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**Twins boom sees Oban families enjoy double the fun**



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# Let there be light – church launches appeal after theft

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Well-wishers have rallied round to pay a historic church's electricity bill after its donations box was ransacked.

The box, with a slot in the top and left on a table next to the visitor's book, was forced open and five months worth of donations were stolen sometime around December 15 at Lismore Parish Church, shocking the tiny island's congregation.

But in just one day, a crowd-funding appeal seeking £1,246 to pay the church's upcoming electricity bill hit its target with donations exceeding £2,000 and growing.

The loss of donations was 'a devastating set back' in the island's efforts to keep the building going, but minister of the cathedral church of St Moluag, the Reverend Dr Iain Barclay, said the congregation would 'rise above it'.

As well as bills, all paid by the community and visitors' generosity, the listed building

church where islanders have worshipped since the 13th century is also in need of urgent repairs.

Session clerk Mary MacDougall who discovered the theft said: 'It was such a downer just before Christmas but we realise now we should have been more vigilant and from now on the donation box will be emptied every week.'

'We have been totally blown away by the support we've had and how many people our

**'It's wonderful news so many people have come forward to help'**

appeal has reached - both in this area and abroad, people we know and people we don't know.'

The crowdfunding appeal was the idea of Iris Piers and Laura Cook.

Rev Barclay told The Oban Times: 'We never actually though the donations box would be vulnerable because

of the nature of the island and the people who come to visit the church for their own special reasons.

'It's all very sad and it leaves a bad taste in the mouth but we will rise above it. It's wonderful news so many people have come forward to help.'

The missing money was discovered as the church hosted its first Christmas tree festival.

One online well-wisher who sent in a donation said: 'We've enjoyed the beauty and hospitality of Lismore many times, as well as visited the lovely church. Happy to donate to offset the greed of those who would steal from a church.'

Mrs MacDougall, who reported the theft to police, said: 'We now have enough money to pay our electricity bill and what's left over will go towards the major repairs we need.'

A survey on the church roof is needed as well as an investigation into damp creeping through the walls.

To donate visit [justgiving.com/crowdfunding/isleoflismorechurch](http://justgiving.com/crowdfunding/isleoflismorechurch)

## Shining example of festive cheer



Every December, Maureen and Mike Drummond illuminate their guest house in Glencruitten Road with Christmas lights, much to the delight of passers-by and children, who stop them in the street to say it makes them feel happy. For the full story, turn to page seven.

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# African alliance leads to connectivity in the classroom

Staff and pupils at Oban High School have been getting involved in some global learning with the help of two visiting head teachers from Malawi.

Jailos Mapeza, head of Mazozo Community Day Secondary School, and Joseph Moyo, head of Njuyu Community Day Secondary School, arrived in Oban on Saturday December 7 and flew back home on Sunday December 15.

The week-long trip was arranged through the British Council's Connecting Classrooms programme and is part of a twinning partnership be-

tween the Malawian schools, OHS and Tiree High School.

Depute head teacher Lauren Morrison told us: 'Oban High School formed links with the two schools back in 2017 when Iain Fulton, who is now a principal teacher of STEM and a British Council ambassador, and OHS RME teacher David Duncan travelled over there.

'It was great that Jailos and Joseph could make the return visit through funding from Connecting Classrooms. It is really important that we understand how different education systems work worldwide with a view to

working together to break down barriers and overcome the challenges to education worldwide.'

As well as discovering more about the school life of their African counterparts, Oban youngsters had the opportunity to discuss issues such as climate change, gender equality and how to achieve sustainable living.

While they were here the Malawian duo also visited Lochnell and Taynuilt primary schools and Tobermory High School, as well as some of the many beauty spots such as McCaig's Tower, Dunstaffnage and Ganavan.



Pictured from left: Peter Bain (head teacher at Oban and Tiree high schools), Jailos Mapeza (Mazozo Community Day Secondary School, Mazozo, Malawi), Iain Fulton (PT STEM), Adam Hamill (school captain, OHS) and Eilidh Smith (school captain, OHS).

