact Assessment Reports can be purchased from Dickins Hydro Resources Ltd, per Mr William Dickins, Chester House, 81-83 Fulham High Street, London, SW6 3JA; e-mail [william@dickinshydro.com](mailto:william@dickinshydro.com); tel: 0203 286 2203; at a cost of £500.00 each for paper copies and £50 each for electronic.

Any person who wishes to make a representation on the application and Environmental Impact Assessment Report can make them online by visiting <http://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/> or by writing to The Head of Planning and Building Standards, ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX. The deadline for receipt of comments is 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

The Council will acknowledge receipt of comments but is unable to respond individually to points or questions raised. Please note that your comments will be published online. Please quote the application reference number in your correspondence.

**Stuart Black**  
**Director of Development and Infrastructure**

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falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.

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12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions.

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[www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk) and registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. <http://termsandconditions.wyvexmedia.co.uk>

WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003  
WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND)  
REGULATIONS 2011

APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF AUTHORISATION  
LOCH SPELVE B, LOCH SPELVE, ISLE OF MULL

An application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Scottish Sea Farms Ltd to vary water use licence number CAR/L/1008861 authorising the carrying on of a controlled activity at, near or in connection with Loch Spelve B (Dalmaha) Marine Cage Fish Farm, as follows:

Description of change to controlled activity	Waters affected	National grid reference
Change to the discharge of trade effluent arising from the increased production of salmon at an existing cage fish farm.	Loch Spelve	NM 6889 2700

SEPA considers that the above change(s) to controlled activities may have a significant adverse impact on the water environment and on the interests of other users of the water environment.

A copy of the application and any accompanying information may be inspected free of charge, at the SEPA registry below, between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays). Alternatively, the application may be viewed on SEPA's website at: <http://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/consultations/advertised-applications-under-car/>

Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, either by email to [registrydingwall@sepa.org.uk](mailto:registrydingwall@sepa.org.uk) or to the following address, quoting reference number CAR/L/1008861:

**Registry Department, SEPA, Dingwall Office, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV15 9XB.**

Written representations received by SEPA within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining the application. Any such representations will be placed in a public register unless the person making them requests that they should not be. Where such a request is made SEPA will include a statement in the register indicating that representations have been made which have been the subject of such a request.

Before determining the application, SEPA will:

- assess the risk to the water environment posed by the carrying on of the activity or activities;
- assess the indirect effects of that impact on any other aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected;
- consider any likely adverse social and economic effects of that impact and of any indirect environmental effects that have been identified;
- consider the likely environmental, social and economic benefits of the activity;
- assess the impact of the controlled activity or activities on the interests of other users of the water environment;
- assess what steps may be taken to ensure efficient and sustainable water use; and
- apply and have regard to relevant legislation.

SEPA will then either grant or refuse to grant the application.

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010  
CAPITAL DREDGING AND SEA DISPOSAL  
LOCALINE FERRY TERMINAL, MORVERN

Notice is hereby given that Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of capital dredging and sea disposal at:

Cost	<£25,000	
Location	Latitude	Longitude
Lochaline Ferry Terminal, Morvern	56° 32.204' N	005° 46.484' W
	56° 32.209' N	005° 46.498' W
	56° 32.214' N	005° 46.493' W
	56° 32.218' N	005° 46.503' W
	56° 32.230' N	005° 46.490' W
	56° 32.232' N	005° 46.499' W
	56° 32.246' N	005° 46.489' W
	56° 32.245' N	005° 46.481' W
	56° 32.226' N	005° 46.475' W

WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at **Morvern Post Office, Lochaline, Oban, PA80 5XT.**

Objections relating to safety of navigation in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email to: [MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot](mailto:MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot), quoting reference: **06789** and **Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd**

Fair Processing Notice

The Scottish Government's Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) determine applications for marine licences under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. During the consultation process any person having an interest in the outcome of the application may make representation to MS-LOT. The representation may contain personal information, for example a name or address. This representation will only be used for the purpose of determining an application and will be stored securely in the Scottish Government's official corporate record. Representations will be shared with the applicant and/or agent acting on behalf of the applicant, any people or organisations that we consult in relation to the application and, where necessary, be published online, however personal information will be removed before sharing or publishing.

A full privacy notice can be found at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine/PrivacyNotice>. If you are unable to access this, or you have any queries or concerns about how your personal information will be handled, contact MS-LOT at: [ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot](mailto:ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot) or Marine Scotland - Licensing Operations Team, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB.

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MACLEOD CONSTRUCTION LIMITED

## MAINTENANCE WORKER QUANTITY SURVEYOR SITE ENGINEER, OBAN JOINER (EXPERIENCED)

Industry Experience and Relevant Qualifications essential

Please apply by email with C.V. to [jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk](mailto:jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk) or address below.  
Kilmory Industrial Estate, Lochgilphead, Argyll,  
PA31 8RR



**D.A. MACDONALD**  
Contractors Ltd.

Due to increased workload – we have vacancies for the following:

**Skilled Labourers**  
**Roller / Dumper Operators**  
**360 degree Excavator Operators**

For work starting in January 2019.

To be considered for any of the above positions, please send your cv by e-mail to [enquiries@damacdonald.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@damacdonald.co.uk) or alternatively send by post to our address below.

**D.A. Macdonald (Contractors) Ltd,**  
Site 13AKilmory Industrial Estate  
Lochgilphead PA31 8RR



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## COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

For the offices of  
**Donald Cameron MSP**  
**Jamie Halcro Johnston MSP**

Members of the Scottish Parliament for Highlands and Islands Region

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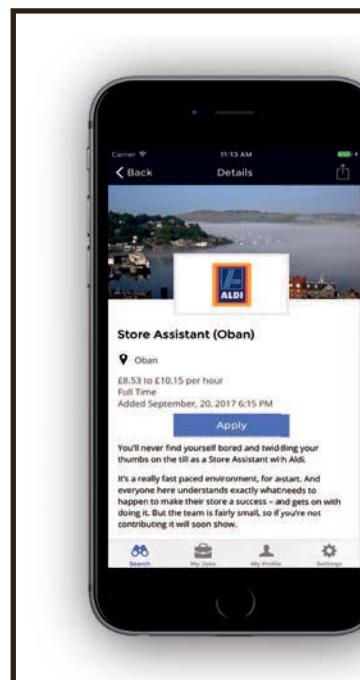
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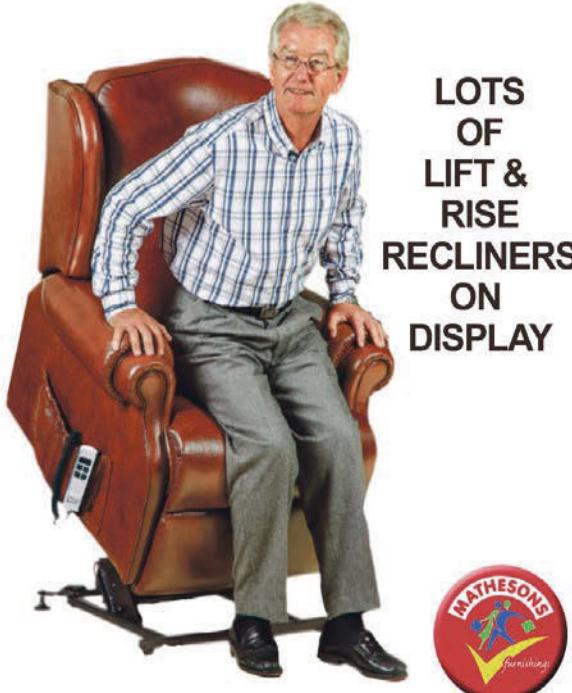


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## A Big Thank You! Pink Ladies Day 2018

The Pink Ladies Day held on the 30th November at the Loch Fyne Hotel, Inveraray, was another huge success, thanks to the many specialist volunteers that gave their time and skill to beautifying and pampering our lovely ladies. Also thanks to the many people that donated either products or money, bought tombola tickets, joined us for afternoon tea, participated or sponsored our twilight walk or donated via our GoFundMe page – friends, family and colleagues... thank you.

Special mention to LeeAnne Fraser Whyte, Niki Currie, Joanne Coleman, Louise Salmon, Clare Pearson (make-up artists), Clare Pearson, Lynne Stewart, Sarah Louise Gillies, Sheridan and Amethyst (hairdressers), Laura from Oban Foot Clinic, Katie from Brindle Beauty, Liz O'Neill, Kim MacLachlan and Jan Ferguson (massage), Julie Baird, Julie Liddell, Caroline Brown (nails), Gail Proudman (Meso Vytal), Ruth Moody (yoga) Paula Robertson (reiki), Neal's Yard (Sarah), Macmillan Cancer Support, Marc and his staff at the Loch Fyne Hotel and Lynsey, Amy, Joanna, Gillian and to Mark and Ian (drivers!), North Argyll Carers and Oban Hospice for support on the day.

There are too many people to thank personally for their financial contribution, but special note of thanks to Margaret Lee for £800 in lieu of birthday gifts, Carol Maclarty for her £1050 in sponsorship, Ania Donnelly for £500 from the Dunoon Holistic Fair, £400 from The John MacEachen Golf Memorial Day, £300 from Karen Miller fundraising and Liza Bourne of Oban for the chocolates. Goodie bag gifts from Boots in Dunoon, Co-op Dunoon, Morrisons Dunoon, Tesco Oban, Gordons the Chemist Oban, Juno Gallery, Dunoon, Gillian and Lauren Stewart, KMR, Quadmania and Wildnerness at Heart soaps and candles.

Thank you all so, so much - from Nicky and all the Pink Ladies! xxxx

## DEATHS

**CRAWFORD** - On November 29, 2018, peacefully at home, Annie Cook Crawford (Nan), in her 91st year, beloved daughter of the late Gilbert and Annie Crawford, a dearly loved sister, sister-in-law, aunt and great aunt. Funeral service at Tarbert Free Church, on Monday, December 10, at 12.00 noon, interment thereafter at Skipness Cemetery, to which all friends are respectfully invited. Donations if desired to MS Mid Argyll.

**HART** - Jean formerly of Lochaline, died peacefully at home in Birmingham on November 20, 2018. Funeral service will be held on Thursday, December 13, at Kiel Parish Church, Lochaline at 1pm followed by interment in Kiel Cemetery. Family flowers only please. All friends respectfully invited.

**MACDOUGALL** - Grace, passed away peacefully on November 30, 2018 at Lochside Care Home, Helensburgh, (formerly of Bunessan, Isle of Mull), sadly missed. Dearly loved wife of Iain, mother of Shelagh, Alasdair, Callum and Iona. Funeral service will take place on Thursday, December 6 at 1.15pm in Cardross Crematorium.

**MACFADYEN** - Ellen. Peacefully at Crosshouse Hospital on Sunday, December 2, 2018, Ellen, beloved wife of John, dear mother of Susan, Campbell and Shona and loving grandmother of Sophie. Funeral service at West Kilbride Parish Church on Monday, December 10 at 1pm, thereafter to West Kilbride Cemetery to which all friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu to Ward 3C, Crosshouse Hospital if desired. No black ties please.

**MACKENZIE** - James (Jas) of Normanton previously of Inverlochy, Fort William, passed away peacefully in Castleford Lodge Care Home surrounded by his loving family on Monday, November 26 aged 78 years. Devoted husband of Beryl, cherished dad of Scott and Shonagh and a much loved father-in-law, grandad, brother, uncle and good friend to so many. James will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved him. The funeral service and cremation will be held on Wednesday, December 12 at Pontefract Crematorium at 12.20 pm. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu for Alzheimer's Society may be left in the donation box outside the Crematorium exit doors. All enquiries to R.J.

Burgess Funeral Directors, Normanton, West Yorkshire on 01924 894017

**MACKINTOSH** - In Fort Frances, Ontario on October 26, 2018, Dr Angus Joseph MacKintosh beloved husband of Carole Martin (of 54 years), loved father of Niall, Alistair, Diarmid, Ewen, Shona, Torquil, Aela and Lindsay, Proud seanair of his grand children and a dear brother of Isleen (U.S.A.), Morag and Joan. Third son of the late James and Maryanne MacKintosh, formerly of Nether Lochaber Hotel, Onich. Interment later at Cillie Choirill, Roy Bridge. R.I.P.

**WANT** - At Islay Hospital, Bowmore, on November 27, 2018, David in his 75th year. Dearly beloved and devoted husband to the late Margaret MacKinnon. Much loved dad of Gordon and Alasdair, adored Grampa Grumps of Amy, Fiona and Melody. A dear father-in-law, brother-in-law, uncle and grand uncle. Much loved and sadly missed.

**WEATHERALL** - Peacefully at home on Tuesday, November 27, 2018, Catherine (Katie). Beloved wife of the late Jack, much loved mum of Anne and Carine, dear mum-in-law of Wolfgang and cherished granny of Andy and Jamie.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**CLAYTON** - Cathie and family would like to express their sincere appreciation to all relatives, friends and neighbours for all the kindness and sympathy shown to them following the sad loss on the death of Stan, a much loved husband, father and grandad. Also to all who attended the church and graveside. Special thanks go to the staff of Ward B, Lorn and Islands Hospital, the A&E Department, Paramedics and respiratory nurses for their sensitive care during his illness. Grateful thanks to Rev Dugald Cameron for his help and comforting funeral service, to D&A Munn Funeral Directors for their dignified services and finally our thanks to Manor House Hotel for their catering following interment. Donations to Oban Hospice amounted to £389.70.

**DENNISON** - John, Maisie, Calum, Elaine and family warmly thank everyone for their support, flowers, cards, telephone calls, visits, home baking, tears, hugs and handshakes after the unexpected sudden passing of Neil. Our grateful thanks to the Macmillan Nurses for their care and kindness to Neil during his very short time with them. Thanks also to Scott, John, Linnie and colleagues at McLellans for

their support and care, also to those who came to tend Neil so unexpectedly at his home. Thanks to Colin, Shiona and Serena for the beautiful flower arrangements and to The Grog and Gruel for their lovely tribute to Neil. Special thanks to Rev Dr John Ross for conducting Neil's service both in Kilmallie Free Church, Caol and at the graveside, and also for his comforting home visits. Thanks also to Kenneth for making it possible for us to be part of many memories and kind words about Neil from all his many friends. Thanks to Sean for playing some lovely tunes at the Church and graveside and to Stewart and team at the Moorings Hotel, everything was just perfect. Special thanks to all who travelled from near and far to say goodbye to Neil especially with it being so sudden and unexpected. The amazing sum of £1,202.94 was collected at the Church and this has now been shared with the Lochaber Macmillan Nurses and Cat Protection, Fort William Branch. Thank you one and all from the bottom of our hearts.

**GRANT** - Frances, Donald, Alan and John warmly thank relations, friends and neighbours for their support and kindness; for cards, letters, flowers and many kind expressions of sympathy following the unexpected loss of Bill, their loving husband/Dad, on 16th November. Thanks to Rev Dugald Cameron for his help, guidance and support, and the personal and uplifting church and graveside services; to those on duty at the church, and Ken Moncrieff for his choice of organ music so beautifully played. Thanks to Catriona and the staff of Hamish Hoey and Sons for taking such care in the preparation and carrying out of the funeral, and to Colin and Joan and the staff of The Olive Garden, for their kind hospitality following the interment. Thanks also to the consultants and staff of the respiratory ward at Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow, for their care and attention during Bill's short stay. To all those who came from near and far to offer their support and pay their last respects, grateful thanks - your generous donations amounting to £812 will be shared between maritime charities. Finally, thanks also for the many messages of congratulations on the occasion of their Golden Wedding on 31st October.

**WHITE** - Johnny's family would like to sincerely thank everyone for their kindness and support, phone calls, cards and flowers following the tragic loss of John (Johnny). Thank you also to the Rev Dugald Cameron for a comforting and compassionate service and to the Royal Hotel for the catering arrangements. We would like to extend a special thank you to Ian MacInnes of D&A Munn for his care, guidance and professionalism in arranging Johnny's funeral, as his kindness and sensitivity went above and beyond what we could ever have expected. Thank you also to Johnny's friends and all who travelled from afar to attend the church and graveside to pay their last respects. The retiring collection for ABCD amounted to £500.00.

**MEMORIAMS**

**BUCHANAN** - In loving memory of my dear mum Chrissie, who passed away December 9, 2016. Your memory is a keepsake with which we will never part, God has you in his keeping, we have you in our hearts. Loved and remembered everyday. Michael and Sharon

**DEMPSTER** - In loving memory of my dear husband Archie who passed away on December 5, 2014. Loved and remembered every day. - Your loving wife Anne xx. Rest in peace.

**DEMPSTER** - Fourth anniversary of Archibald Donald who passed away on December 5, 2014. No farewell words were spoken. No time to say goodbye You were gone before we knew it And only God can tell us why. - Anne Marie, Ian, Archie and Raymond. Miss you dad.

**LAMBERT** - Remembering my dear wife Joey, who died December 6, 2003. With love and a heavy heart. Joey was a lovely human being. Jimmy xx

**MACGILLIVRAY** - In loving memory of Duncan who died December 5, 2009. Treasured memories of a very special person. Always in our hearts. - All the family x

**MACINTYRE** - In loving memory of my dear father Hugh MacIntyre, who passed away December 9, 1970. The years pass by but memories stay Loved and remembered always. - Inserted by his loving daughter Flora.

**MACLEOD** - Treasured memories of Murdo who died on November 29, 2017, a dearly loved husband, adored father, grandfather and brother. Missed every minute of every day. - Jane and family

**MORRISON** - In loving memory of Hector, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, who passed away on December 7, 2013. Forever loved, missed and remembered.

- Lorraine, Paul, Jill and Kyle.