# Oban charities sing choirs' praises at cheque presentation

A charity beating heart disease and a garden project in Oban have both received cash boosts thanks to some of the area's finest voices, writes Kathie Griffiths.

More than £600 was raised at a Choirs and Candles event at St John's cathedral last month as part of the town's Winter Festival programme and the proceeds have now been split between Greenshoots at Glencruitten and ABCD charity - Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease.

This was the third time the



Representatives from choirs and charities gather at The Royal hotel for the cheques to be handed over.

event has been organised to help good causes in the area. Others who have benefited so far have included the Dove Centre, Riding for the Disabled and a dementia group.

Choirs taking part in the 2019 concert included Oban Gaelic Choir, Taynuilt Gaelic Choir, Lorn Chorus, Bach Choir, Oban Community Singers, Sequence Choir and Rockfield Primary School Choir.

Oban Gaelic Choir president Mary Catherine MacLean said more than 600

people turned up to support this year's concert with standing room left only.

'The first year we had about 200 people in the audience and it's grown since then. It's a great opportunity for all the choirs from around the town to come and sing in all their different styles together, doing good for the community too.'

Catriona Petit from Greenshoots said their share of the proceeds would help the project make a difference to more lives, adding: 'We have seen amazing transfor-

mations in people's lives by them coming and working with us in the garden. This money will help us keep up that work. It's greatly appreciated.'

And Andy Henderson from ABCD said: 'This adds to the funds we have and the money we are spending on beating cardiovascular disease in our area. We've been very busy working on outdoor projects with schools encouraging young people to get active and get into a habit that we hope will last along time into their adult lives.'

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# Comfort creation gives cancer patients a hug

An Oban knitting enthusiast is putting her talent to good use by making beautiful 'knit a hug' comfort scarves for cancer patients, writes Fiona Scott.

Dinease Crowe is now encouraging others to register to the aHug website, free of charge, to access one of the four patterns available and get started.

'I had already knitted some longer scarves and then someone told me about this website and I thought "what a great idea"', said Dinease.

'There are four different patterns to follow, suitable for beginners to accomplished knitters, and once you are finished you send your scarves in and they launder them and pass them on to cancer patients.'

Dinease took her knitting along to the Benderloch Bookends Finish what You Started pop-in last week where the ladies, and some of the gentlemen, present showed great interest in the



From left Barbara Powell, Elizabeth Needham, Lily Kill and Dinease Crowe model the aHug scarves at Benderloch Bookends pop-in.

project. 'Bookends are holding their next pop-in session on Sunday February 9 and It would be great if as many people as possible would knit some scarves and bring them along, Dinease added.

'You don't even have to wash them as aHug stipulate that they launder them before sending them out to keep everything as sterile as possible.

'The scarves really are cosy

and would be a real benefit when people aren't feeling great and need some comfort.'

Each aHug scarf requires 150g of Chunky or DK yarn/150g-200g of four-ply yarn or the equivalent. Knitters can either purchase yarn from the aHug website or use up what they already have at home.

Personalised labels, reading 'Knitted with love by ...' can also be purchased on the site.



Tilly Smith and her team set off on a short training walk at their Cairngorm home.

## What do Cairngorm reindeer do at Christmas? Roam free

While Rudolf, Dasher, Dancer and Co are already off on their world delivery tour, the reindeer responsible for taking Santa around Oban in November can take a step back from their festive duties, writes Fiona Scott.

The Cairngorm reindeer are enjoying a well-earned rest having lit up many lives

around Scotland over the past month or two. Not only did they take part in the parade in Oban, they also made a surprise visit to Eadar Glinn Care Home to meet many of the residents.

Owner of the animals Tilly Smith said: 'The Cairngorm herd is Britain's only free-ranging herd of reindeer

and can be found roaming free in the Cairngorm mountains for most of the year.

'These tame and friendly animals are a joy to all who come and see them and a reminder to all that reindeer are not just for Christmas.'

There are around 150 reindeer in the herd, mostly ranging in the Cairngorms.