**O'BRIEN** - Treasured memories of Valerie, a loving wife, mum and grandmother, who died on December 4, 2010. Will always be remembered in our hearts and will never be forgotten xxxxxxxx

- Billy, Louise, Laurence, Olivia, Amelie and Lucia.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

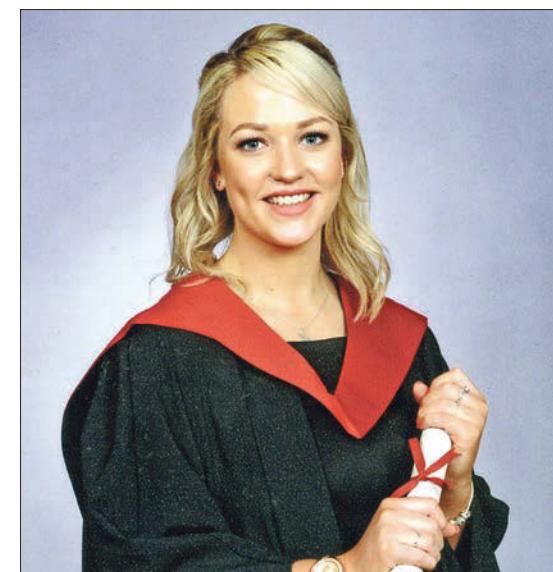
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## GRADUATION



**KIRSTEN ROSE MACLEAN**

Recently graduated from Napier University, Edinburgh, with Bachelor of Nursing with Distinction (Child Health), Kirsten is the daughter of Maggie MacLean, Salen, Isle of Mull and youngest granddaughter of the late Rose and Callum MacLean, Salen, Mull. Also Goddaughter of John MacLean, Salen, Mull and Sandra McCartney, Neilston, Glasgow. Kirsten is a former pupil of Salen G.M.U. and Tobermory High School. She is now working at Edinburgh Sick Kids Hospital, Intensive Care Unit.



**SHANNON MAY MACLEAN**

Recently graduated with a BA in Gaelic and Media Studies from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. Shannon is the daughter of John Maclean and May Morrison, Tobermory. A former pupil of Salen Primary School and Tobermory High School.

# Catholic bishops join Holyrood

Catholic bishops of Scotland joined members of parliament at a special exhibition in Holyrood last Tuesday (November 27) to mark the contribution of the Church to Scottish society.

The event, sponsored by Elaine Smith MSP, highlighted the extensive work carried out by agencies and commissions of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland and its associated organisations.

Bishop Hugh Gilbert, president

of the Bishops' Conference, said: 'We are very grateful to Elaine Smith, MSP, for sponsoring this event and to Aileen Campbell, Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government, for her support.'

'The Church in Scotland welcomed this opportunity to showcase at least something of what we do. The Church is a worldwide, complex and many-faceted institution but in the end, it is people;

names, faces, bodies and souls. It is people helping people, not just from cradle to grave, but from before birth to after death, and everything in between.'

'What we could never do as individuals we can do together from prayer to foodbanks, from the kind word to the very hands-on practical, from here to places in the world hit by disaster or oppression.'

Bishop Gilbert added: 'The

word Catholic means universal. And I think all of what was on display at the special exhibition in Holyrood reflects our desire to reach out and create unity.'

'All we want to be is at the service of each and every human being, created in the image and likeness of God, endowed with an innate dignity and inalienable rights, which neither we nor the law nor government create, but which we can strive to recognise and serve.'

## Former Kirk Moderator regales Oban audience

The Rotary Club of Oban held its 69th annual charter dinner at the Perle Hotel on Friday November 23, the charter having been granted on November 25, 1949.

The principal guest and speaker was the Very Rev Dr Angus Morrison, who was the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland for 2015/16 and is now minister of the Orwell and Portmoak parish in Kinross.

Dr Morrison, who is also honorary chaplain to the Queen, served as a minister in Oban from 1979 to 1986 and he regaled his audience with reminiscences of his time growing up in Oban, where his father was a captain of the Northern Lighthouse ships, and then university life and the ministry, culminating in his year

of high office. Rotary president Iain MacIntyre paid fulsome tribute to Dr Morrison's many scholastic and humanitarian achievements despite being 'just a wee boy from Oban' and it was generally agreed that this was one of the best charter nights in that it appealed to the mood of the audience.

A raffle was held which raised £265 for Hope Kitchen, the Oban-based charity.

The audience was entertained by Emma Hill from the Oban High School Pipe Band and Neil McCracken, also from OHS, on the piano who was the Rotary Club's Young Musician of the Year.

Dr Morrison and Iain came together again on the following Sunday when Iain and his wife Jane attended the



The Very Rev Dr Angus Morrison with Oban Rotary Club president Iain MacIntyre, right.

Gaelic service and communion at the Old Parish Church in Glencruitten Road. The service was conducted by Dr Morrison as a tribute to the much-

loved Rev Dr Roddy MacLeod MBE who, until recently, continued to take the monthly Gaelic service despite retiring as a minister in 2011.

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## THOUGHT for the week

'It's beginning to feel a bit like Christmas' sang three novelty reindeer in a shop display. Surrounded by festive trees and decorations, it did, even though it was still mid-November!

There is something wonderful about this time of preparing: remembering people we will send greetings to, pondering presents, transforming homes into places fit for the festivities and planning the meals to feed our visitors.

It is wonderful, because it constantly points us towards the day itself. In churches, as in homes, we want Christmas to be special; to be a day when love and joy will set aside all the worries and concerns of normal life.

So as the day draws closer, we invite you to come and sing carols and hear again of Jesus's birth, as in our cathedrals and churches we delight in God's message that love and joy can win when we set our hearts and minds to it, not just at Christmas but always.

And to 'feel a bit like Christmas' – the bit that loves and cares – before, on and beyond the day is definitely something to sing about!

So I wish you happy preparations and Christmas love and joy, not just on the day but for all time.

Very Rev Margi Campbell,  
Provost of St John's Episcopal  
Cathedral, Oban

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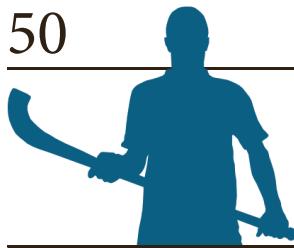
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# SHINTY NEWS

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

# Report from the Camanachd Association

The Camanachd Association held its annual general meeting in the Muthu West End Hotel, Fort William, on Friday November 30.

## Foreword

In his first annual report as president, Keith Loades thanked association staff and directors for their contribution to the sport of shinty, not forgetting the large number of people who give freely of their time to serve on sub committees.

There were thanks for Donald Skinner who retired as chairman of the Behaviour in Sport Committee after many years' loyal service. He has been replaced by another stalwart, John Mackenzie, who brings with him a vast knowledge of shinty.

Keith, however, said there was regret several unsavoury incidents, hitherto unheard of in the sport, took place and whilst the system deals with the offenders, it would be preferable if clubs would take on greater responsibility and prevent these offences taking place in the first instance to protect the good name of shinty.

The Camanachd Association board was further boosted with the co-option of Lyndsay Bradley and John Finlayson who bring different skills to the management team.

Angus MacVicar was thanked for his six years on the board and there was praise for the game's referees and goal judges.

Keith praised Competitions and Events Manager Astie Cameron for ensuring all matches were completed well within the playing season. Only 53 matches were postponed as a result of unplayable pitches, a substantial reduction on previous years, however, bereavements and requests for re-arranged dates led to additional call-offs. Clubs were thanked for their greater understanding of the need for adjustment.

There was also praise for the youth work undertaken by the development team but Keith Loades stressed the need for even more volunteers at club and school level in certain areas to assist with the rise in junior shinty.

Keith's report also stated that the men's and women's senior shinty/hurling matches were played on the main Bught Park pitch on the same day for the first time and there was acknowledgement of the excellent work which had taken place with the Memories Programme.

## Finance

There was positive news on the financial front as the meeting reflected on the 2017 accounts which showed a £42,346 increase in turnover and a surplus of £32,084,

increasing the association's reserves to £108,046 at December 31 2017.

Having fulfilled its obligations and met its targets, the association did not suffer any reduction in their £182,000 funding from Sportscotland, its largest single contributor. Overall grant funding increased by £8,892 despite a reduction in local authority-based grants.

This, coupled with good management of expenditure and generous sponsorship, has enabled the association to predict a £10,000 surplus for year ending 2018 which will also go towards increasing reserves.

The association's main financial target for 2017 was to attract commercial sponsors and the addition of Tulloch Homes as title sponsor for the Camanachd Cup for four years contributed to an overall increase in sponsorship income.

Anderson, Shaw & Gilbert came in as 2017 MacTavish Cup Final sponsors, replacing RBS which did not continue with its sponsorship.

Membership of the Camanachd Association Business Club increased to include five local businesses.

Marine Harvest, which agreed a further three-year sponsorship of shinty, were again the game's principal sponsors.

Total expenditure in 2017 was £553,967, a decrease of £41,688 on the previous year. Huge reductions were made under competitions, where savings across the programme reduced costs by £38,237.

Membership numbers increased to 3,354 in 2017, with a subsequent increase in associated income.

## Competitions

There were 655 senior fixtures scheduled in 2018 compared to 689 the previous year. However, 29 fixtures were unfulfilled as a result of team raising difficulties, down from 39, with 92 fixtures postponed and rescheduled compared to 125 in 2017.

Of the 92 fixtures, 53 were as a result of unplayable fields and eight due to bereavement, whilst a further 26 were rescheduled at the request of both clubs in compliance with the byelaws.

During 2018, 12 fixtures were reversed or transferred to an alternative venue to ensure the game took place on the scheduled date. This compares with nine in the previous year, whilst 14 fixtures were played midweek.

The number of primary school children playing shinty is encouraging with good numbers of teams taking part in tournaments including the North Shinty World Cup and the 2018 MacKay Cup.



Inveraray Shinty Club's Fraser Watt, Lewis MacNicol, David MacPherson and John MacKenzie with their player of the year awards.

The introduction of the first School of Shinty at Kingussie High School is the start of a project to increase the profile and participation in secondary schools.

Talks have already been held with another two schools - one each in the North and South.

A Schools Camanachd Forum was held in Fort William with 14 representatives of schools and clubs in attendance.

## Coaching

The association continues to work with a range of partners to support the recruitment and development of coaches at all levels throughout the sport with all activity based around the Coaching Action Plan.

The recruitment, retention and development of match officials at senior level remains critical and is identified as a priority concern in the strategic plans for shinty. Although some progress has been made, Keith Loades said the situation remains fragile and requires the proactive support of all clubs and associations to help increase and develop the number of match officials regularly active within the game.

A total of 39 referees were allocated to senior games during 2018, up from 34 in 2017. However, only 27 referees were available on a regular basis, similar to 2017.

Two new referees were introduced at senior level during 2018. The grading of referees during the 2018 season was as follows: 11 Grade One, 14 Grade Two and 14 Grade Three.

Four area workshops for match officials and assessors were delivered during 2018.

Sample video clips are available on the CA YouTube channels to encourage understanding of the rules and the decision-making challenges referees encounter. These include: kicks, players on the ground, one handed play, free-hits, pushing,

fouls and dangerous play. Further clips are in production.

## Facilities

The Camanachd Association Facilities Strategy was updated in 2018 in partnership with sportscotland.

Improvements included a new pitch at Kinlochshiel; a new Lovat clubhouse; better drainage at Kyles' pitch, a new second pitch at Newtonmore and a new stand and team rooms at Kingussie.

The development of a new junior pitch at Fort William and a new pitch at Glenorchy are being looked at. A Bught Park user group is also being considered to look at updating and developing the area.

## Medical

It is a key part of a club's duty of care to have an appropriately trained First Aider with each team and a fully stocked first aid kit. A range of local first aid courses delivered by local authorities and other partners are regularly promoted to members.

The Camanachd Association was one of the core sport governing bodies in Scotland to sign up to the Scottish Government's Sport Concussion Guidelines 2015 and Heartstart Camanachd, in association with Lucky2Bhere, are continuing their quest to see every shinty club in Scotland in possession of a defibrillator.

## Communications

There have been consultations with a number of communication experts during the year with a view to enhancing shinty's profile and all the great work taking place in clubs. Positive media coverage of shinty is a key platform for promotion of the sport, reaching large audiences and engaging current and new supporters.

BBC Scotland and BBC Alba continued their excellent television coverage, whilst Radio nan Gàidheal, Cuillin FM, Oban FM and Moray Firth Radio did likewise on the air waves.

The association also acknowledged that shinty benefits from excellent national and local printed media reporting from newspapers including The Oban Times which is a reflection of the important role shinty plays in the life of communities across Scotland.

Norman Strachan's team also helped raise the game's profile, filming a number of matches throughout the year for the association's YouTube channel.

The Camanachd Association also launched a new website last year. This has been its principal communication tool which continues to reach thousands of members and supporters throughout the year, providing a wide range of relevant information and resources.

Social network channels also provide an important communication platform, with more than 7570 'likes' on Facebook and 4,966 'followers' on Twitter.

Both these channels continue to grow in popularity and the association is making increasing use of each channel to keep members informed on the sport's latest developments. With the help of a network of club volunteers, both of these channels continue to provide live goal updates from matches around the country every Saturday throughout the season.

## Proposals

There was a proposal from the Camanachd Referees Association to limit the number of times a ball can be thrown in the air from a hit-in to one attempt at senior level and three times at U17 level to give players an incentive to improve this core skill and to maintain the speed of play. However, it was a counter proposal from Newtonmore allowing three

attempts at each throw-in which won favour. The Camanachd Referees Association's proposal to introduce a sanction for players who do not comply with wearing a chin strap on their helmet to improve safety didn't win enough support, with members feeling the existing rules were sufficient.

The Camanachd Association Board will consider the suggested amendment to referees' fees.

The proposal is 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.

Following the annual general meeting, there were discussions regarding submissions made by Lovat and Glengarry shinty clubs.

Lovat suggested that players' disciplinary points should all return to zero at the end of the season unless there were severe circumstances when the disciplinary committee would have the ability to enforce that a percentage of a player's disciplinary points continue over to the following season. However this did not win favour with members.

Glengarry proposed that the Balliemore Cup be limited to first teams playing in the National Division, the Sutherland Cup be opened up to single teams playing in South and North Division 1, that the Glasgow Celtic Society Cup and MacTavish Cup competitions be restricted to the associated South or North clubs playing in the Premiership or National Division and that the Bullough and Strathdearn Cup competitions be opened up to single teams in the associated South or North Division 2 leagues.

The rational for this request from Glengarry - a single team club - is that their team require a cup to compete in at their standard to enable continued development at club level.

The club competes well with the teams in Divisions 1 and 2 and would like the opportunity to compete at the same level in cup competitions.

There was sympathy for Glengarry's position, although counter-arguments were also heard. The matter will be discussed further by the Camanachd Association board. There was also discussion surrounding whether the age limit for the compulsory wearing of helmets, which is currently up to U17 level, should be increased year-on-year.

## Inveraray prizes

Inveraray's player of the year awards were handed out at the club's annual awards dinner at the Inveraray Inn on Saturday November 17.

Lewis MacNicol had a good season in the Inveraray first team and collected the player of the year prize.

The second team player of the year trophy went to David MacPherson, an award he first won as an emerging youngster in 1994.

Fraser Watt was the first team's top scorer, whilst John MacKenzie topped the scoring charts for the Inveraray seconds.

Eilidh Cameron won the Jock

MacCallum Trophy for the most promising youngster.

## Lochaber AGM switch

Lochaber have brought their annual general meeting forward to Friday December 7.

The venue remains the Bridge Café, Spean Bridge, with a 6.30pm start.

## Glenorchy AGM

Marine Harvest South Division 2 side Glenorchy hold their annual general meeting in Dalmally Community Centre on Friday December 14, starting at 7pm.

Everyone welcome.

## Kinlochshiel shinty/hurling clash

Kinlochshiel welcome their Irish friends Castletown to Kirkton for a shinty/hurling challenge match on Saturday December 8.

Throw-up is at 1pm.

## Newtonmore Player of the Year awards

Newtonmore announced their player of the year awards at the club's annual dinner dance at the Balavil on Friday November 30.

It was a particularly successful season for the Newtonmore first and second teams.

The senior side lifted the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup, the Marine Harvest Premiership and the cottages.com MacTavish Cup, whilst the second team won Marine Harvest North Division 1, the Sutherland Cup and the Strathdearn Cup.

Newtonmore were also big winners at the Marine Harvest annual awards, where they were named club of the year and boss Paul John MacKintosh took the manager of the year accolade.

It was little surprise that another winner, national player of the year Rory Kennedy, was confirmed as Newtonmore's first team player of the year. The second team player of the year award went to Owen Fraser who has been a powerhouse in midfield since switching from his previous goalkeeping position.

Newtonmore's second team goalie Calum Grover, who was also named North U17 keeper, collected the U17 player of the year prize.

## Col Glen prizes

Col Glen confirmed their player of the year winners at their annual dinner and awards night in Colintraive Hall on Saturday December 1.

Hamish Harrison was named Col Glen's player of the year, with Conor Kennedy the club's top goal scorer.

Finan Kennedy was young player of the year and Scott Symons took the most improved player accolade.

## Macaulay Cup draw

The 2019 Artemis Macaulay Cup draw will be made live on Oban FM's Sports Show on Saturday December 8 at 6pm.

# SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

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If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

### Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

### Competition rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

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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.

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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.

## YOUTH RUGBY

## Easy win for youths

Oban Lorne	50
Bishopton/C'buslang	0
T4 West U18 League	

Oban Lorne U18s welcomed Bishopton/Cambuslang U18s to North Connel on Saturday for their latest U18 league match.

The home side have been having a great season and are challenging for the league title along with Stewartry RFC, who travel to Oban this Saturday.

Oban fielded a strong team boosted with six boys from Highland neighbours Lochaber RFC.

It was one-way traffic in the opening exchanges as Oban ran in three tries in the first 10 minutes for a 17-0 lead. Tries were scored by second row Craig Cook, stand-off Angus Neil and number 8 Kieron Morrison. Angus

Neil's try was scored straight from the kick-off with the Oban player running in from his own half.

Oban ran in a further three tries before half-time for a 38-0 lead with Kieron Morrison grabbing a second, Jordan Norman touching down from a powerful trademark run and Lochaber's Lewis Morrison also getting on the scoresheet.

Into the second half Angus Neil and Craig Cook got their second tries of the day giving a 50-0 lead. With the 50-point gap the rest of the game was played out as a development fixture.

Saturday's win lifts Oban to joint first place in the league along with Stewartry RFC.

Kick-off at 2pm is likely to be played at North Connel in a winner-takes-all match!

## GOLF

## Robert misses the cut

Oban golfer Robert MacIntyre, playing in his first season on the European Tour, failed to make the cut at the Australian PGA Championship at the Royal Pines Resort on the Gold Coast last week.

Robert carded a two over par 74 in the first round, which featured four birdies, four bogeys and a double bogey.

The Glencruitten golfer carded five birdies on the opening nine in the second round, but a disastrous eight at the par-four seventh hole put paid to him making the cut. He never recovered from this and had two bogeys on the back nine to finish with a 74.

Robert is back in action this week at the South African Open held at Randpark Golf Club, Johannesburg. The competition gets under way on today (Thursday).

# Prize-winners at Taynuilt

Taynuilt Golf Club held its annual prize-giving in the clubhouse recently.