# BLACKS TOWN & COUNTRY

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## Police tip-off snares drink driver

A Tobermory businessman was six times over the drink drive limit when he drove off the ferry in Oban to pick up his girlfriend.

Police received an anonymous tip off that Duncan Cattanach, who runs an outdoor clothing shop on Mull, had been drinking so were waiting and watched his car divert from the usual exit route coming off the ferry from Craignure and park up in an area meant only for HGVs.

When officers approached 65-year-old Cattanach, of Spennie Begg, Salen Road, on December 11 this year he was in the driver's seat with his head back and eyes closed. After failing a

roadside breath test he was arrested and taken to the town's police station where he entirely co-operated.

Cattanach was fined £700 and banned from driving for three years at Oban Sheriff Court last week where he admitted having had 137 micrograms of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath, exceeding the prescribed limit of 22 micrograms.

He had been on his way to pick-up his girlfriend who was coming from Glasgow on the train when the couple had a fall-out, that was why he decided to drink alcohol, the court was told.

Sheriff Simon Fraser told him: 'You were a complete menace on the road.'

## Woman fined for biting worker

A woman who was asked to leave an Oban pub slapped a bar worker in the face then bit him on the chest.

Paulina Tomal, 34, of 18 McParland Drive, Torrance, Glasgow, admitted assaulting the bar worker on November 24, 2018, slapping him on the head and biting him.

Tomal was fined £100 and ordered to pay £150 compen-

sation when she appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

The court heard it was an isolated incident on a busy Saturday night and had been entirely out of character for Tomal after a 'brief episode of misadventure at the bar' that started after remarks were allegedly made about her Polish origin.

## Early release prisoner steals from busker

A man found guilty of stealing hundreds of pounds of coins from a sleeping busker's rucksack was on his way home from early prison release.

CCTV footage shown at Oban Sheriff Court this week nabbed 42-year-old Derek Darrah repeatedly rummaging in the rucksack on a seat next to him for more than three minutes.

Darrah, of 24E Shuna Terrace, Oban, pleaded not guilty to the theft but Sheriff Simon Fraser ruled busker

Eric Abraham was a reliable and credible witness who remained unshaken during rigorous cross-examination, reinforcing his evidence even more.

Darrah was ordered to return to prison to serve the 59 days remaining from his previous sentence plus another 10 months to run consecutively.

The court heard how the busker was coming to Oban from Glasgow for a music session on October 21 this year when he was befriended

by Darrah who invited him to rest his rucksack on an empty seat next to him at the back of the bus.

Mr Abraham sat on a seat in front of Darrah and dozed off during the journey. It was only when he was getting off in Oban that he realised his rucksack felt lighter and that he had been 'robbed', he said.

Darrah had got out of his seat and said goodbye to Mr Abraham before the bus reached Oban.

Of the £500 Mr Abraham said he had in a plastic tub

in his rucksack ready to bank in Oban, he was left with just £30.

He told the court: 'It's turning my guts watching that video,' as the footage from the bus was played in the courtroom.

Sheriff Simon Fraser told Darrah: 'This was thoroughly mean and despicable. You are appalling. Custody is inevitable.'

'You were released that morning and didn't even get back home before you started thieving again.'

## Woman scarred her mother for life

A woman who disfigured her mother for life, spent her 19th birthday in court last week.

Police were called to an Oban address on December 3 this year where they found Niamh Rowan rowing with her family.

Rowan pleaded guilty to the assault and was ordered to carry out 200 hours unpaid work within 12 months and to be under the supervision of social workers for 15 months, attending any conduct requirements demanded of her.

She was also given a home curfew from 7pm to 7am for the next six months. She will be back in court for a review in March.

The sheriff said: 'The assault on your mother left her scarred for life although not visible. This court has a duty to keep the public safe from you and also to protect you from yourself or you are going to do something terrible or something terrible is going to happen to you.'

Rowan's solicitor said alco-

hol was at the heart of her offending and she was genuinely sorry for what happened.