Winners were: Ladies 2016 Winter Eclectic - Fiona McGlynn; Nant Cup - David Howie; Nant Trophy - Anne MacCalman; Gents ARC Shield - Mike Wardrop; September Swan - Anne MacCalman; Ladies ARC Shield - Anne MacCalman.

Local Charity Competition - Mairead Sim; MacDougall Cup - Mark Henricksen; Childdline Trophy - Moira MacVicar; Duncarden Cup - Carol MacLarty; The Putting Trophy - Anne MacCalman; Balindore Bowl - Carol Church.

Action Research - Mairead Sim; Ladies Captain's Prize - Anne MacCalman; Gents Captain's



Prize-winners at Taynuilt Golf Club.



Club champions Anne MacCalman and David Howie.

Prize - Mark Henricksen; Laroch Quaich (Singles) - David Howie; Coronation Foursomes.

Alice MacCalman and Anne MacCalman; Cancer Care - Grace Petrie and Calum Munro; Save the Children - Keith and Susan Cameron; British Heart - Jane MacIntyre and Alex Needham; MacRobert Thistle - Rob Graham and Alice MacCalman.

August Tankard - Hugh Nicolson; Two Clubs and a Putter - Fiona McGlynn; Lochnell Quaich - Donald Cattanach; Flag Competition Anne MacCalman; Challenge Cup - Carol MacLarty; Inverlorn Plate - Kevin Mills; Collaig Cup - Mark Henricksen; Breast Cancer Now - Carol MacLarty; 9 Hole Competition - Eileen Hill; Kirkton Crystal; Fiona McGlynn; Catherwood Trophy - Robert MacLarty; Muckairn Trophy - Anne MacCalman; September Tankard - Mark Henricksen.

Ladies Doubles - Carol

## GOLF

MacLarty and Fiona McGlynn; Altnacree Trophy - Anne MacCalman; Gents Doubles - Alan Hill and Robert MacLarty; Ladies Foursomes - Susan Cameron and Carol MacLarty; Gents Doubles David Laurie and Ashley Dowell; Gents Order of Merit - Andy Ronald.

Ladies Order of Merit - Anne MacCalman; Bronze Medal (Aggregate Score) - Alice MacCalman; Silver Medal (Aggregate Score) - Anne MacCalman; Bronze Medal Final - Linda Wallace; Silver Medal Final - Carol MacLarty.

Gents Medal Final Winner - Kevin Mills; Gents Senior Club Champion - David Howie; Ladies Club Champion - HC - Anne MacCalman; Gents Club Champion - HC - Andy Ronald; Ladies Club Champion - Anne MacCalman; Gents Club Champion - David Howie

## Saints on Scottish Cup duty this weekend

### East Kilbride Thistle Oban Saints

#### Scottish Cup - 4th Round

A waterlogged pitch at the Murray, East Kilbride, unfortunately forced the postponement of last Saturday's scheduled Scottish Amateur Cup fourth round clash between East Kilbride Thistle and Oban Saints. With more rain forecast for the later part of this week, both sides will have eyes cast heavenwards hoping to avoid another blank Saturday.

#### Impact

Saints opponents come under the umbrella of Scottish Junior Football Association West Region League One club East Kilbride Thistle who added the amateur side to their ranks four years ago. Joining the Strathclyde Saturday Morning Amateur Football League for the 2015-16 season, Thistle made an instant impact gaining promotion to Division 1B after narrowly missing out on the Second Division crown to

champions Westercommon.

The newly-formed club's first silverware arrived in just their second full season when they edged out Holytown Colts and Port Glasgow United by a single point to clinch the Division 1B trophy and with it promotion to the Premier Division.

Season 2017-18 saw Thistle consolidate their new position in the top flight with a mid-table finish while adding the Strathclyde Saturday Morning Amateur Football League Chairman's Cup to their trophy cabinet after a thrilling 4-3 extra-time victory over Windlaw at New Tinto Park, Govan.

This season the Jags' aim will be to improve their position in the final league standings where they again sit mid-table. League big guns East Dunbartonshire and UB United look set to battle it out for the Premier Division trophy.

However, a draw for Thistle against reigning champions Tynecastle coupled with wins over Glasgow South,

AFC Ravenscraig and Westercommon Star gives the East Kilbride men a fighting chance of a top-half finish.

Thistle began their Scottish Amateur Cup campaign with a local derby against Claremont of Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division One. After going in level at the break, the Jags had to come from behind to edge out their hosts by three goals to two.

#### Struggles

In the second round, Thistle had home advantage for the visit of Greater Glasgow Premier Amateur Football League Division Two strugglers Helensburgh. The men from Argyll's struggles continued when they were routed 6-1 at Ballerup.

The third round draw saw Thistle paired with Braehead of the Glasgow and District Saturday Morning Football League Premier Division.

Both clubs were delighted to stick with their customary 10am kick-off at Drumoynes, in the shadow of Glasgow's new Queen Elizabeth

## FOOTBALL

University Hospital, where the East Kilbride men saw off the challenge of their Renfrew-based opponents by four goals to two.

Oban Saints' winning start to the season came to an end in their last outing at Glencruitten when Premier Division leaders St Joseph's FP edged out their hosts by the narrowest of margins. A solitary second-half David Gallagher glancing header was all that could separate the old Scottish Amateur Football League rivals who fought out an even contest in front of a large crowd of well-entertained spectators.

The Saints management duo of Donald Campbell and Willie Gemmell will be looking for a positive reaction from their charges, whom they hope will bounce back immediately from their league set-back and keep their Scottish Amateur Cup hopes alive until after the Christmas and New Year fixture shutdown.

# Argyll rallyers fly in Fife

Report by Gavin Brown

Glenrothes Motor Sport Club hosted the final round of the Scottish Tarmac Rally Championships at the Kingdom Stages rally.

Several Argyll crews were out on the stages on the day, some competing for overall championship positions, some out to consolidate class points and some just out for a blast to shakedown new cars or check old ones.

Willie and Steven Beattie, from Kilmartin and Lochgilphead respectively, were out in their dad's

pride and joy as their own Escort had been unceremoniously dumped upside down in a Northumberland river at the previous round of the championship.

The boys got to grips with the different handling characteristics of Willie senior's car and started to up the pace in the afternoon, bringing the car home in a respectable 16th overall and third in class three. This result was enough to secure second position in the overall championship in class.

Jamie Miller continued the learning process with the little Citroen C2-

R2Max with Ian McCulloch pointing him in the right direction.

A very neat rally from Jamie with very few mistakes saw him finish a creditable 13th overall and second in class two.

Jonathan MacDonald and Chris Wareham were out in the beautifully prepared Mull of Kintyre Cheese-sponsored Peugeot 306. Their pace was good enough for 18th overall and fourth in class three.

Mull pair Malcolm MacDougall and Stuart MacLean were out in the class one Vauxhall Nova and were getting visibly quicker as the day

went on, a trend that had repeated itself over the course of the year with confidence and technique increasing with every stage mile covered. They finished 39th overall and a commendable fourth in class one.

There were three Argyll co-drivers directing their pilots around the airfield. Ian Parker, recently announced as one of seven – and the only Scot – co-drivers to be selected to join the MSA Academy for 2019, was back in the Honda Civic of Fraser Smith.

The final Argyll man out was Eoghan Anderson from Cairnbaan, who was shouting left and right for

## RALLYING

Greg Inglis of Montrose in his quick and agile Lotus Exige. They were surprised, perhaps unjustly, to find out they were sitting well up the leader board after the first few stages. They got the hammer down over the last three and were to finish fifth overall and first in class three.

Last but not least, Oban's Angus MacNeil was out with Sam MacFadyen in Brian Watson's Mitsubishi Evo 9 bringing it home unscathed in 14th overall.



Students at the MMA seminar.



BJJ seminar and gGrading students.

## Martial arts

IAIN RODGER

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### Kyokushinkai Karate

The winter grading tests will take place over the coming weekend and details will be in the next article.

For further information on the Kyokushinkai Karate club, contact Iain Rodger (6th dan) for a friendly chat on 07584 166542 or iain@ikku.co.uk. Alternatively, send a message to Caledonia Kyokushin on Facebook.

### Kickboxing

Classes continue as normal on Wednesday evenings at 4.30pm for juniors and 6pm for seniors at the Old Crofters up above Stoddard's motorbike shop.

Telephone Wullie on 07480 273190, or email shihanwill@gmail.com or you can also find them on Facebook as Senshi Do Kickboxing.

### Shukokai Karate

Students of Argyll Martial Arts/Argyll Shukokai held their winter grading and mini tournament recently.

Grading results. 8th kyu: Emma MacCallum and Alfie McMullen.

7th kyu: Isaac Charlton,

Max Allen and Abbie Frew. 6th kyu: Ellis McKenna, Milly Mitchell, Callan Frew, Jack Wilson, Norma Jack, Tereza Konickova and Connor Blue.

5th kyu: Daniel May, Francesca Warnock, Callan Taylor, Matthew MacDougal and James MacCallum.

4th kyu: Harry Frew, Elaine Mitchel, Joshua Mitchel, Michael Caroll and Matthew Jamieson.

3rd kyu: Lucy Blue, Callan May and James Whitelaw.

2nd kyu: Feorlin Renton, Eloise Ginestiere, Douglas Cameron and Gregor Warnock.

1st kyu: Lewis May and Conan Burns.

Instructor Kenny Gray said: 'I would like to thank senior students Iona MacCulloch, Zoe McKillop and Finlay Lawson for their help, and instructors Flo McBurnie, Andrew Lawson, Andrew Buchanan for giving up their Sunday to run the event. Also a big thanks to Mary Buchanan for catering and Krissy Gray for the administration.'

Anyone looking for more

details on these clubs should contact Kenny Gray (5th dan) at kenni.gray@btinternet.com or on 07884 183905.

### BJJ and MMA

Oban MMA had a busy month with two seminars taking place in the course of a few weeks. The first seminar was a jiu jitsu one with the club's head BJJ instructor Marcos Nardini.

The seminar covered the spider guard position going over sweeps and finishes from this position. At the end of the two hours, students who had shown improvement over the past year were given stripes on their belts. Drew



Coaches James Doolan and Coogie Potter.

MacCallum received his blue belt and long-serving students Mateusz Grabiec, Dawid Loukil and Paweł Sczencia received purple belts.

The second seminar of the month covered striking for MMA and was taken by coach James Doolan who runs Scotland's most successful MMA gym and is home to UFC fighters Danny Hendry and Stevie Ray.

This seminar broke down basic striking and movement with the emphasis of footwork and body position while striking.

Both seminars were well attended with students learning from two of the country's most knowledgeable and respected coaches.

Anyone who would like to

start BJJ or MMA are more than welcome to come along and try. First session is free!

If you would like to try out BJJ or MMA, Oban BJJ can be found on Facebook or you can email using coogiepots@gmail.com.

### Wado Kai Karate

The Park Primary School class is always looking for new members. If you have a child aged seven-10 and want to know more about this class, please contact Mike on 07709 229284 or email m.faulkner6@btinternet.com

Kaishin Wado Kai at Dunbeg School is on a Tuesday from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. All ages are welcome at the club training sessions. Mike Faulkner said: 'We are

a small and friendly club with four black belt trainers available to help students at any time.' For more details, contact Sensei Chris Bruce (7th dan) at crb999@btinternet.com

### Knights Of The Tower – Medieval Combat Oban

Knights of the Tower are still looking to boost their members, male and female, who are welcome to turn up and try out the sport of medieval combat.

The club trains on Tuesday nights from 7pm until 9.30pm above Stoddart's of Oban, in the Old Crofters. Come down to have a look at what we do and have a chat with some of the members or maybe even try it out.

## SCHOOL RUGBY

## Argyll and Bute teams reach cup finals day

Oban High School U16s reached their second successive appearance at Scottish Rugby's School Finals Day with a hard-fought 24-5 win over Ardrossan schools on Wednesday last week.

This makes for a big day out for Argyll and Bute at finals day with South Argyll Schools (Lochgilphead, Tarbert, Islay and Campbeltown) also playing at BT Murrayfield's back pitches in the Bowl Final.

Oban and Ardrossan fought hard to get their semi-final tie played with the weather and CalMac ferry timetables causing issues in the build-up to the match. The players also had to deal with 50mph winds and driving rain making for very challenging playing conditions.

Despite the weather, both teams did their best to create some good attacking rugby in a low-scoring opening 15 minutes or so to the game.

Oban increased their pressure as the first half wore on and eventually breached a strong and well-disciplined Ardrossan defence as tries from Kensi Gray and Naithan McCulloch gave a 12-0 half-time lead for the home side.

Rory Reade and Bailey Wild from Tobermory High School have been a great addition to the team this year and were having their best game in an Oban jersey. Reade impressed in the scrum and made some great carries, while Wild made some fantastic runs out wide to put Ardrossan on the backfoot.

Blair MacFarlane controlled the ball well at stand-off, allowing Gray and McCulloch to score a further try each, giving Oban a comfortable 24-0 lead.

Ardrossan, to their credit, kept their spirits up and scored a very well-deserved try in the closing stages as Oban ran out 24-5 winners.

After just losing out in last season's Bowl Final against Auchinleck Academy, Oban High will face Galashiels Academy in Wednesday's National Plate Final on the BT Murrayfield back pitches. Gala are renowned for being one of the stronger schools in Scottish rugby's Borders heartland and will provide a huge test for the Oban players. Kick-off at BT Murrayfield is at 2pm on Wednesday December 5.

South Argyll Schools U16 will be contesting the Bowl Final also on the back pitches at 2pm against the Royal High School.

Having two teams representing Argyll and Bute at national finals day is a huge boost for the sport in the area with six of our secondary schools represented within the two teams.

## SCOTTISH AMATEUR FOOTBALL LEAGUE

## Results and fixtures

Last Saturday's results: Scottish Amateur Cup, fourth round – East Kilbride Thistle v Oban Saints, postponed; Premier Division One – Campbeltown Pupils no game; Lochgilphead Red Star 1, Hillington 3; Premier Division Two – Tarbert 1, Duncansgate 2.

This Saturday's fixtures: Scottish Amateur Cup, fourth round – East Kilbride Thistle v Oban Saints; Premier Division – Dunoon v North Glasgow Colts; Premier Division One – Castlemilk v Lochgilphead Red Star; Easthall Star v Campbeltown Pupils. Premier Division Two – Busby v Tarbert.

## OBAN SAINTS YOUTH FOOTBALL

## Results and fixtures

This Sunday's results: Scottish Cup – Under 13s 1, Blantyre Soccer Academy 4. Saints goalscorer was Calum MacMillan. Regional Cup – Under 14s 6, Johnstone Burgh 2. On target for Saints were Kyle Cooper (3), Ross Mackay (2) and Andrew Nicol. Under 15s no game; Under 16s no game.

This Sunday's fixtures: Under 13s v Castlemilk BC; Under 14s v BSC Glasgow; Ardencaple v Under 15s; Westercommon Star v Under 16s.

# Derby win for Oban

Oban Lorne	47
Helensburgh	19

Tennent's West Division 2

Oban welcomed Helensburgh to Glencruitten last weekend for the second leg of the Argyll derby in West Division 2.

The home side were looking to repeat the scoreline achieved in Helensburgh where they ran out 48-29 winners in September.

Oban were forced to make a couple of late changes to the starting line-up with players being delayed by work commitment's but the reshuffle didn't appear to upset the rhythm too much.

Michael Mackinnon replaced Kyle Graham in the second row and young Ben MacFarlane-Barrow came in to replace Stephen Povey.

It is encouraging to see the number of young players coming through and competing for places this season.

Oban started brightly and David Cameron finished off a pacey back line move to score in the corner with five minutes of the game gone.

Finlay Carmichael narrowly missed the conversion from out wide.

Helensburgh were quick to bounce back with a penalty kick after one of the Oban players strayed offside at a ruck in front of the posts. The Helensburgh kicker made no mistake with his attempt and the score was back to 5-3.

Oban replied by upping the tempo again and, after a foray deep into the Burgh 22, the referee awarded a penalty to Oban. Scrum-half Vasil Borisov shaped to give the ball to big prop Calum Maclachlan who was steaming in on a great line. This attracted the Burgh defence and the Bulgarian international strolled across the line after selling a great dummy. Carmichael added the extras from in front of the posts and Oban were 12-3 ahead.

Oban were finding their rhythm and were to add to the score sheet with another fine try from Craig Wright. The full-back cruising across



Oban Lorne captain Iwan Roberts dives over for a try.



Oban Lorne were presented with a new set of strips by the Perle Hotel Group. Pictured are Iwan Rhys Roberts, 1st XV captain; Hamish Matheson, club chairman; Oban Perle Hotel food and beverage manager Grigoris Pavlou; David McLaughlin, 1st XV player and assistant coach; along with Sandy Rokitta, Oban Lorne club president.

Photos: Stephen Lawson

the line after being released into space by a some fine back play. Carmichael was on hand again to nail the extra two points with the boot and Oban had stretched the lead to 19-3.

Oban were to secure the bonus-point try after half an hour when captain Iwan Roberts danced his way through the opposition defence to score a fantastic individual try. His fancy footwork and acceleration getting him over the line under the posts. This gave Carmichael another easy conversion to extend Oban's lead to 26 points to three at half-time.

A number of changes were made at half-time with Kyle Graham replacing Michael Mackinnon, who had another great 40 minutes. He is growing game by game and proving to be a really useful player. Oban also welcomed back David McLaughlin to the team for only his second game of the season after breaking his ribs in the first game of the season.

Big Calum Maclachlan was next on the scoresheet for Oban. In typical barnstorming style, the big prop from Luing was at his rampaging best on Saturday, swatting defenders out of his way in a man of the match performance. The big fella will be a major loss to the squad in the



Kyle Graham bursts through the Helensburgh defence.

coming months as he goes in for knee surgery this week.

David McLaughlin then rolled back the years as he collected a kick from Burgh and scythed through the visitors' defence to be dragged short only a couple of yards from the line.

Oban were then forced into another reshuffle as hooker Radi Maksimov had to leave the game with an ankle injury. This forced a major reshuffle with Borisov having to move to hooker from scrum-half and a rejig of the back line. With Oban well ahead, the coaching team wanted to challenge the squad with putting players out of position to test them and see how they would react.

This created a window of opportunity for Helensburgh as Oban took some time to settle and they were rewarded with a try after a period of sustained pressure inside the Oban 22.

This took the score to 33-10 in Oban's favour with 20 minutes of the game to go.

Oban responded well and managed to lift the tempo again and young Lorne Sinclair took a great line off Iwan Roberts to burst through the Burgh defence to score a cracking try.

Craig Wright was to round

## RUGBY

off the scoring for the day with yet another try. He is certainly having a season to remember scoring his 24th try of the campaign. The flying machine revelling in the extra space being awarded to him from full-back. Finlay Carmichael was on hand again to add the extra two points to bring the final score to Oban 49, Helensburgh 10.

## Tough

This weekend Oban welcome Strathaven to Glencruitten for the second time this season after the Lanarkshire team came up early on in the season for a West Shield fixture where Oban were comfortable victors. The Argyll men were made to work hard when they visited Strathaven in the league a couple of weeks later and know it will another tough encounter next weekend. Kick-off 2pm.

Saturday's win lifts Oban Lorne back into second place in Division 2.

The club are also hosting a Christmas ceilidh in the clubhouse this Saturday night with the Dice Ceilidh Band providing the music. All members and non-members are welcome to attend.



The Scotland women's international squad. Glencoe's Helen Nelson is pictured second from the left in the middle row with Oban's Abi Evans fourth from the right, also in the middle row. Photos: Scottish Rugby

# Narrow defeat for Scotland

Continued from page 56  
off the back of a 38-21 win against Wales and some great performances against two England teams.

Scotland women, ranked 11th, had been back in camp following a disappointing loss in Italy earlier in the month. They were focused with what they needed to work on and eager to prove themselves to the home crowd.

Straight from the whistle, Scotland showed power and determination that hadn't been present in Italy. They opened the scoring thanks to a Canada infringement which gave Helen Nelson the opportunity to kick a penalty.

## Short drive

Canada put the first try on the board though as they responded immediately from the restart with a score after a short drive. Scotland's defence stayed strong throughout the opening quarter of the match as Canada pushed them on their line.

After 22 minutes, Canada gained their second try of the match after they managed to move along the Scotland line before pushing through a gap on the wings.

Chloe Rollie, Lisa Thomson and Abi Evans had a few decent opportunities to break through the Canadian line, but the visitors were quick to pull their defence back.

The crowd enjoyed some exciting plays, including a Lisa Martin interception just shy of Canada's attacking 5m, thwarting their mission for the try line. Rollie and Evans took the ball up the wings, but they were stopped in their tracks at the half-way line. The momentum pushed Scotland to try again.

Scotland fired the ball along the line. Jade Konkel had a strong carry through the defence to gain some ground. The ball got passed out the back and along to Abi Evans who pushed through the final five metres to cross the line.

A lineout just before the half-time whistle saw Megan Kennedy taking the ball and pushing through the defensive line. Konkel then supported with a carry of her own before successfully achieving Scotland's second try of the match. Lisa Martin converted to allow Scotland to take the lead 15-14 at the half-way mark.

## Momentum

Into the second half and it took Scotland a short while to regain their momentum. This wasn't helped by Canada achieving a try in the 43rd minute.

Jade Konkel responded with a good carry of the ball to break the defence and their momentum was restored.

With 25 minutes still to go and some fresh legs in the form of new cap Bry Nelson, Scotland's skipper Lisa Thomson closed the margin again as she scored from close range after an impressive driving maul from

the forwards. Five minutes later and Canada scored with a try of their own to push the gap in the score.

Scotland responded immediately, and Emma Wassell got the ball over the line from close range after good phases in the Canadian 22. To add to the tension, the referee sent it to the TMO, who, after reviewing, awarded the try.

A searing break from Chloe Rollie was nearly a score but the ball was knocked on over the line.

Scotland had the momentum with five minutes remaining. Canada were then penalised inside their own 22. Lisa Thomson lined up a penalty kick on 77 minutes but her effort went wide.

At the final whistle, Scotland had given everything but unfortunately finished up on the wrong end of a 28-25 scoreline.

## WOMEN'S RUGBY



Glencoe's Helen Nelson.

Oban's Abi Evans.



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## WEATHER

### Thursday

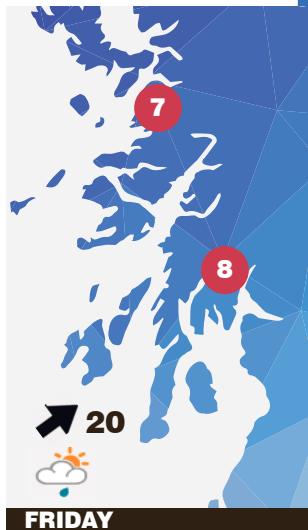
Light rain showers with a moderate breeze  
Temperatures 7°C to 10°C.

### Friday

Light rain showers and a fresh breeze  
Temperatures 6°C to 8°C.

### Weekend

**Outlook**  
Saturday Light rain showers and a moderate breeze  
Sunday Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures 3°C to 8°C.



**FRIDAY**

## 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)

Thur	04.49	3.8	11.04	1.0
	17.00	3.9	23.31	1.1
Fri	05.24	4.0	11.45	1.0
	17.34	3.9	** **	* *
Sat	00.06	1.1	05.58	4.1
	12.25	1.1	18.07	3.9
Sun	00.42	1.1	06.33	4.1
	13.02	1.2	18.42	3.9
Mon	01.19	1.2	07.09	4.0
	13.40	1.4	19.17	3.8
Tues	01.57	1.3	07.45	3.9
	14.18	1.6	19.53	3.6
Wed	02.36	1.5	08.24	3.7
	15.00	1.8	20.30	3.4

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  
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Prize-winners  
at Taynuilt

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AND TIDES - SEE PAGE 55



Oban girl Abi Evans dives over to score her first try for Scotland during the recent international match against Canada held at Scotstoun. This was Abi's ninth cap for her country.

Photo: Scottish Rugby/SNS Images

## Abi scores for Scotland

Scotland	25
Canada	28

Women's International

Oban's Abi Evans gained her ninth cap for Scotland

and scored her first try for her country in the recent international against Canada at Scotstoun. Abi plays for Hillhead Jordanhill in the Tennent's Women's Premier League.

Also in the Scotland line-up against Canada was Glencoe's Helen Nelson, who plays her rugby in France for Montpellier.

Scotland women will be proud of their performance

against the Canadians in Glasgow.

The match was the finale of the celebration of a women's and girls' rugby day after two exciting finals for the Girls' Schools Cup draw.

### WOMEN'S RUGBY

Going into the match, Canada, ranked fourth in the world, were the firm favourites. They were coming **Continued on page 53**

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## Villagers win fight for speed limit at school

by Mark Entwistle  
[markentwistle@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:markentwistle@obantimes.co.uk)

Parents and villagers at North Ballachulish are celebrating after their efforts to get the speed limit reduced outside a local primary school finally paid off.

Following two years of campaigning, the decision has been taken to reduce the speed limit outside St Bride's Primary School from 40mph to 30mph, but villagers have vowed to keep on campaigning to get it lowered further.

Councillor Andrew Baxter, local MSP Kate Forbes and Nether Lochaber Community Council chairman Iain Jenner have all given their support to the community efforts.

Local resident Katie Daynes has been one of the most vocal campaigners – she has lost three cats to traffic on the busy road in recent years.

She told the Lochaber

Times: 'It's bad enough losing much-loved pets, never mind the thought that a child or an elderly person might get knocked down if something wasn't done.'

'The campaign to try to get the speed limit reduced started two years ago – it should never have been allowed to have a 40mph zone outside a school in the first place.'

'We didn't want to have to wait until someone was killed before action was taken. And while we will take the chance to have the limit reduced to 30mph, we will fight on to get it lowered to 20mph.'

Kate Forbes, who joined campaigners last week, had met recently with Ms Daynes and Councillor Baxter to discuss concerns about speeding near St Bride's Primary School and the speed limit on the B863.

Ms Forbes told us: 'This a road is in a built-up area that

runs past a primary school, nursery and a local play park, and it is particularly hazardous at the sections with no pavement.'

'The continued reports by parents and residents of vehicles speeding has prompted safety concerns in the village.'

I'm pleased that Highland Council has confirmed that it will reduce the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph, but the local community would still like to see a further reduction to 20mph.'

'There is consensus among elected representatives such as myself and local councillor Andrew Baxter, as well as residents, parents, pupils and the head teacher, on the grounds of road safety.'

A community consultation also received unanimous support in favour of reducing the speed limit to 20mph.

Continued on page four.

### Dad's pride at Katie's close shave



Katie Connolly, from North Corran, pictured with her dad, Ally – who needed treatment for a brain tumour – after she had her head shaved last week to raise thousands of pounds for the Brain Tumour Charity. Turn to page two for full story and more photographs. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos



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Katie with her family and hairdresser Debbie Cox, left, and above, with her dad and with the giant cookie from the Brain Tumour Charity. Below left, Katie has her head shaved.



# Teen's head shave raises thousands

by Mark Entwistle  
markentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

When teenager Katie Connolly announced she wanted to have her long tresses shorn to raise money for a charity funding research into brain tumours like the one suffered by her dad, the initial target was £500.

So everyone was staggered last week when the Brain Tumour Charity benefited to the tune of nearly 20 times that amount thanks to the 13-year-old from North Corran.

Katie's dad, Ally, a freelance outdoor activities instructor, was diagnosed with a brain tumour in 2015. He went through an operation and then treatment throughout the following year.

However, the results of a recent six-monthly MRI scan revealed Ally's tumour had reappeared and he was placed back on chemotherapy.

Ally says that after Katie, the youngest of his two daughters, decided she wanted to have her head shaved to raise money for the charity, her family tried to dissuade her.

'Katie had been talking about doing a head shave for a while and we had tried to put her off – showing her pictures of people like Brittany Spears and Sinead O'Connor after they'd had their hair cut off,' Ally told the Lochaber Times with a laugh. 'But she is as stubborn as her mother.'

Once it was agreed Katie could do 'The Big Shave' fundraiser, her mum, Jess, set up a Facebook page with details.

'We had hoped it might raise

£500 for the charity. However, it has now raised more than £8,800 and with gift aid added it should be around £11,000 so far,' said Ally last week.

He says the family wanted to generate publicity about Katie's efforts for three reasons - to highlight the 'awesomeness' of Katie and the generosity of everyone who donated; to shine a spotlight on the great work done by the Brain Tumour Charity and to ensure publicity

**'Of course I'm really proud of her. We all are.'**

about Ally's symptoms before he was diagnosed mean other people may be helped earlier.

'After Jess put the appeal on Facebook, it just grew arms and legs. Everyone is now over the moon with the amount raised. We just can't believe it,' Ally explained, adding that donations had ranged from £4 to an amazingly generous one of £750 from one couple.

Ally is clearly very proud of his daughter: 'Of course I'm very proud of her. We all are. It's a fantastic effort.'

It was an epileptic seizure in 2015 after months of strange smells and tastes that led doctors to diagnose 39-year-old Ally's problem as a brain tumour.

'I was practically living at the Beatson [cancer centre] in Glasgow for all that plus over six weeks of radiotherapy,' said Ally.

Then it was a round of MRI scans every three months to check for any signs of the tumour, which then changed to every six months.

And it was one of these six-monthly scans in September that detected a tiny nodule, just half a centimetre in length, meaning Ally needs more chemotherapy.

With dad and daughter now sporting similar hairdos, Ardnamurchan High School pupil Katie says she was happy for hairdresser Debbie Cox to relieve her of her long locks: 'I don't mind having it all cut off as it is for a good cause and at least I have seven hats to keep my head warm,' she laughed.

Katie says school friends at Ardnamurchan high have all been supportive and full of admiration for her efforts: 'Everyone was wanting to touch my head afterwards,' joked Katie, who donated her hair to the Little Princess Trust which provides real hair wigs for young people who have lost their hair as a result of cancer.

Katie Grier, west coast representative for Brain Tumour Charity, was also present for The Big Shave, afterwards presenting Katie with a special giant 'thank you' cookie.

Ms Grier said: 'What Katie has done is absolutely fantastic.'

The amount Katie had raised by the time she had her hair cut off was enough to fund 35 days of research into brain tumours.'

To donate to Katie's fantastic fundraising appeal go to:

[www.facebook.com/donate/260543197941236/](http://www.facebook.com/donate/260543197941236/)

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**Oban  
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# Belford doctor was over five times limit

Fort William's Belford Hospital looks set to lose one of its most experienced doctors after he appeared in court for sentencing on a second drink driving offence.

Consultant anaesthetist Dr Alexander Kollar has worked at the Belford for more than 12 years, but defence agent Hamish Melrose told the court his client was now considering retiring and returning to his native Czech Republic.

Kollar, 59, of Glasdrum Road, Fort William, had pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing to driving his car in Grange Road, Lundavra Road, Argyll Terrace and elsewhere in the town on September 30 this year with a breath alcohol reading of 117mgs of alcohol in 100mls of breath. The legal limit is 22mgs.

Sentence had been deferred for the preparation of a criminal justice social work report.

Procurator Fiscal Depute Matthew Kerr told the court

this week Kollar had gone into a local shop in the town around 3pm on the day in question.

Mr Kerr said witnesses had become suspicious when Kollar had difficulty in trying to pay by card and they had also detected the smell of alcohol on his breath. When Kollar had left the shop a witness had followed him and saw him get into a car in the car park.

'It mounted the kerb and [he] drove on with no lights on.'

'The accused then started his vehicle but it remained stationary for a period before leaving and turning left into Grange Road where it mounted the kerb and drove on with no lights on,' said Mr Kerr.

Mr Kerr told Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald that police had been alerted. Kollar, he said, had continued driving, eventually turning into Argyll

Terrace and hit a fence post: 'The accused was seen to exit the vehicle but soon returned and began driving back down the hill they way he had come.'

'At about 9.55pm police received the report of someone crashing into the fence. They traced the vehicle and identified the occupant as the driver, who was unsteady on his feet and smelling strongly of alcohol.'

In mitigation, Mr Melrose queried several of the points of the fiscal's narrative, saying the time of the incident had been 9.30pm, while details about the card being blocked due to errors entering the PIN number were incorrect as Kollar had a contactless card. As for the fence post Kollar's car had struck, Mr Melrose said this was at the entrance of Kollar's own driveway.

Mr Melrose told the court Kollar had been living on his own for the last four years and on the Sunday the offence

happened was 'seeking solace' by consuming alcohol.

'My client fully acknowledges what he did and I found him to be shocked and upset.'

Mr Melrose said Kollar's role at the Belford was an 'extremely stressful' one and he could be on call for a considerable time: 'He suffered a heart problem last year and two days after this incident he suffered a heart attack and had to be hospitalised. He knows better than almost anyone else this was very serious and he was signed off work for six months.'

'He is now facing an enquiry by the General Medical Council and while it is not yet 100 per cent certain, it seems this offence may have brought to an end his career in Fort William. He is now considering retiring. To say he will be a great loss to this area is an understatement.'

Sheriff MacDonald fined Kollar £3,300 and banned him from driving in the UK for three years.

## Baxter slams council's 'excuse' over parking

Fort William and Ardnamurchan councillor Andrew Baxter has hit out at attempts by Highland Council leaders to justify their decision to block Lochaber councillors' plans to remove parking charges in Fort William over the festive period, writes Neill Bo Finlayson.

Mr Baxter resigned from the council's education and housing committee after a decision made by the Lochaber area committee to introduce two hours free parking in the run up to Christmas was overruled by what he termed 'the Inverness mafia'.

Highland Council has since stated the decision to block the proposal was based on its car parking policy.

Council leader Margaret Davidson said because of this, the Lochaber committee 'was not able to take this decision at that time'.

She continued: 'We need to be mindful that the council is currently overspent by £2.2million and we are doing everything possible to

bring this overspend down by the year end.' However, Mr Baxter described this as 'a load of nonsense' and said: 'The council agreed in June that for 2018/19 only, any shortfall in area car parking income was to be underwritten from the overall community services budget.'

'Far from creating a shortfall in car parking income, Lochaber is paying tens of thousands of pounds extra into the council coffers compared to the last year.'

'It is other areas that are putting pressure on council budgets by failing to introduce car parking charges as agreed in this year's budget. Why should places like Dingwall, Nairn and Wick avoid paying when we've been paying here in Fort William for decades?'

'It seems that it is one rule for Lochaber and another for Dingwall.'

The issue of Fort William Christmas parking will be considered at the Highland Council's next meeting on Thursday December 13.

## Woman who died in Glencoe named by police

Police Scotland have named the woman who died in Glencoe last Monday as Rebekah Caroline Pettifer, 52, from Northamptonshire.

Ms Pettifer, who was known as Caroline, was recovered from an area close to a path leading towards Buachaille Etive Beag.

A 23-year-old woman, believed to be Ms Pettifer's daughter, was also recovered during the operation and



taken to the Belford Hospital in Fort William for treatment.

They were airlifted from the area by a Coastguard helicopter after concerns were raised

by hillwalkers shortly after 9.30am. The incident also saw the involvement of Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team.

Police say there are no suspicious circumstances relating to Ms Pettifer's death and a report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal, as is standard practice.

It is believed Ms Pettifer had gone to seek help after her daughter became unwell after the pair got into difficulty.

## VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER



We've all heard the phrase 'shop local' and at this festive time, when most of us are doing more shopping than usual, it is a great chance to support our wide range of fantastic local businesses.

That's why we're once again running our 'shop local' festive prize draw.

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The office is open 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday. Entries close at 5pm on Friday December 21. The winner will be drawn on Monday January 7 2019.

To check whether a business is a member of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, visit the members' pages on [www.lochabercb.com](http://www.lochabercb.com). Enjoy your Christmas shopping and good luck.

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MSP Kate Forbes joined local resident Katie Daynes and other protestors to ask for a reduced speed limit outside St Bride's Primary School. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

## Villagers win fight for speed limit at St Bride's school

**Continued from page one**

'I hope in light of local opinion and the proximity to the school and play park, that council officials will consider reducing the speed limit to 20mph.'

'I've also asked the council to ensure the 30mph speed limit can come into effect as quickly as possible.'

Mr Baxter added: 'This has been a long-term campaign, where I've supported local res-

idents to get a reduced speed limit. It seems an historical quirk that this section was set at 40mph, when it goes past a school and a play park; all in an area where there is no pavement.'

'I'm delighted the council has seen sense and confirmed the limit will go down to 30 mph.'

I want them to move faster though in the planned implementation. This new limit should be a priority.'

by Neill Bo Finlayson  
[nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk)

More than 40 guests joined Lochaber Women's Aid (LWA) last Friday to celebrate the organisation's 15 years of service.

Displays in Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church Hall gave statistics about the use of the service over the years and involved partner organisations which work alongside LWA. The exhibition included personal accounts from women, children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse. Visitors to the exhibition were visibly moved by the displays.

The afternoon also saw the first recruits signing up to become 'Friends of Lochaber Women's Aid'.