The sheriff warned Rowan, who is now staying with her father, that if she did not behave and stick to the court orders she would go to prison '19 or not'.

He added: 'Being in court is a terrible way to spend your 19th birthday, especially for scarring your mother. If you break the order you will go to prison and have a terrible life.'

## Drink drive fencer banned for a year

A self-employed fencer was stopped for drink-driving after police spotted him driving erratically.

Joshua Jamieson, 22, of Lerags Beag, Lerags, appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on December 18 and admitted having 68 micrograms of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath, exceeding the prescribed limit of 22 micrograms.

He was fined £500 and banned for a year.

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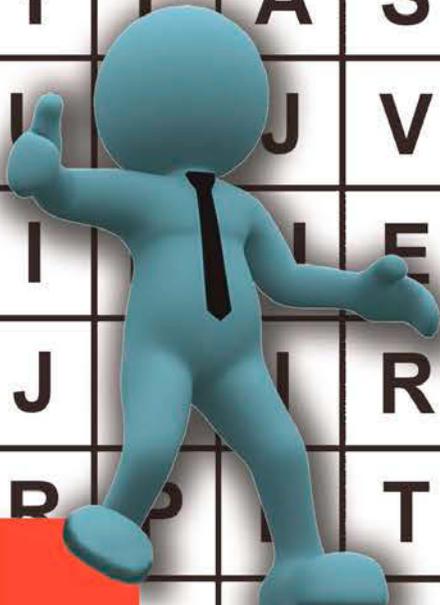
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OT

# Rockfield nativities delights



This year families with youngsters at Rockfield Primary School were treated to three nativities in total – Primary 1 and 2 performed Little Star’s Story; Primary 1, 2 and 3 Gaelic performed Babushka – a Gaelic nativity, and; ELC morning and afternoon children performed The Christmas Four. All performances were well attended by families and friends and the school thanked them for their support.

A spokesperson for the school told The Oban Times: “The children all worked very hard learning songs, lines and playing percussion instruments.

‘We are all very proud of them!’



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## Scout Post delivers £1,400 for group

The 1st Argyll Scouts have raised more than £1,400 by delivering mail in time for Christmas.

For the first time in six years, the Oban-based organisation operated its renowned Scout Post, delivering Christmas mail to Oban, Dunbeg, and Kilmore for 40p.

Outgoing Scout leader Jeff Anderson, said: 'We did our sorting last week and got most of the letters out at the weekend. We made £1,480 – that is a total of 3,700 cards.

'It is down on what we used to do, but people are sending fewer cards now and, having just started back up after a break of six years, it might take a while to get back up and running again. We are happy and it all went smoothly.'

As this is the Scouts' only

fundraiser of the year, the money will be used for general running costs and to help the organisation all year round.

The youngsters – and their parents – completed this year's Scout Post in conjunction with Ardchattan Scouts.

And while the Scouts only deliver to Oban, Dunbeg and Kilmore, they received post from further afield, including one as far away as Worcester in England.

The Oban Scout Post stopped in 2014 due to a lack of leaders, which resulted in the group taking a hiatus for almost a year in 2017.

But after a surge of volunteers coming forward, the troop is rejuvenated and a new leader is expected to take over the reins in January.

# Is this the best Christmas light display in Oban?

by David McPhee  
dmcph@obantimes.co.uk



For the past 12 years, a Glencruitten guest house has been entertaining children with its impressive festive display.

Every December, Maureen and Mike Drummond illuminate Glencruitten Road with their Christmas lights.

The impressive display started off with a row of lights around the building's roof, but over the years they have built up the impressive array of decorations.

Maureen and Mike, who run High Cliff Guest House, say people stop them in the street to say it makes them feel happy.

Speaking to The Oban Times, Maureen said: 'We do it for the sheer pleasure of the children. You see people stopping there and see them taking photographs and a lot



The Drummonds' house is a magnet for excited children at Christmas.

DM\_T52\_ ChristmasLights03

of children think Santa lives in the house.'

And because of this, she added: 'We will continue to do it as long as we can.'

Mike, who is tasked with decorating the outside of the house, said: 'We have put a lot of effort into it. It took well over a week to put them up. There is only so much you can

do in a day now.' While Mike is in charge of erecting the lights, the couple do receive help to retrieve them from the loft and storage.

This year, D&K Lafferty gave them a helping hand, but previous years Reflections hairdressers have done their bit, as have friends and family.

While the couple would love to raise money with their festive display in aid of charity, Maureen said it would be dangerous with the house being next to a busy road.

However, she did say that parents and children are more than welcome to park in her driveway to view the house.

## Happy Holidays in the Highlands!



The Scottish Highlands in winter is a truly magical place. It makes for romantic winter escapes with snow covered towering pines, crackling fireplaces and frozen waterfalls. It is a time to experience tranquility amongst the picturesque winter scenery or wander for miles by foot, car or bike amongst the world's most breathtaking landscapes.

As the Highlands change into an enchanting winter wonderland with snow dusted fir trees and glistening white snow under sunny skies, Black Sheep Hotels will keep you warm and cozy by a roaring fire while the snow falls gently outside.



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OT

# Twins boom sees Oban families

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Seeing double in Oban may not be a trick of the eye.

It seems the town has a bigger than average number of twins, with at least 15 sets under school age – and a midwife at Oban hospital is also a twin.

Oban has about 40 sets living in and around the town, and Mull has twins and so does Ardfern. A busy Argyll Twins Facebook page has more than 30 members.

Mums Laura Campbell, Kristeen Macleod and Sheobn Campbell all lived in the same Glencruitten street before they had their twins. Laura's grandmother was a twin and her partner Lee's sister also has twin girls – her own girls Hailie and Hollie are nine months old.

Margaret Campbell-Black, also from Oban, has two sets of twins with



a 10-year gap between her non-identical twin boys and identical girls Nicole and Demi who are eight months old.

Once a month, on the first Tuesday, Park Family Learning Centre flings open its doors to Oban

Twins Club, giving tots the chance to play and parents an opportunity to share chat, stories and experiences.

'The twins boom seems to come in waves – every two to three years or so in Oban. Maybe they should

put out a warning not to drink the water! We're due another boom in about 18 months,' said Kristeen, mum to 16-month-olds Sarah and Campbell.

'Even the twins consultant in Glasgow has picked up on it and made

a comment about the water!' added Kristeen.

Having twins came as a complete shock for Ailidh Campbell whose three-year-old son Eachann likes to tag along to twins club with his younger siblings Rowan and Somhairlie.

Twins Sarah and Campbell Macleod were born eight weeks premature and had to spend five weeks in neo-natal care before they could come home. The pair, who were separated for the first time when Sarah was airlifted to hospital in Glasgow last December, have a real bond but are different characters.

'Sarah is the wildest – she's the real wild child of the family – but that's because she had to fight when she was born. It was because of her that they had to come early,' said mum Kristeen.

'Coming to twins club is good to catch up with others. It's different having twins compared to singletons, so it's nice to spend time with

people who understand just what it's like. It might be double trouble sometimes but it's also twice the fun!' she added.

Oban Twins Club was started by mums in 2015, but the group nearly folded when numbers dwindled until the last boom bought it bouncing back.

Elaine Munro, who runs Park Family Learning Centre, said: 'It's lovely seeing them all grow. It's not easy parking up multiple numbers of double-buggy prams in town for the mums to meet up so here's a good place for them all. They can even go at the end and leave me to clear up!'

According to the NHS, one in every 65 births in the UK today are twins, triplets or more. Back in 1984, one in every 100 births was a multiple birth.

More than 5,000 miles flying distance from Oban, Cândido Godói, in the south of Brazil with a population



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# Families enjoy double the fun



Above, mum Ailidh Campbell with Eachann and his younger siblings Rowan and Somhairlie, above centre.



of about 7,000 inhabitants has a phenomenal number of twins.

The rate is 10 times higher than the national average

and no one knows why despite a team of geneticists working with the community for a number of years trying to solve the mystery.