The event, formally opened by Kate Forbes MSP, included guest speakers Dr Marsha Scott, Detective Inspector



Liz Fotheringham, left, the first women's support worker in Lochaber, cuts the special 15th birthday cake and, below, more than 40 people visited the exhibitions.

member of LWA, spoke with fondness, humour and emotion about the trials and experiences of the early years of the service before cutting a celebratory birthday cake.

Karen MacInnes, chairwoman of LWA, thanked the board and staff of LWA, past and present, for their service over the 15 years but most of all wished to give praise to the service users themselves.

Referencing the recent funding cuts made by Highland Council, Karen called on the Scottish Government and Highland Council to provide long-term funds to safeguard future provision of the service in Lochaber.

She left the audience with the question: 'What does it say about our society when we are cutting a lifeline service and leaving them to try to make up the difference with local fundraising in the community?'

Craig Thomson and Stephen Kennedy from McIntyre & Company, which also delivered informative panel sessions about the new Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Bill and legal measures to protect and support women and children affected by domestic abuse.

Liz Fotheringham, the first women's support worker in Lochaber and now a board



## WHAT'S ON in Lochaber

Tearlach MacFarlane will deliver a talk entitled Leac a Bharataich - the Rock of the Standard. As Glenfinnan's local historian, Tearlach will share his knowledge around the controversial issue of exactly where the Jacobite Standard is believed to have been raised in August 1745. This promises to be an interesting and entertaining evening and may challenge conventional thought. Everyone welcome on Thursday December 6 at 8pm in the Ben Nevis Hotel.

Room 13 Studios in Caol is holding its fourth exhibition and pop-up shop POP-UPPOSSUM! on Saturday December 8 from noon to 5pm. T-shirts, sketchbooks,

fine art prints, music, pizza and adopt-a-rock will feature. Admission is free. Visit the studio above the library, Caol Community Centre.

Lochaber Natural History Society's next talk is by Alistair Whyte of Plantlife Scotland on Scotland's Important Plant Areas. The meeting will be held at An Drochaid, Claggan Road, Fort William, on Monday December 11 at 7.30pm. 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. To book a space contact the centre manager on 01397 600111. All proceeds will go to the continued upgrading of Kilmallie Community Centre.

Christmas with The Nevis Partnership: join The Nevis Partnership and High Life Highland rangers at Ben Nevis Visitor Centre between 12.30pm and 2.30pm on Sunday December 9 for a Christmas celebration. There will be a host of Christmas crafts for all ages and a chance to buy handmade, sustainable

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# Young people more committed to staying in Lochaber

by Neill Bo Finlayson  
[nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk)

More young people see themselves living and working in Lochaber in the future, a new report published this week shows.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) carried out a survey into the attitudes and aspirations of 3,130 young people aged 15 to 30 in the region, who shared their views on the Highlands and Islands as a place to live, work and study.

The final report shows increasing numbers of young people want to live and work in the Highlands and Islands, with the proportion of committed stayers up from 36 per cent to 46 per cent.

More than half of respondents said they anticipate living in the Highlands and Islands in 10 years, which was particularly the case with those living in Lochaber.

The findings also show fewer school leavers are committed to leaving the Highlands, while almost 70 per cent agreed people who stay are lucky to be able to work or study locally and most believe leavers will return to the region when the time is right.

West Highland College UHI in Fort William has welcomed the report and believes the development of the college has 'increased the positive perception' of opportunities and boosted the confidence of young people in the area.

Lydia Rohmer, principal

and chief executive of the Fort William college, was upbeat about the report's findings but said 'much remains still to do'.

She said the planned Centre for Science, Technology Health and Engineering, due to be built at Blair Mhor by September 2020, will make 'a big difference' in adding to the range of qualifications and opportunities available locally to young people.

Ms Rohmer added: 'In addition to all of this, our unique, specialist portfolio of courses up to degree level in our School of Adventure Studies continues to not only provide outstanding opportunities for local young people to develop skills for future employment and entrepreneurship, but

it also attracts numbers of young people from outside the Highlands who want to live study, live and work here, contributing to the economic growth of the area in the future.'

Outward migration of young people is a particular concern for Lochaber and the wider Highlands, with many moving away to pursue education and employment opportunities, and there is currently a deficit of young people in the region compared to other areas of Scotland.

Carroll Buxton, HIE's director of regional development, said it is 'very heartening' to know that more young people feel more positive about the Highlands as a place to live, study and pursue careers.

## Outdoor instructor admits road crash

An outdoor instructor's careless driving caused his car to cross a solid white line in the middle of a bend on the A82 road near Laggan Locks, resulting in a collision that saw him and the occupants of the other vehicle hospitalised.

At Fort William Sheriff Court this week, Matthew Jones, 40, who was described as now living with his parents in Northampton, pleaded guilty to careless driving on May 27.

The court heard the vehicle coming in the opposite direction tried to take evasive action but was unable to get out of the way of Jones's Ford Focus because of the steepness of the verge and a fence.

Procurator Fiscal Depute Matthew Kerr described how Jones had to be cut free from his car by firefighters and was taken to the Raigmore Hospital in Inverness, while the driver and passenger from the other car were treated at the Belford Hospital in Fort William.

Jones sustained fractures to

his leg, pelvis, ankle and arm as well as a laceration to the spleen.

One of those injured in the other car suffered a fractured ankle and bruising to a hand, with the other one suffering broken fingers and cuts to the feet.

Defence agent Michael Lyon said his client was 'a man wracked with guilt over the consequences of his driving'.

He added: 'Mr Jones was the most seriously injured and his position is that he was the person most deserving to be the one seriously injured as this was his fault.'

Mr Lyon told the court that Jones, who faces further hospital operations as part of on-going treatment for the injuries he suffered in the smash, had been forced to return home to live with his parents as he was not fit enough yet to resume work as an outdoor instructor.

Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald banned Jones from driving for four months and fined him £400.

## Service to celebrate Christmas story

With Christmas Day just over two weeks away, a town carol service will take place in Fort William tomorrow (Friday December 7).



The service begins at 6.30pm at Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church. Lochaber Community Wind band will supply the music at this child-friendly, family event.

Reverend Richard Baxter said: 'The aim is to have a celebration of the Christmas

story with well-known carols and readings in a relaxed format.

'We hope this will become a regular part of Christmas celebrations for people around

the town from all faith backgrounds and none, so it will be different from all the existing events around the churches.'

There will be a collection at the service for Lochaber Foodbank, which meets the needs of some of the most vulnerable people in the community not just at Christmas but throughout the year.

Everyone is welcome to come along and join in.

Christmas decorations. There will also be wreath making, Christmas tree collection and festive refreshments for purchase. Visit [www.nevislandscape.co.uk/events](http://www.nevislandscape.co.uk/events) for more information.

■ Staff and volunteers from Lochaber Sensory Care (LSC) for sight and hearing support will be visiting Ardnamurchan on Monday December 10. The LSC team will be based in Achuarle Medical Centre from 10.30am until 11.30am and at Dail Mhor Care Home, in Strontian, from 12.30pm until 1.30pm. At both venues they will offer help and advice to those with a sight or hearing loss.

The LSC representative will also retube and maintain NHS hearing aids and supply NHS batteries for these. No appointments are necessary for this free service.

■ Fort William Photographic Society's next meeting is on Tuesday December 11 at 7pm in the Salvation Army hall. Karl Griffin will be talking about camera filters. Non-members welcome.

■ The Music Shed Community Choir's Christmas Concert will be held in St Andrew's Church Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday December 11. Please come along and enjoy seasonal music and tea and cake afterwards. Admission free.

■ The next bus user's group meeting takes place on Friday December 14 at 11.30am in Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church hall on the Parade, Fort William.

■ Kilmallie Singers hold its Christmas concert on Saturday December 15, in Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church at 7.30pm.

■ There will be a blood donor session at the Nevis Centre, Fort William, on Tuesday December 18, from 1.30-4pm and 5.30-7.45pm. To book your appointment call 0345 9090 999.

■ The Hogmanay Open Water Swim will start at 2pm on Monday December 31 at The Old Fort, Fort William.

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# Banavie pupils celebrate St Andrew's Day

Pupils at Banavie Primary School celebrated St Andrew's Day in style on last Friday, November 30. The school held a special concert and ceilidh as children dressed themselves in tartan for the occasion. Pictured here are some of the pupils getting in the spirit of Scotland's official national day.



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## Hearing date set for Caol flood scheme

by Neill Bo Finlayson  
[nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk)

A provisional hearing date for the multi-million-pound Caol and Lochyside Flood Protection Scheme project has now been set.

The proposed scheme forms part of the council's Local Flood Risk Management Plan and is one of a number of schemes in which the council plans to implement within the next six years.

The council's environment, development and infrastructure committee members made a preliminary decision in August to confirm the flood scheme without modification, following an objection to the scheme, received during the notice period. The decision therefore was referred to the Scottish Government for consideration.

In September, Scottish ministers advised the council that they did not wish to call in the scheme for further consideration. However, they advised that an independent reporter should be appointed by Highland Council to hold a hearing on the proposed scheme.

A provisional date for the hearing has been set for February 28, 2019

A provisional date for the hearing has now been set for February 28. Full details of the hearing will be published in the local media at least four weeks before the hearing date.

Lying to the north of the River Lochy confluence with Loch Linnhe, Caol and

Lochyside have historically been subject to flooding from both tidal and fluvial sources, with the last significant flood event occurring in 2005 from a storm surge in Loch Linnhe combined with relatively high flows in the River Lochy. Council officials and the council's flood protection consultant held an information event in May in Caol Community Centre where they explained the latest design for the scheme and provided information on the flood protection scheme procedure. An updated fly-through animation of the scheme was shown as well as the scheme drawings and illustrative display boards.

Details on the proposals and the community consultation that has taken place to date are available on the Highland Council's website.



Climber Tom Livingstone, 27, will talk about how he became the first person to complete an ascent of the highly sought-after North Ridge of Latok 1 in Pakistan.

## Mountain festival has something for everyone

Lochaber is set to host another world-class weekend of celebrating the outdoors in February as the Fort William Mountain Festival 2019 programme has been announced today (Thursday December 6).

Organisers have revealed a stellar line-up of inspiring presentations, thought-provoking film screenings, adrenaline-filled mountain skills workshops and exhibitions, all staged in and around Fort William from Wednesday February 20 to Sunday February 24.

Rod Pashley, chairman of The Highland Mountain Culture Association, organisers of the Fort William Mountain Festival, said: 'Celebrating the wild landscape that surrounds us in Fort William and Lochaber is the inspiration behind the mountain festival. The mountains and glens influence our culture in many ways, whether it is the beauty of the

landscape, our engagement with it or the opportunities we find in it. The Fort William Mountain Festival has something for everyone with a love for the outdoors.'

One of the highlights of the weekend is a talk from 27-year-old alpine climber and writer Tom Livingstone, who made the first ascent of the highly sought-after North Ridge of Latok 1 (7,145m) in Pakistan – a feat that no other climber has achieved.

The five-day programme also includes a 'bike night' with Invernessian Jenny Graham – who broke the record for a female cycling around the world – and amusing cycling film duo Sam and Joe Flanagan.

The ever-popular Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival World Tour caps off the weekend with a selection of the finest mountain films in the world, while the film competition will showcase some of the best films the UK.



Rod Pashley, Sally Hudson, Bill Scott and Hannah Francis scale the height to launch the Fort William Mountain Festival 2019 programme.

## Plans for more than 400 houses in Upper Achintore

Plans for two new housing developments in Fort William, totalling 438 properties, are in the pipeline.

The public were invited to give their views on Highlands Council's plans to build houses at Upper Achintore during a public drop-in event at Lundavra Primary School last week.

The council plans to construct 38 mixed dwelling

houses, for social rent and mid-market rent, on the site of the former Upper Achintore Primary School, which was demolished last month.

The drop-in event gave people a chance to find out more about the plans, to give feedback and put forward any comments and suggestions about the proposals.

In a separate development

in Upper Achintore, at a site accessed via Connochie Road behind Lochaber Road, property developer Link Group submitted a pre-planning application to build up to 400 houses last week. The company intends to submit a formal application for planning permission for phase one of the project, consisting of up to 200 dwellings, in the near future.

The first of two public exhibitions was held in Fort William last month where representatives will be available to discuss the proposal and answer questions.

A second public event will be held in February 2019.

If both plans are approved, developers hope that construction on both developments will get under way by mid-2019.

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# New book sheds light on historic Lochaber estates

Last Thursday saw the long-anticipated launch of Richard Sidgwick's book *Clanship to Capitalism: a History of the Estates of Lochaber from 1745*.

Sixty invited guests gathered at the Lime Tree Gallery in Fort William to hear Professor Hugh Cheape of the School of Celtic and Scottish Studies at Edinburgh University and Sabhal Mor Ostaig provide a thoughtful and informed critique of the work.

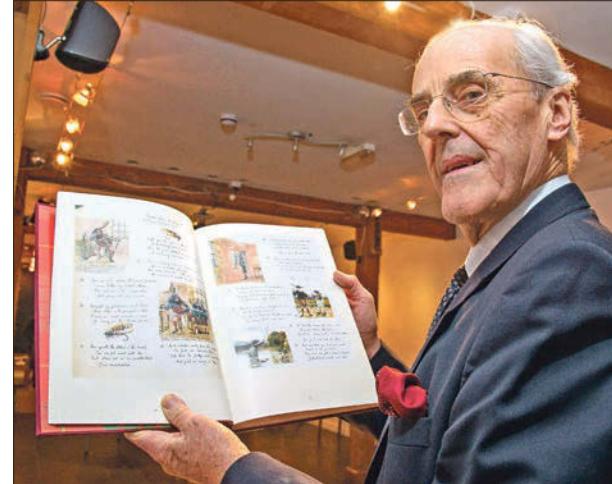
He suggested that the author's lifelong connection with land management in the area had enabled him to see beyond some of the constraints of historical tradition and offer a view which is essential reading to those interested in the history of rural Lochaber.

The book, which is published as a limited edition of

250 copies, is bound in claret coloured linen with a slip case and gilt lettering. It contains more than 250 illustrations, many from private sources which have not been available to the public, and the text is accompanied by a series of bespoke maps providing details of the ownership of land throughout the past 270 years.

The book was heavily subscribed before the launch and remaining copies may be available from the author, who can be contacted by email at [rts@milestonehill.com](mailto:rts@milestonehill.com) or telephone on 01397 712208.

After a false start at university with the intention of following a career in the brewing industry, the author began his training as an articled pupil in The West Highland Estates Office, Fort William, in 1966.



**Richard Sidgwick with his new book about the estates of Lochaber.** Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

He qualified as a chartered land agent and chartered surveyor in 1969 and then completed a post-graduate degree in agricultural finance and capital investment at Reading

University the following year. In 1970, he was appointed as a senior assistant land agent with Humbert and Flint, a London-based firm, working mostly in the home

counties and East Anglia. In 1974, rather than remain as a London-based practitioner until the end of his career, he and his wife returned to the Highlands and he became a partner in the firm with which he had originally trained.

During this period, he served for two terms on the Red Deer Commission, Regional Advisory Committee of the Forestry Commission and the steering committee which established the Association of Deer Management Groups.

He was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant in 1991 and served as a JP for nearly 20 years and an honorary sheriff for 10.

The firm had managed the estates owned by the Camerons of Lochiel since its establishment in 1953 and later took responsibility for the 135,000-acre property be-

longing to successive owners of the land acquired by The British Aluminium Co.

In addition, 16 large estates, including Ardgour, the only other property in Lochaber to remain in the hands of its hereditary owners, retained its services. Further afield, it acted for four successive owners of Glenfeshie at a watershed moment in its history and regularly accepted commissions outwith its home territory of Lochaber.

West Highland Estates Office amalgamated with Bidwells in June 2000 and the author remained as a divisional partner until his retirement due to ill health two years later, aged 59.

Since then, he has been retained in a number of capacities where his lifelong experience of rural affairs in the Highlands has been of value.

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## MacPhail

### ANGUS MACPHAIL

[angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk)



I am no follower of boxing and nor did I know anything about Tyson Fury up until the extensive coverage he's had in the past week since his recent heavyweight title fight against American Deontay Wilder.

However, the story of his comeback from the depths of depression, ill health and deprivation is inspiring and grabbed my attention when I heard him speaking in a post-fight interview.

There is a very fine line we all walk between the rise and the fall. One step in the wrong direction coupled with some bad luck can bring about a downward spiral in the lives of even those who are perceived to be flying high.

Conversely, just one step in the right direction at the right time, coupled with some good fortune, can be the catalyst for a virtuous circle of ascent from the depths of low to the very highest pinnacle of achievement and the regaining of peace and happiness in one's life.

Everyone goes through ups and downs in the rough and tumble of life and it is important to try to remember that no matter how black the dark dogs may feel, you are only

one step away from the road to resurrection. It is impossible to predict when that one vital step that may start the rise will come, so you just have to keep taking that one step forward.

These following lyrics are based on that theme. The bulk of it was written on the way up Loch Linnhe on Monday, so it's far from finished but I hope the themes are effective.

#### Resurrection

*From the darkest of the deep,  
when the worlds couldn't sleep  
and the tears to weep were  
rivers running free  
To the future feeling blind from  
the present trying to hide and  
the past behind just broken  
dreams to see.*

*Fallen beaten on the ropes,  
weak with bruised and battered  
hopes down the valley slopes I  
looked but turned away.*

*I stepped toward the rising  
height and you came and  
brought the light, your grip was  
tight, I rose to see the dawning  
day.*

*On the hilltop now we stand on  
the heights of sacred land with  
the blessed hand of hope for  
journeys new.*

*You all are by our side, and the  
world's in our stride and the  
peace inside is proof that course  
is true.*

*So we're on the voyage now,  
together watching from the  
bow, in wonder how the tides of  
fortune turn.*

*What a time to be alive filled  
with energy to strive and drive  
ahead for blazing trails to burn.  
There's a thin dividing wall  
between the rising or the fall,  
we gamble all for broken hearts  
or bliss*

*Between the pauper or the king,  
the failure or the win, from  
giving in or love's eternal kiss.*

*Between the hero and the fool  
there is no golden rule - one  
turn of fate can pull the hero  
down,*

*So fight with blood and sweat  
and up again you get and never  
let the demons keep you from  
your crown.*

*We may be just one step away  
from the coming of our day  
and the morning rays of golden  
blessed beams.*

*Before you quit and break, just  
one more step you take and lay  
your stake to live again your  
dreams.*

*So get up and carry on, fight or  
sing another song, keep stepping  
on and pushing for the goal.*

*Take every knock-back on the  
chin, and use the hurt to help  
you win. Find peace within the  
harbour of your soul.*

## Drink driving warning for festive period

Traffic police in the Highlands and Islands are urging motorists not to drink and drive during the festive period, with three drivers already charged.

Local officers are supporting a national campaign to prevent and tackle the crimes of drink or drug driving.

Three drivers have already been charged with drink drive offences since the campaign began on December 1. Two men, aged 49 and 56, are due to appear from custody today following offences at the weekend and a 37-year-old woman was due to appear in court at a later date.

The campaign will run throughout the festive period.

Anyone with concerns about a suspected drink or drug driver is urged to contact 101 or 999 if it is an emergency to play their part in helping police officers keep people safe.

You can also pass on information anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



Left: David Mackenzie with his home-made sign and sisters Mary, left, and Ann McNeal, who are also originally from Inverlochy. Right: another one of David's signs.

## Gathering time 'down under' for expats

Last month the Lochaber Times published the first of an occasional series following the lives of some of the expats who emigrated from Fort William and Lochaber to Melbourne, Australia, in the 1950s and 1960s.

Melbourne's south-eastern suburb of Frankston is home to so many families from the Fort William area that it is nicknamed by the Scottish expats as 'Little Fort William'.

These families include the Murrays, Mackenzies, MacLeans, MacLarens, MacInnes, MacDonalds, Clarksons, MacIvers, Gunn, Clarks, Pattersons, Thompsons and Frews.

'It was the Inverlochy sign that drew the attention of two sisters – Mary and Ann McNeal'

It is thanks to former Lochaber residents Trudi Mackenzie and her husband David that we can keep up-to-date with the comings and goings in 'Little Fort William'.

Bearing in mind it is now summer 'down under', it is Highland gathering season.

David told the Lochaber Times: 'At a Highland gathering in Bundanoon, a small country town that changes its name to Brigadoon each year for the gathering, I had my usual stall selling family crest boxes and signs.'

'It was the Inverlochy sign that drew the attention of two sisters – Mary and Ann McNeal.'

'Our families were neighbours in Inverlochy during the war years. I was born in the village and Mary and Ann lived in Abrach Road.'

'They have recently visited Fort William, attended the Mòd and caught up with old friends.'

## Fort bookshop hosts launch

Tomorrow night (Friday), will see the launch of a biography which tackles mental health issues.

Start has been written by Graham Morgan, who has an MBE for services to mental health. Mr Morgan helped write the Scottish Mental Health (2003) Care and Treatment Act and is an advocate for rights and improvements in this area.

The book will be launched at 6pm in the Highland Bookshop. Tickets are £5 (includes a refreshment and £2 off Start), and can be bought from the bookshop.

## Fort station open for new business

ScotRail is looking for local and national retail partners to improve the range and quality of facilities at Fort William railway station – from coffee and food outlets to other services that would benefit the local community.

The ScotRail Alliance is investing in station improvements across the country.

For details and inquiries visit the ScotRail website.

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LT

# MSP delivers speech at Rotary charter dinner

by Neill Bo Finlayson  
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Another successful Rotary Club Annual Charter Dinner was held on Saturday, with almost 70 Rotarians and guests treated to an excellent four-course meal at the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William.

Guests also enjoyed a sparkling after-dinner talk by their constituency MSP Kate Forbes, fresh from being awarded a 'Rising Star' accolade at the Herald's Scottish Politician of the Year awards.

Ms Forbes' talk focused on Scottish identity and our perception of ourselves. She, herself, had a 'very confused upbringing'. Originally from Dingwall, she lived in India for eight years (the only Scottish child who went to school in a rickshaw!), then Glasgow, before returning to Dingwall Academy.



She then studied at Cambridge and Edinburgh universities, graduating with a BA honours in History and an M Litt in immigration studies.

Ms Forbes admitted that 'politics is my bread and butter' having worked in Dave Thomson's support team before succeeding him and

being elected MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch in 2016. She described her constituency as the 'best in Scotland'.

Turning to Rotary, Ms Forbes said she was very aware of the work of the Rotary Club and its involvement in mentoring youth, advising on career choices

**Back row, left to right:** Margaret Boyd, Celia Talbot, president elect Clive Talbot and Jane MacIntyre. **Front row, left to right:** Kate Forbes MSP, Vivien Johnston, president Iain Johnston and Oban president Iain MacIntyre. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

and opportunities. She told guests how she's benefited enormously from the work of Rotary and concluded by proposing a toast to the Rotary Club of Lochaber.

Club president Iain Johnston thanked the politician for an engaging and relevant talk before inviting past president John Hutchison to propose

a vote of thanks on behalf of the club.

Mr Johnston reminded those present that the Herald had also picked out Kate as 'one to watch' in the Scottish political arena and added his own accolade - 'you've done no bad hen' - before wishing her well in the future.

After the event, Ms Forbes told the Lochaber Times: 'On the day after St Andrews Day, I spoke about the importance of community as the foundation stone of our politics.

'Rather than speaking about Brexit and referenda and politicians, I spoke about the way in which we see ourselves as Highland communities.'

'Place, history and language remain important means of binding us together.'

'So too does the intergenerational work of the Rotary club which I too have benefited from.'

## Island seafood industry 'expendable'

Na h-Eileanan an Iar SNP MSP Alasdair Allan has highlighted the need for Scottish seafood industries to retain tariff and barrier-free access to the single market.

The MSP raised a question in Holyrood asking for the Scottish Government's response following the Prime Minister's claim that the Brexit withdrawal deal will remove the UK from the Common Fisheries Policy and allow Britain 'to decide for ourselves who we allow to fish in our waters'. However, the agreement makes an explicit link between future trade agreements and access to waters. The MSP has highlighted the inconsistencies in the government's rhetoric with the reality of the withdrawal deal's contents and noted the deal risks disrupting lucrative Scottish export sectors such as the seafood industry.

He said: 'It is deeply troubling the UK Government does not recognise the serious potential to harm our seafood industries.'

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Hassan Sheheryar Yasin, known as HSY, designed a collection using the iconic Hebridean fabric.

## Harris Tweed wows Glasgow crowds

A unique collaboration between Harris Tweed Hebrides and Pakistan's leading fashion designer has created a stunning couture collection that was showcased last Friday night at Kelvingrove Art Gallery in Glasgow, writes Neill Bo Finlayson.

Hassan Sheheryar Yasin - known as the designer HSY - was invited by UK Medical Aid to Pakistan to design a collection using the iconic fabric as the centre-piece for its annual fundraising dinner which is being held outside

London for the first time. He created a couture collection which incorporates Harris Tweed into a range of contemporary ladies' and men's fashion with a Pakistani identity.

Yasin, who travelled from Lahore for the event, said: 'It has been a privilege to work with such a wonderful natural fabric which is known the world over. It is the perfect setting for the marriage of HSY and Harris Tweed Hebrides.'

More than 400 guests raised funds for UK Medical

Aid to Pakistan and for The Linda Norgrove Foundation, the Lewis-based charity which supports women's and children's projects in Afghanistan.

Harris Tweed Hebrides chairman Brian Wilson, said: 'There are some lovely synergies in this project.'

'Lewis has a highly respected Pakistani community of long-standing who are very familiar with Harris Tweed. I am sure they will take particular satisfaction from this superb blending of two cultures.'

# Novel idea from Caol crime writer

by Mark Entwistle  
[mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk)

From Braveheart to Harry Potter, the West Highlands has provided the backdrop for some of Hollywood's biggest blockbuster movies.

And now a Fort William-born writer is hoping to tap into that popularity with a new series of crime novels set in Lochaber.

Fulton Ross's debut novel *The Unforgiven Dead* focuses on Angus 'Dubh' McNeil, a policeman from Glenug who is investigating a series of murders that echo macabre Highland folk tales.

'The West Highlands is a gift for crime writers,' said the 39-year-old.

'All those misty brooding landscapes are the perfect settings for dark deeds.'

Having previously written two novels set in Glasgow,

the former Lochaber High School pupil, who grew up in Caol, felt it was time for a change of scenery.

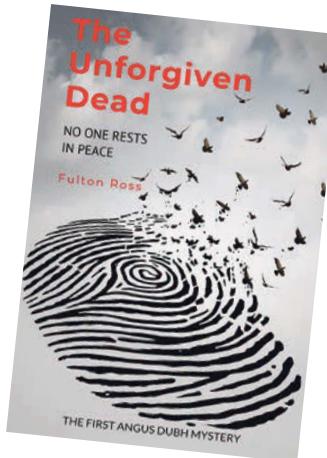
The book itself was at least 12 months in the writing and journalist Ross describes it as 'Stephen King meets Ian Rankin'.

'My main character, Angus, is a troubled cop who has the dubious gift of second sight, a phenomenon that many in the West Highlands will be familiar with,' he said.

Earlier this year, Ross' novel was a nominee in literary agency AM Heath's Deviant Minds Crime and Thriller competition.

Now, *The Unforgiven Dead* is entered in Inkshares' Mystery and Thriller contest, with the winning novels being published by the Californian company.

'The competition runs until December 14 and the winning novels are those with the most pre-orders by that date,' Ross explained.



until December 14 and the winning novels are those with the most pre-orders by that date,' Ross explained.

I'm asking Highland book lovers to get behind the novel and help me get it published.

'Anyone interested can go to the Inkshares website,

Fort William-born writer Fulton Ross, right, hopes Lochaber readers will pre-order his new novel and help him win a publishing deal.

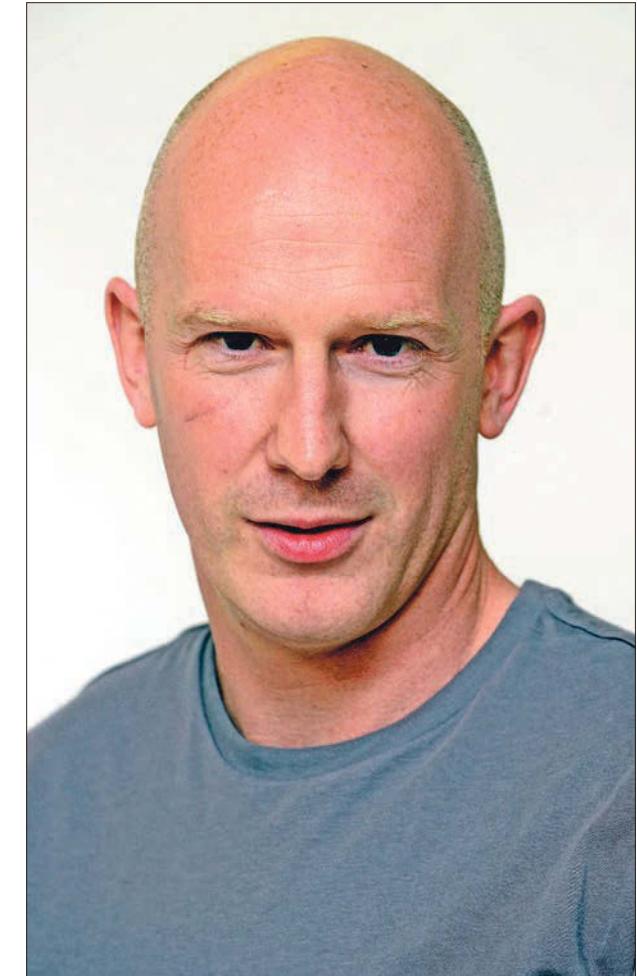
where they can read sample chapters. Fingers crossed, they'll like what they read and pre-order a copy.'

Ross now lives in County Tyrone, Northern Ireland, with his wife and three young children and is working on a follow up to *The Unforgiven Dead*.

'It's provisionally entitled *Shame the Devil*,' he revealed.

'I'm hoping to have the first draft completed by early next year.'

'It basically picks up where *The Unforgiven Dead* left off and contains a similar blend of action, intrigue and



murder. I'm really excited about it.' To read sample chapters of *The Unforgiven Dead* and pre-order a copy visit [www.inkshares.com/books/the-unforgiven-dead](http://www.inkshares.com/books/the-unforgiven-dead)

## Spring start for Glencoe bridge replacement work

The A82 Partnership says it is trying to ensure traffic lights used during planned bridge replacement work near Glencoe Village starting in the spring will be manually operated.

The A82 Partnership's Stewart MacLean said the move will help reduce long tail backs of traffic during the seven months' construction process throughout the busy main summer tourism season.

BEAR Scotland has been commissioned by Transport Scotland to replace the existing Allt Fhiodhan Bridge which carries the A82 trunk road over the Allt Fhiodhan watercourse.

The bridge is located approximately one mile south of Glencoe Village, is around 89 years old and does not meet the requirements of current design and assessment standards.

The bridge is also very narrow and has outdated parapets and safety barriers which do not offer the same protection as modern systems.

The existing bridge will be demolished and replaced

with a new, reinforced concrete box structure capable of withstanding modern traffic loading and lasting for 120 years.

The new structure will be built on the same footprint as the existing bridge, however, the A82 will be widened over the structure to provide a compliant carriageway cross section and new safety barriers.

A footpath will be built over the new structure which will tie-in with the existing National Trust for Scotland footpath that connects the Glencoe Visitor Centre to Glencoe Village.

To ensure the A82 remains open to traffic throughout the bridge replacement works, a temporary two-lane road diversion will be provided to the north of the existing bridge, with a temporary bridge constructed over the Allt Fhiodhan watercourse.

BEAR Scotland bridge engineer Zeng Li informed Mr MacLean it was the road organisation's intention to maintain two-way traffic as much as possible, however there will be periods where the road will be reduced to a

single lane, with temporary traffic lights controlling traffic flow.

This is necessary to allow the temporary road diversion to be constructed and subsequently removed towards the end of the project.

Once the temporary road has been removed and the land reinstated, traffic management will remain in place to allow the new road surfacing to be laid and safety barriers to be installed.

Work is scheduled to begin in the spring. Environmental constraints associated with the Allt Fhiodhan watercourse mean various key construction activities can only be undertaken during the summer.

The work is expected to take approximately seven months to complete.

Some preparatory works will be undertaken over the next few months to clear vegetation from the site and divert services away from the existing bridge.

As with the main construction works, traffic management will be required to allow these activities to be carried out safely.



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## Listen to public on mobile island library service, says councillor

Listening to rural communities and keeping the mobile library service on the road is the aim of one Western Isles councillor.

Harris and South Lochs councillor John Mitchell says his perception from recent community conversations – organised by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to determine future service choices – was that people strongly support the procurement of two new mobile library vans.

Certain groups within the comhairle have suggested the lifeline mobile library service could be replaced by community hubs offering library services.

In October, councillor Mitchell attempted to secure the future of the mobile service through an amendment, however this was defeated 12 votes to 18. Planning a last ditch attempt to secure the mobile library service, he confirmed he would be tabling the same amendment again at the December comhairle meetings.

He said: 'My perception is the community conversations have unequivocally supported the idea of the procurement of two mobile library vans as I suggested and I cannot see there is any substantive evidence whatsoever on costing or logistics to support the idea that community hubs can deliver this lifeline service.'

# Dog rescued after falling down cliff

Coastguard rescue teams from Kilchoan, Tobermory and Salen, along with Tobermory lifeboat, were mobilised on Sunday to rescue a sheepdog after it got stuck on a ledge on Sunday after falling 20ft down a cliff on Ardnamurchan.

The alarm was raised at The Anchorage on the Ardnamurchan peninsula just after midday on Sunday.

The crew ferried the coastguards and their equipment ashore about two miles to the west of Kilchoan, where the coastguards carried out a textbook cliff rescue of Meg the collie who was returned safe and well to her owner.

Meg, who was uninjured, was hauled to safety after a Coastguard team member was lowered down the cliff by rope. Lifeboat coxswain

David McHaffie commented: 'Just two weeks ago, we trained with our colleagues from the coastguard teams on Mull and Ardnamurchan. We are pleased Meg was reunited with her owner after a successful cliff rescue. Meg's owner did exactly the right thing and contacted the Coastguard as we don't want anyone to put themselves at risk.'



**Collie Meg was delighted to be rescued after her ordeal on Sunday.** Photograph: RNLI/HM Coastguard.

## Hundreds of entries for card competition



Kate Forbes with some of the entries for her Christmas card competition.

More than 300 entries from pupils in 30 primary schools across the Highlands have been received for Lochaber MSP Kate Forbes' annual Christmas card competition

As well as featuring on the card, this year's winning design will also be showcased on a Nevis Range mountain gondola at Aonach Mor near Ben Nevis.

Entries have come in from across the constituency, including from Broadford, Carbost, Drumnadrochit, Farr, Fort William, Kingussie, Mallaig, Raasay and Spean Bridge.

Ms Forbes said: 'This is the third year in a row I've asked young people in primary schools across the Highlands to design a festive Christmas card for my constituency and

I've been blown away by the number and the quality of the entries.

'I'm going to have a very difficult job picking a winner. Even drawing up a shortlist has been exceptionally hard.'

'All the entries will be displayed in the windows of my constituency office in Dingwall.'

The MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch added: 'Perhaps this year's winning prize has encouraged a few more entries. I love the idea the skiers, snowboarders and tourists coming to Lochaber will head up the mountain in a gondola and see a festive design by a primary school pupil.'

'This is about encouraging youngsters to get involved with something a little bit

different and I look forward to announcing a winner next month.'

Chris O'Brien, chief executive officer of Nevis Range, agreed entries for this year's Christmas card competition had been fantastic and is delighted Nevis Range is part of it.

'The winning design will be on one of our gondolas all winter and we can't wait to see it,' he said.

Every primary school in the Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch constituency was sent a letter from Ms Forbes inviting them to take part in the competition, with the brief of an A5 drawing on the theme of a Highland winter, featuring aspects of the region's landscape, culture and sports.

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# Lewis wind farm trust wins national award

Community wind farm charity Point and Sandwick Trust is celebrating after winning UK Environmental Social Enterprise of the Year at the UK Social Enterprise Awards last week.

Wind farm developer Calum MacDonald picked up the award at the glittering event in Guildhall, London, and admitted he was 'very surprised' but 'delighted' to have won. It is Point and Sandwick Trust's second award this month, their third this year and their fourth so far.

They were automatically shortlisted for the UK Environmental Social Enterprise Award after winning in that category at the Scottish Social Enterprise Awards, held in the Scottish

Parliament on November 6. The award recognises the innovation and success of Point and Sandwick Trust in operating a commercial business for social good. And the economic power of social enterprise was made clear at the awards ceremony with the revelation that social enterprise companies in Britain pay more tax than Amazon, Google and Facebook combined.

The Environmental Social Enterprise award was the first category to be announced and Calum admitted he was 'very surprised' to hear Point and Sandwick Trust's name called out.