Clockwise from above, Laura Campbell with Hailie and Hollie Hunter and big sister Aimee; Campbell and Sarah Macleod are never short of a playmate; Nicole and Demi Campbell-Black; and Sheobn Campbell's twins Tawnie and Bonnie.



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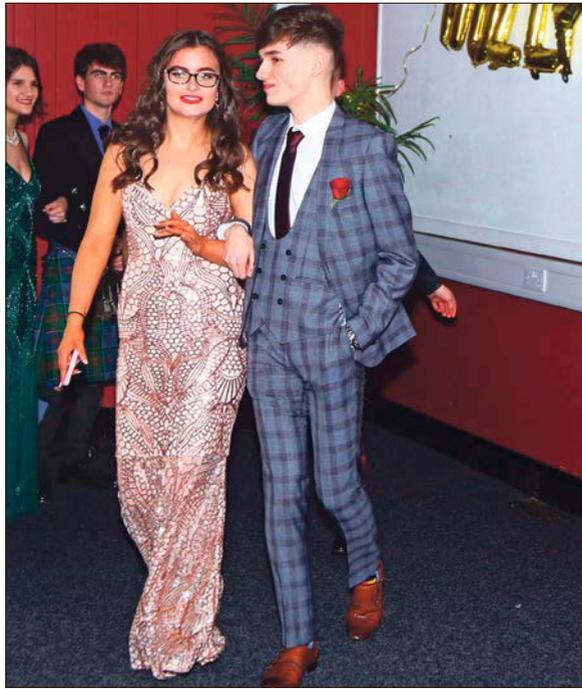


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OT

# Jingles all the way



Adam Hamill and Kate MacLeod lead the senior pupils into the Corran Halls to kick off the Jingles.



by David McPhee  
dmcphoe@obantimes.co.uk

The Corran Halls was packed this month for Oban High School's Senior Jingles.

Hundreds of pupils from Oban High School attended the annual dance, which was held on December 13.

It featured live music from Chunks and Creel, as well as DJ Patrick Steeman and a special performance from sixth-year Sam Coates, who closed the show.

Sam, who also represented Scotland in chess at the youth world championships earlier this year, swapped the checkered board to check his mates out on the dance floor with his DJ set.

Oban High School head teacher Peter Bain, said: 'Sam Coates closed [the] Jingles last night with an amazing set.'

He added: 'Thanks to Miss Playfair and all the senior pupils for putting together a brilliant evening.'

'Thanks also to all the staff for giving up a Friday night to look after everyone, to Live Argyll and the Corran Halls staff for their support and facilities, and thanks especially to all the performers - Chunks, Creel, Patrick Steeman and Sam Coates - for a great show.'

Pupils also helped raise money for new charity, Anam Cara Fasgadh, which aims to buy holiday caravans or cabins to give short-break respites to families affected by the death of a baby.

Susan and Andrew Simpson are co-founders of Anam Cara Fasgadh.

They said: 'We would like to say a massive thank you to the senior pupils team. We are so proud of the students for choosing to support bereaved families.'