But he added: 'I'm delighted, really delighted. It's a great testament that the achievements of Point and



Calum MacDonald picks up the award on behalf of the trust during the glittering event in London's Guildhall last week.

Sandwick Trust are being recognised across the UK. It's great encouragement for all other communities that want to develop their own community wind farm schemes.

Also, it's a recognition of the achievements of all the community-owned companies in the Western Isles.

'We have the biggest community-owned scheme in Britain and it's just so sad the council and others do not recognise the strength of these community schemes from Barra up to Ness.'

The community wind farm organisation, which runs the Beinn Ghrideag wind farm near Stornoway with the sole aim of ploughing all the profits back into the community, had also been shortlisted in the category of Social Enterprise of the Year.

The month's two awards from the social enterprise sector follow previous ones from the renewables and charities sectors.

## Drone restores phone service

Openreach engineers used a drone to restore communications after a landslide cut off the remote village of Kinloch Hourn.

The team flew a cable over the safety exclusion zone around the landslide to the base of the Quoich Dam and connected it to the existing network. The team then walked three miles in torrential rain and hail to the nearest radio sub-station to make sure all six lines had a dial tone. The landslide on November 12 saw 9,000 tons of soil and rock crash 2,500ft onto the road below, completely destroying it. Highland Council estimates it will take several weeks to stabilise the hillside and begin clearance work on the road, which connects Loch Garry to Kinloch Hourn.

## Firms boosted by maritime funds

Two Hebridean companies have received a share of £4.8 million from the latest round of European Maritime and Fisheries Funding.

Hebridean Seaweed Company on the Isle of Lewis was awarded £800,000, while £15,000 went to the Western Isles Fisheries Association, also Isle of Lewis. The fund aims to help fishermen transition to sustainable fishing, support coastal communities to diversify their economies and finance projects to create jobs.

## Allan elected convenor of parliamentary Gaelic group

Na h-Eileanan an Iar SNP MSP Alasdair Allan was elected convenor of the Scottish Parliament's Cross-Party Group on Gaelic last week.

The Cross-Party Group on Gaelic has input from organisations including Bòrd na Gàidhlig, An Comunn Gàidhealach, Comunn na Gàidhlig, Fèisean nan Gàidheal, MG Alba and others. Mr Allan said: 'Tha mi fior thoilliche gu robh buidhean thar-phàrtaidh airson na Gàidhlig ga mo

thaoghadh mar neach-ghairm. S'e onair a th'ann, agus tha mi gu math taingeal son an obair a rinn Ceit Nic Fhorbhais BPA anns an dreuchd suas dhan an diugh. ('I am delighted to be chosen as convenor of the Cross Party Group on Gaelic. It is an honour and I am very grateful for the work which Kate Forbes MSP has done in this role up to now.')

'Tha mi a' creidsinn gu bheil cothrom againn anns a' Phàrlamaid a mhineachadh gu luchd poileataigas

cho cudthromach 's a tha a' Ghàidhlig anns na coimhleasachdan agus anns na sgoiltean air feagh Alba, agus cho cugallach's a tha staid a chàinadh fhathast. Tha mi geur a thòiseachadh leis an obair seo.' ('I believe there is a real opportunity for us to explain to the Parliament the importance of Gaelic to communities and schools the length of Scotland and also how fragile the language remains. I am keen to get started on this work.')

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# LETTERS

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

## Good news that young people want to stay in Lochaber

Depopulation of the Highlands and Islands has long been a cause for concern, especially as the trend has been for the area's bright young people to leave their homes and move to the cities.

So it is very welcome news, as we report this week, that an increasing number of young people now see their future in the Lochaber area.

The data has been made public following research by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), which conducted a survey into the attitudes and aspirations of 3,130 young people aged 15 to 30 in the region.

The change is due to a number of reasons, including the development of the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI), which has provided high-quality further education at a number of locations including Fort William, negating the requirement for young people to move to the central belt or the north-east.

Lydia Rohmer, principal and chief executive of the Fort William college, was quite right to be upbeat about the report's findings but also to warn against complacency, saying that 'much remains still to do'.

The area is heading in the right direction and there are further developments to enhance UHI in the pipeline, including the planned Centre for Science, Technology, Health and Engineering, due to be built at Blar Mhor by September 2020.

Ms Rohmer also said: 'Our unique, specialist portfolio of courses up to degree level in our School of Adventure Studies continues to not only provide outstanding opportunities for local young people to develop skills for future employment and entrepreneurship, but it also attracts numbers of young people from outside the Highlands who want to live study, live and work here, contributing to the economic growth of the area in the future.'

The future looks bright indeed.

## More commercial but without real accountability

Regarding Councillors Baxter's stand over parking charges, according to Highland Council, 'The council agreed in June 2018 that decision-making for off-street parking income and expenditure will be delegated to local/city committees.' ([www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/19425/thc\\_parking\\_policy\\_2018\\_to\\_2023](http://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/19425/thc_parking_policy_2018_to_2023))

It does seem that Highland Council Inverness has grown far too large to represent the people of Highland democratically. For years Fort William has had parking charges while other towns in Highland region have had none.

The council is a taxpayer-funded organisation, it is not, as some of those employed and elected think, a commercial enterprise that can extract as much profit from residents and visitors alike.

It is time that Highland Council was broken up and local democracy and accountability by elected members and none elected employees was returned to local communities.

Inverness and Highland Council may see themselves as the capital of the Highlands but in reality they are far removed from the real Highlands and the people that live in them, as Councillor Baxter has found out.

Do people know that their council is working towards implementing, across Highland region, resident parking permits?

The SNP promised an end to the community charge with a suggested local income tax. What we are seeing now instead is councils increasing their income by indirect taxation - even Councillor Baxter has said that Highland Council wants to become more commercial. More commercial but without real accountability and responsibility.

Cyril Bonnett, Ballachulish.

## Marks & Spencer Macmillan Coffee Morning

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The M&S Fort William team was overwhelmed by the level of generosity and involvement of the local community throughout

## YOUR PICTURES



We know our readers love to take photographs so we are happy to create this space to showcase people's images each week. If you have a photograph you would like to see published here, simply send it to editor@obantimes.co.uk, post it to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB or hand it in to our

offices in Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, or in High Street, Fort William. This week's was sent in by Angela Bailey, of Oban, who said: 'I took this at Loch Awe of Kilchurn Castle. My one-year-old border terrier Dolly looks like she is flying, hope you like it.'



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# DISTRICT NEWS

FORT WILLIAM/STRONTIAN

## Support group looks to hit right notes

Listening to music from your youth and middle-life years can have astonishing results in stimulating the mind and memory of dementia sufferers – helping to measurably improve their quality of life.

Claire Cameron, manager of the NHS's Invernevis Care Home in Fort William and Dalmhor House in Strontian, is convinced of the benefits of music in helping to counteract dementia.

She was guest speaker at the Rotary Club of Lochaber's business lunch meeting on November 28 and explained how important music is.

Claire and her staff have a challenging job caring for elderly people, many of whom have dementia, and supporting and guiding their families and friends through these difficult times.

In these days of tight NHS budgets, funding is short and is directed at patient care rather than social events, including music and entertainment.

Claire feels these aspects are vital to residents' wellbeing and envisages this as a primary role of a resurrected the Friends of Invernevis support group. Put simply, it would enable the purchase of music, iPods and headphones.

Claire commented: 'If you would like to be involved in this project, please get in touch with me at Invernevis House or at 01397 702939. A different face chatting to our residents can make someone's day. We would also welcome your old iPods or earphones.'

Funding would be used to create a 'Playlist for Life' project, a music tool established by Sally Magnusson, for use in Invernevis and Dalmhor.

Club vice-president Richard Baxter said he supported the project: 'It's amazing how familiar music will take people back to a time and comforting place in their life.'

Past-president Donald McCorkin-



Neil Macleod, store manager of Caol Co-op, with Cameron Sprague of Stramash and Alison Smith from Lochaber Hope.



Ballachulish store manager Neil Cameron presents the three groups with their community funds.

## Co-op stores pledge more than £20,000 to local causes

Two Lochaber Co-op food shops paid out their community funds to local groups last week.

Ballachulish store manager Neil Cameron handed out more than £8,000 to three groups in south Lochaber. The £8,058.04 payout was split between the 4th Lochaber Scouts, Kentallen and Duror Community Centre, and Nether Lochaber Community Association.

Neil Macleod of Caol Co-op also gave away its total of £9,325.76



Left to right: Cynthia Cassidy, Kinlochleven Community Trust (KCT) vice-chairman, Catriona Spence, KCT director, Gary Manson, Co-op manager, and Marion Smith, KCT development officer.

to the shop's three local causes last week. They were Stramash, Lochaber Hope and Shopmobility Lochaber. The funds were raised from the

Co-op's membership card transactions of the company's own brand label products. One per cent of this goes into the community fund which

is also supplemented by the 5p charge for carrier bags.

A £2,276.57 donation from the Kinlochleven Co-op store was presented to Kinlochleven Community Trust (KCT). The money will be put towards the community toilets, which are owned and operated by the trust meaning there is no charge for weary walkers on the West Highland Way and other visitors using the facilities.

KCT development officer Marion Smith said: 'We rely on donations towards the running costs of the toilets and although we receive funding from the Kinlochleven Community Council, we are delighted to have been successful with a funding application to the Co-op, for a facelift and to replace old cisterns and lighting. The toilets are open from 8am to 6pm from April to October.'

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## Loch Ness swimming challenge raises £700 for Nevis Radio

A Lochaber sports enthusiast has donated hundreds of pounds to Nevis Radio after completing the epic Loch Ness Challenge.

Kenneth MacKenzie raised £700 by swimming the length of Loch Ness – 22.5 miles – in the ‘monster-free’ environment of Mallaig Swimming Pool.

He started the challenge on February 19, gradually whittling away the miles until finally completing the marathon swim on April 30. Having collected his sponsorship money, Kenneth presented the £700 cheque to Robert MacMillan of Nevis Radio earlier this month.

‘Kenneth deserves a lot of praise for his efforts,’ said Robert. ‘To singularly raise £700 is a tremendous feat and on behalf of everyone at Nevis Radio, I wish to thank him most sincerely for his fundraising activity.’

Kenneth added: ‘I am happy to provide some financial help for our local community radio station, Nevis Radio. I enjoyed the challenge of swimming Loch Ness in the monster-free environs of Mallaig Swimming Pool and I thank everyone who sponsored me for my swim.’



Kenneth MacKenzie, left, presents a £700 cheque to Nevis Radio presenter Robert MacMillan.

## Police host first Fort william cafe event

In the first event of its kind for Lochaber, Police Scotland hosted a ‘conversation café’ at the Nevis Centre, Fort William, yesterday (Wednesday).

The event was a joint initiative between Police Scotland, Lochaber Chamber of Commerce and Fergusons Transport to help communities discuss and gain greater understanding of issues such as drug/alcohol abuse and mental health, the impact on business and employment and the work currently being carried out by partners and the third sector throughout

Lochaber. There is considerable work being undertaken locally and it was hoped this event would promote this and raise awareness, while providing information, assistance and support around these topics and how they are impacting on communities.

In a statement to publicise the event, a Highlands and Islands Police Division spokesperson said: ‘These are real issues in Lochaber. Taking the time to inform everyone what support is available may contribute to different choices being made.’

products into 11 categories this year and the competition has been fierce so Nevis Bakery can be proud to have come this far, according to head judge Ian Nelson on behalf of Scottish Bakers which manages the competition.

The World Championship Scotch Pie Awards is the only competition of its kind

recognising excellence in the preparation of a perfect pie,’ added Alasdair Smith, chief executive of Scottish Bakers.

Judging for the competition took place last month and the winner will be announced at a lunch on January 15 at the Westerwood Hotel, Cumbernauld.

## Retro Roamer

[fort@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:fort@obantimes.co.uk)

### More Roamerisms from the early 1990s

■ Nigel Chisholm, super veteran of loads of Ben Races, was observed last Friday morning kicking brightly coloured balloons around the hallowed portals of the Bank of Scotland. Closer scrutiny revealed that for Nigel – who also wields a mean hammer, not of the Highland Games variety, to break open tregnum whisky bottles full of coins and notes collected by the bank for charity – it was the ‘morning after the day before’ when he had celebrated his 50th birthday. The balloons had marked the occasion in the bank throughout that auspicious day.

■ Joe Gillies, impatient patient in the Belford. Some folk get books, magazines and newspapers brought into them when they are in hospital. Not Joe. He wanted his portable karaoke machine beside him in the ward. The apparatus was duly delivered and Joe, albeit walking wounded, went along the corridors on Wednesday exhorting everyone to sing along with ‘Danny Boy’, ‘Innisfree’ and ‘Culloden Moor’ and, of course, ‘Bonnie Glenfinnan’. But no-one, bar Joe, knew the words of his signature song. In order not to disappoint his fellow patients, Joe, who was due to be discharged later in the day, sang his hospital hit 17 times! He was kept in overnight for observation, right enough.

■ Did you ever see the like of Minnie on her bike? You probably have, around Corpach. But the sight of Minnie catching the gondola cable car to get to her work in the Snow Goose Restaurant is something else. On Friday, Minnie signed in at the Aonach Mor bottom station then rushed to board the gondola. As the car swung round the ground level loop, ready for take off, Minnie sprang into action, getting her handbag and umbrella stuck in the door. By the time she disembarked at the top station, her cigarettes – in the handbag – had been squashed oval, reminiscent of the ‘Passing Cloud’ variety so beloved of Joe Faccenda a few decades ago.

■ Roulette, blackjack and tote racing were all part of the Rotary and Round Table joint charity fundraiser in McT’s on Saturday evening. And a great time was had by all, with several good causes seeing the benefit. Five entry names of horses appealed to me – ‘Slow Progress at Lochy Bridge, by out of tar’, ‘Any Offers by Marine Harvest, out of Unilever’, ‘Brackletter Boy, by What a Tip, out of Lochaber Folly’, ‘An Aird by Hot Air, out of

Council Chambers’ and ‘Piste Off, by Aonach Mor, out of Snow’.

■ Hector MacAskill was back in town from London at the weekend. His new anorak, with the Snow Goose logo, was very much admired. Why? Because the name on it stamped its seal of quality. ‘Roamer Casual’ it is called.

■ School cook Nancy MacPherson has been dishing up tasty treats at Kilmorivvaig Primary School for the past seven years. However, Nancy is now moving on to a new job. So the school pupils ensured they would give her a fond farewell and came up with a novel way of expressing their appreciation. Here it is:

In the recipe book  
Of Nancy, our cook,  
There are dishes so nice,  
Like curry and rice.  
She makes Toad in the Hole  
In her mixing bowl,  
Or a hot plate of broth  
And milk shakes that froth.  
Or a piece of fresh fish  
With chips on a dish;  
Chocolate sauce topped with cream  
It tastes like a dreammm  
Nancy cooks every day  
And finds a different way  
To make our food so great  
For everyone’s plate.  
At the 12.30 bell  
We always can smell  
The food Nancy cooks  
From her recipe books.  
The meals from her pot  
Are wholesome and hot.  
For food – plain or fancy –  
It’s all thanks to Nancy.

And the youngsters added a ‘cordon bleu’ chorus:

‘Nancy, Nancy, That was scrummy.  
Nancy, Nancy, That was yummy’.

■ A piece of local history has just been enacted. Duncan Fairfax-Lucy, the man who owns the top 2,000 feet of Ben Nevis, was intent on climbing his mountain for the first time last Wednesday. Duncan’s forebears, the Cameron-Campbells of Fassifern and Monzie respectively, and the Spencer/Fairfax Lucy family of Charlecote, were Fort William’s greatest benefactors. The Parade and the Town Park are just two examples of their philanthropy towards townspeople. The family used to own the whole of the ben, but sold the lower half to the BA – retaining the upper half for sentimental reasons. So, in a sense, it was a homecoming for Duncan Fairfax-Lucy as he set off to tackle the family mountain.

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## SCHOOL RUGBY

## Argyll and Bute teams reach cup finals day

Oban High School U16s reached their second successive appearance at Scottish Rugby's School Finals Day with a hard-fought 24-5 win over Ardrossan schools on Wednesday last week.

This makes for a big day out for Argyll and Bute at finals day with South Argyll Schools (Lochgilphead, Tarbert, Islay and Campbeltown) also playing at BT Murrayfield's back pitches in the Bowl Final.

Oban and Ardrossan fought hard to get their semi-final tie played with the weather and CalMac ferry timetables causing issues in the build-up to the match. The players also had to deal with 50mph winds and driving rain making for very challenging playing conditions.

Despite the weather, both teams did their best to create some good attacking rugby in a low-scoring opening 15 minutes or so to the game.

Oban increased their pressure as the first half wore on and eventually breached a strong and well-disciplined Ardrossan defence as tries from Kenni Gray and Naithan McCulloch gave a 12-0 half-time lead for the home side.

Rory Reade and Bailey Wild from Tobermory High School have been a great addition to the team this year and were having their best game in an Oban jersey. Reade impressed in the scrum and made some great carries, while Wild made some fantastic runs out wide to put Ardrossan on the backfoot.

Blair MacFarlane controlled the ball well at stand-off, allowing Gray and McCulloch to score a further try each, giving Oban a comfortable 24-0 lead.

Ardrossan, to their credit, kept their spirits up and scored a very well-deserved try in the closing stages as Oban ran out 24-5 winners.

After just losing out in last season's Bowl Final against Auchinleck Academy, Oban High will face Galashiels Academy in Wednesday's National Plate Final on the BT Murrayfield back pitches. Gala are renowned for being one of the stronger schools in Scottish rugby's Borders heartland and will provide a huge test for the Oban players. Kick-off at BT Murrayfield is at 2pm on Wednesday December 5.

South Argyll Schools U16 will be contesting the Bowl Final also on the back pitches at 2pm against the Royal High School.

Having two teams representing Argyll and Bute at national finals day is a huge boost for the sport in the area with six of our secondary schools represented within the two teams.

## SCOTTISH AMATEUR FOOTBALL LEAGUE

## Results and fixtures

Last Saturday's results: Scottish Amateur Cup, fourth round – East Kilbride Thistle v Oban Saints, postponed; Premier Division One – Campbeltown Pupils no game; Lochgilphead Red Star 1, Hillington 3; Premier Division Two – Tarbert 1, Duncansgate 2.

This Saturday's fixtures: Scottish Amateur Cup, fourth round – East Kilbride Thistle v Oban Saints; Premier Division – Dunoon v North Glasgow Colts; Premier Division One – Castlemilk v Lochgilphead Red Star; Easthall Star v Campbeltown Pupils. Premier Division Two – Busby v Tarbert.

## OBAN SAINTS YOUTH FOOTBALL

## Results and fixtures

This Sunday's results: Scottish Cup – Under 13s 1, Blantyre Soccer Academy 4. Saints goalscorer was Calum MacMillan. Regional Cup – Under 14s 6, Johnstone Burgh 2. On target for Saints were Kyle Cooper (3), Ross Mackay (2) and Andrew Nicol. Under 15s no game; Under 16s no game.

This Sunday's fixtures: Under 13s v Castlemilk BC; Under 14s v BSC Glasgow; Ardencaple v Under 15s; Westercommon Star v Under 16s.

# Derby win for Oban

Oban Lorne	47
Helensburgh	19

Tennent's West Division 2

Oban welcomed Helensburgh to Glencruitten last weekend for the second leg of the Argyll derby in West Division 2.

The home side were looking to repeat the scoreline achieved in Helensburgh where they ran out 48-29 winners in September.

Oban were forced to make a couple of late changes to the starting line-up with players being delayed by work commitment's but the reshuffle didn't appear to upset the rhythm too much.

Michael Mackinnon replaced Kyle Graham in the second row and young Ben MacFarlane-Barrow came in to replace Stephen Povey.

It is encouraging to see the number of young players coming through and competing for places this season.

Oban started brightly and David Cameron finished off a pacey back line move to score in the corner with five minutes of the game gone.

Finlay Carmichael narrowly missed the conversion from out wide.

Helensburgh were quick to bounce back with a penalty kick after one of the Oban players strayed offside at a ruck in front of the posts. The Helensburgh kicker made no mistake with his attempt and the score was back to 5-3.

Oban replied by upping the tempo again and, after a foray deep into the Burgh 22, the referee awarded a penalty to Oban. Scrum-half Vasil Borisov shaped to give the ball to big prop Calum Maclachlan who was steaming in on a great line. This attracted the Burgh defence and the Bulgarian international strolled across the line after selling a great dummy. Carmichael added the extras from in front of the posts and Oban were 12-3 ahead.

Oban were finding their rhythm and were to add to the score sheet with another fine try from Craig Wright. The full-back cruising across



Oban Lorne captain Iwan Roberts dives over for a try.



Oban Lorne were presented with a new set of strips by the Perle Hotel Group. Pictured are Iwan Rhys Roberts, 1st XV captain; Hamish Matheson, club chairman; Oban Perle Hotel food and beverage manager Grigoris Pavlou; David McLaughlin, 1st XV player and assistant coach; along with Sandy Rokitta, Oban Lorne club president.

Photos: Stephen Lawson

the line after being released into space by a some fine back play. Carmichael was on hand again to nail the extra two points with the boot and Oban had stretched the lead to 19-3.

Oban were to secure the bonus-point try after half an hour when captain Iwan Roberts danced his way through the opposition defence to score a fantastic individual try. His fancy footwork and acceleration getting him over the line under the posts. This gave Carmichael another easy conversion to extend Oban's lead to 26 points to three at half-time.

A number of changes were made at half-time with Kyle Graham replacing Michael Mackinnon, who had another great 40 minutes. He is growing game by game and proving to be a really useful player. Oban also welcomed back David McLaughlin to the team for only his second game of the season after breaking his ribs in the first game of the season.

Big Calum Maclachlan was next on the scoresheet for Oban. In typical barnstorming style, the big prop from Luing was at his rampaging best on Saturday, swatting defenders out of his way in a man of the match performance. The big fella will be a major loss to the squad in the



Kyle Graham bursts through the Helensburgh defence.

coming months as he goes in for knee surgery this week.

David McLaughlin then rolled back the years as he collected a kick from Burgh and scythed through the visitors' defence to be dragged short only a couple of yards from the line.

Oban were then forced into another reshuffle as hooker Radi Maksimov had to leave the game with an ankle injury. This forced a major reshuffle with Borisov having to move to hooker from scrum-half and a rejig of the back line. With Oban well ahead, the coaching team wanted to challenge the squad with putting players out of position to test them and see how they would react.

This created a window of opportunity for Helensburgh as Oban took some time to settle and they were rewarded with a try after a period of sustained pressure inside the Oban 22.

This took the score to 33-10 in Oban's favour with 20 minutes of the game to go.

Oban responded well and managed to lift the tempo again and young Lorne Sinclair took a great line off Iwan Roberts to burst through the Burgh defence to score a cracking try.

Craig Wright was to round

## RUGBY

off the scoring for the day with yet another try. He is certainly having a season to remember scoring his 24th try of the campaign. The flying machine revelling in the extra space being awarded to him from full-back. Finlay Carmichael was on hand again to add the extra two points to bring the final score to Oban 49, Helensburgh 10.

## Tough

This weekend Oban welcome Strathaven to Glencruitten for the second time this season after the Lanarkshire team came up early on in the season for a West Shield fixture where Oban were comfortable victors. The Argyll men were made to work hard when they visited Strathaven in the league a couple of weeks later and know it will another tough encounter next weekend. Kick-off 2pm.

Saturday's win lifts Oban Lorne back into second place in Division 2.

The club are also hosting a Christmas ceilidh in the clubhouse this Saturday night with the Dice Ceilidh Band providing the music. All members and non-members are welcome to attend.

# Abi and Helen star for Scotland

Scotland	25
Canada	28

## Women's International

Oban's Abi Evans gained her ninth cap for Scotland and scored her first try for her country in the recent international against Canada at Scotstoun. Abi plays for Hillhead Jordanhill in the Tennent's Women's Premier League.

Also in the Scotland line-up against Canada was Glencoe's Helen Nelson, who plays her rugby in France for Montpellier.

Scotland women will be proud of their performance against the Canadians in Glasgow.

The match was the finale of the celebration of a women's and girls' rugby day after two exciting finals for the Girls' Schools Cup draw.

Going into the match, Canada, ranked fourth in the world, were the firm favourites. They were coming Continued from page 56 off the back of a 38-21 win against Wales and some great performances against two England teams.

Scotland women, ranked 11th, had been back in camp following a disappointing loss in Italy earlier in the month. They were focused with what they needed to work on and eager to prove themselves to the home crowd.

Straight from the whistle, Scotland showed power and determination that hadn't been present in Italy. They opened the scoring thanks to a Canada infringement which gave Helen Nelson the opportunity to kick a penalty.

Canada put the first try on the board though as they responded immediately from the restart with a score after a short drive. Scotland's defence stayed strong through-



The Scotland Women's international squad. Glencoe's Helen Nelson is pictured second from the left in the middle row with Oban's Abi Evans fourth from the right, also in the middle row. Photos: Scottish Rugby

out the opening quarter of the match as Canada pushed them on their line.

After 22 minutes, Canada gained their second try of the match after they managed to move along the Scotland line before pushing through a gap on the wings.

Chloe Rollie, Lisa Thomson and Abi Evans had a few decent opportunities to break through the Canadian line, but the visitors were quick to pull their defence back.

The crowd enjoyed some exciting plays, including a Lisa Martin interception just shy of Canada's attacking 5m, thwarting their mission for the try line. Rollie and Evans took the ball up the wings, but they were stopped in their tracks at the half-way line. The momentum

pushed Scotland to try again. Scotland fired the ball along the line. Jade Konkel had a strong carry through the defence to gain some ground. The ball got passed out the back and along to Abi Evans who pushed through the final five metres to cross the line.

A lineout just before the half-time whistle saw Megan Kennedy taking the ball and pushing through the defensive line. Konkel then supported with a carry of her own before successfully achieving Scotland's second try of the match. Lisa Martin converted to allow Scotland to take the lead 15-14 at the half-way mark.

Into the second half and it took Scotland a short while to regain their momentum. This wasn't helped by Canada



Oban's Abi Evans dives over to score her first try for Scotland during the recent international match against Canada held at Scotstoun. This was Abi's ninth cap for Scotland.

Photo: Scottish Rugby/SNS Images

achieving a try in the 43rd minute.

Jade Konkel responded with a good carry of the ball to break the defence and their momentum was restored.

With 25 minutes still to go and some fresh legs in the form of new cap Bry Nelson, Scotland's skipper Lisa Thomson closed the margin again as she scored from close range after an impressive driving lineout maul from the forwards. Five minutes later and Canada scored with a try of their own to push the gap in the score.

Scotland responded immediately, and Emma Wassell got the ball over the line from close range after good phases

## WOMEN'S RUGBY

in the Canadian 22. To add to the tension, the referee sent it to the TMO, who, after reviewing, awarded the try.

A searing break from Chloe Rollie was nearly a score but the ball was knocked on over the line. Scotland had the momentum with five minutes remaining. Canada were then penalised inside their own 22. Lisa Thomson lined up a penalty kick on 77 minutes but her effort went wide.

At the final whistle, Scotland had given everything but unfortunately finished up on the wrong end of a 28-25 scoreline.



Glencoe's Helen Nelson.



Oban's Abi Evans.

## TEN PIN BOWLING

## Lochaber 10-pin bowling results

After week six of the Lochaber Building Supplies 10-pin bowling leagues at the Nevis Centre in Fort William, Council are still the leaders of the scratch division with 28 points, closely followed by Alleycats with 27 points. The Empire are in third place with 22 points. The handicap division is much closer with new leaders The Empire on 22 points followed by Council on 21 points and Alleycats on 20 points. Previous leaders Triple "B" drop to fourth place after going down 5-0 to Council.

Individually, the best scratch game in week three came from Bill Clark (Council) with a 178. Also this week Brian Stewart (The Empire) had a 175. Bill Clark swept the board elsewhere with the top handicap game of 238, the best two-game scratch series of 344 and the top two-game handicap series of 464.

The best team scores of the week came from Alleycats who had the top scratch game of 573 and the top two-game scratch series of 1122 whilst The Empire had the top handicap game of 792 and Council had the top two-game handicap series of 1530.

The top scratch averages are currently held by Brian Johnstone (Alleycats) on 163 followed by Gus Fraser (Council) on 149 and Pam Weller (Alleycats) on 145.

## GOLF



**Robert MacIntyre.** Photograph: Bounce Sports.

## Robert misses the cut

Oban golfer Robert MacIntyre, playing in his first season on the European Tour, failed to make the cut at the Australian PGA Championship at the Royal Pines Resort on the Gold Coast last week.

Robert carded a two over par 74 in the first round which featured four birdies, four bogeys and a double bogey.

The Glencruitten golfer carded five birdies on the opening nine in the second round, but a disastrous eight at the par-four seventh hole put paid to him making the cut. He never recovered from this and had two bogeys on the back nine to finish with a 74.

Robert is back in action this week at the South African Open held at Randpark Golf Club, Johannesburg. The competition gets under way today (Thursday).

## LOTTERY

## Lottery numbers

This week's Fort William Golf Club lotto numbers were 11, 12 and 20. There were no winners this week. The jackpot for the draw today (Thursday December 6) will be £300.

Ballachulish Shinty Club's lottery numbers for this week were 2, 8 and 14. Mark McGregor in Kinlochleven won the £1,400 on offer. Next week's draw will revert to a jackpot of £200.

The Caol Community Centre bingo club lotto numbers this week were 10, 12, 14. There were no winners this week and so next week's jackpot will be £300.



Fort William under-11s sporting their new strips, presented to them by Kenny Campbell's sons John, Lee and Lewis and his grandsons Liam, Kadyn and Jude.

## Fort youths unveil new strips

New strips were presented to Fort William FC youth players last week, courtesy of a donation in honour of the late Kenny Campbell.

A regular spectator at Claggan Park over the years, Mr Campbell was a keen supporter of local football and at

his service on Thursday August 23 at St John's Church, a collection took place, with funds going towards Fort William FC youth development.

The money was used to buy new strips for the under-11s squad and they were unveiled at training night to the delight

## YOUTH FOOTBALL

of the young players. Fort William FC thanked Marion and the family for this very kind and gratefully received donation.

## Buckie put four past fighting Fort

Four first-half goals was enough to earn Buckie Thistle a comfortable home victory against Fort William on Saturday, despite a dogged display from the visitors.

The Fort travelled east without a number of important players in the squad, including forward John Treasurer and defender David McGuirk, but the young team were determined to stick to the task and frustrate their opposition in defence. However, the Jags took the lead early on after Lewis Campbell turned the ball into his own net after getting his head on a cross into the box.

The home side's second came in the 19th minute when Declan Milne shot from the edge of the 18-yard box. Milne was on the scoresheet again soon after and he provided a great finish after a slick Buckie passing move to make it 3-0.

## FOOTBALL

Steven Ross made it four for the Jags before half-time as his close-range strike couldn't be kept out of the net by the Fort's traillist goalkeeper Finlay Burstow.

After half-time, the Fort were far more solid at the back and managed to prevent the home side from scoring again. However, they lacked that same spirit and resolve in attack and the forwards found it difficult to test the Jags' goalkeeper.

Buckie saw out the 4-0 victory, which was comfortable in the end for the league's seventh-placed side.

Fort William remain rooted to the bottom of the Highland League table. The Fort are back in league action on Saturday December 15 when they take on Huntly at Claggan Park.



Fort William manager Kris Anderson.

# Young Lochaber boxing stars shine on the road

Young Lochaber boxers were back in action last week as two of the area's brightest talents took on their Lanarkshire and Ayrshire counterparts at a showcase event on Friday.

Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club travelled to Motherwell last Friday night where two of the younger members of the club took part in a show at Motherwell Civic Centre, hosted by Forgewood Boxing Club.

Twelve-year-old Scottish champion Josh Dieguno produced a fine display to win a contest against Dean McMillan from Irvine. McMillan actually produced the better work in the opening round, in which Dieguno started with the wrong tactics. He used his hard-earned experience to adapt to the challenge and rally back to force McMillan onto the back foot where he seemed uncomfortable. Dieguno hit his stride in the last round and began to

## BOXING

dominate the match, really ramping up the pressure and forcing McMillan to the ropes for periods. In the end, the Lochaber boxer thoroughly deserved his points victory.

Dieguno's clubmate 10-year-old Josh Hunter, produced a scintillating performance against the host club's Rhys Nelson in a cub bout. In recent weeks, Hunter has been thorough with his preparation, working on his technique and tactics, and on Friday night all his hard work paid off. His hard work in the gym transferred into the ring on fight night and everything clicked together. Hunter showed good preparation of attack and great positive patterns of movement as he landed good punches but was sure not to catch any punches in return. This was great preparation for Hunter as he prepares for his first Scottish Championships in February.



Josh Dieguno. Photo: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

# A strong field of runners take part in the Beinn Bhan race

## ATHLETICS

Sixty runners took to the start line for Lochaber Athletic Club's Beinn Bhan race on Sunday.

In dry, cold conditions, a strong field of athletes raced round the 4.8-mile forestry trail in Glen Loy in what was the third race in the winter league series.



A total of 60 runners took part in the race.

Photos: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos



Runners set off in the Beinn Bhan race on Sunday.



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## WEATHER

### Thursday

Light rain showers with a moderate breeze  
Temperatures 7°C to 10°C.

### Friday

Light rain showers and a fresh breeze  
Temperatures 6°C to 8°C.

### Weekend

#### Outlook

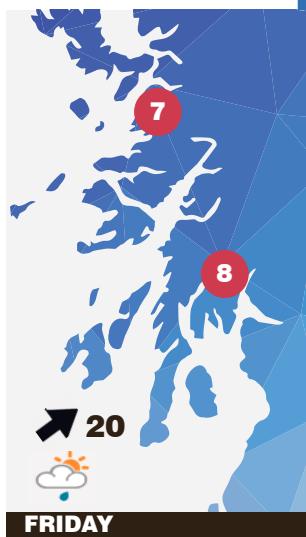
Saturday

Light rain showers and a moderate breeze

Sunday

Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze

Temperatures 3°C to 8°C.



FRIDAY

## 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)

Thur	04.49	3.8	11.04	1.0
	17.00	3.9	23.31	1.1
Fri	05.24	4.0	11.45	1.0
	17.34	3.9	**.**	**
Sat	00.06	1.1	05.58	4.1
	12.25	1.1	18.07	3.9
Sun	00.42	1.1	06.33	4.1
	13.02	1.2	18.42	3.9
Mon	01.19	1.2	07.09	4.0
	13.40	1.4	19.17	3.8
Tues	01.57	1.3	07.45	3.9
	14.18	1.6	19.53	3.6
Wed	02.36	1.5	08.24	3.7
	15.00	1.8	20.30	3.4

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

# LOCHABER TIMES SPORT



## INSIDE THIS WEEK:

Young Lochaber boxing stars shine on the road

**NORTH WEST MARINE**  
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# West Highland Wheelers named Club of the Year

Lochaber's reputation as a world-class mountain bike destination has been given another boost after the area's foremost bike club won a prestigious prize recently at the Scottish Mountain Bike Awards.

West Highland Wheelers scooped the Club of the Year prize at the recent national awards ceremony at Aviemore. The award comes after another successful year for the Wheelers and recognises the hard work of all the volunteers and parents who help the club in various other ways.

Members originally set up a children's section of the club to promote and develop responsible mountain biking

among children in the area. Based on a 'club ride led by adult volunteers' model rather than paying coaches and having kids dropped off, the club has grown year on year grow sustainably and up to 50 children join in on their Saturday rides.

Doug Little, chairman of the West Highland Wheelers, said: 'Winning Scottish Mountain Bike Club of the Year shows recognition of the fact that so many people volunteer their time for the club. This has resulted in the club growing with an increasingly popular kids club and more well-attended club events.'

'Club members help out in so many different ways such as baking cakes for events



Chairman Doug Little with the award which recognises the club as the best in Scotland. Photos: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

and fundraisers, sending out emails, organising, marshalling and timekeeping at races, helping lead kids' rides – the list is endless! There is a very strong volunteer ethos and this has contributed to the growth and success of the club.'

There was also an individual honour to be handed out to Wheelers veteran Steve Bradley, who was named Local Hero of the Year. Nominated by the youngsters in his riding team, club members were particularly proud of Bradley's award and said his contribution to the Wheelers embodies the ethos

of the club. Doug said: 'He gives his time up to take kids groups out riding, developing not only their riding skills but also their respect and understanding of the trails and environment in which they ride.'

'He spends a large amount of time maintaining trails and leads volunteer work parties (including kids) on trail maintenance as well as helping organise races. He also continues to compete and ride at a high level.'

The club hosted the second round of its winter league series on Sunday at Glen Loy, with 28 riders competing

on a fun course with long steep ascents and technical descents. James Shirley took victory, with Joe Barnes and Donald Paterson finishing close behind him.



## CYCLING

The club would like to thank Mark Clark for organising and Katie for providing post race tea and cakes.



Steve Bradley with his Local Hero award.



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