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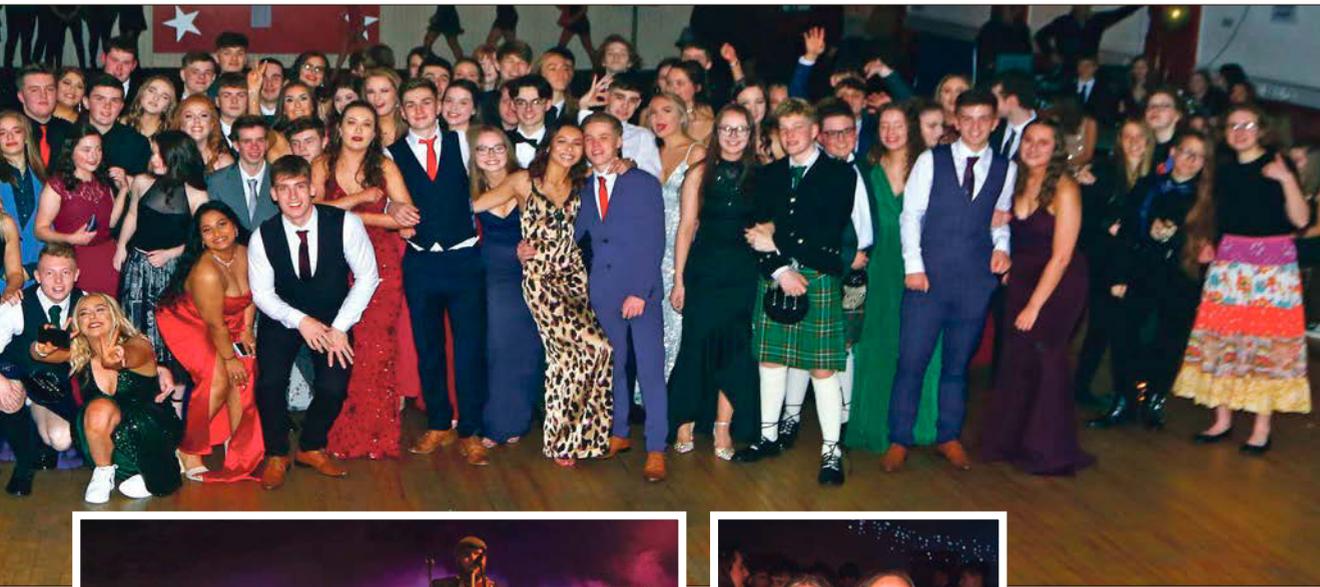
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# at seniors' dance



Above, seniors take time for a picture at the beginning of the Jingles; far left, the band Creel kicked off the Jingles keeping the dancers going; and, left, the young people had a fantastic night.

Photographs: Kevin McGlynn

Sam Coates was DJ for the evening. It was his first gig and was a huge success, going by all the smiling faces, top.



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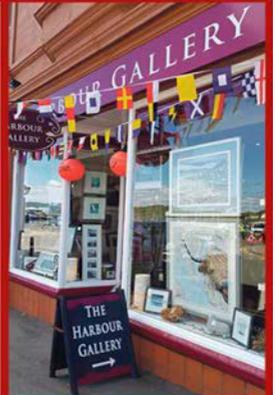
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# Affordable housing help for Ulva Ferry is on hand

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Mull and Iona Community Trust wants to hear from islanders needing help to find affordable housing.

The trust has already built two new homes opposite Ulva Ferry Primary School providing homes for two families with six children between them and has plans to build four more in the New Year.

News, expected in February, will reveal if it has also been successful in applying to the Scottish Government for money from its Rural and Island Housing Fund.

If it is good news, the hope is to award contracts for the construction in April heading for completion in March 2021. The majority of money from that award would cover build and infrastructure costs for the two three-bedroom



**Nationwide Oban branch manager William Campbell and member representative Katy Sinclair with the cheque for Mull and Iona Community Trust.**

said: 'Choosing the Ulva Ferry project was a no brainer. People on the board felt really strongly about the work it is doing to provide much-needed affordable housing there.'

Mull and Iona Community Trust's general manager Moray Finch said the Nationwide's award was 'amazing.'

'It's a really amazing boost which means we can concentrate on delivering the project at Ulva Ferry and offer support to other communities.'

'The trust would also love to hear from residents who would like to see something similar to Ulva Ferry happen in their community.'

The trust now has its own housing manager in post.

homes and two two-bedroom houses planned for Ulva Ferry. Because of the site's remote locations, a private water supply and private sewage systems would need to be installed, and electric cables and pylons diverted.

Earlier this month the trust received £31,886 from Nationwide Building Society to help tackle housing issues.

It was one of 12 projects

to get a share of just over £500,000 from Nationwide's Community Grant fund focusing on strengthening communities and making a real difference. The final decisions on the applications were made by a local Community Board made up of Nationwide members and colleagues.

David Barlow, a local director for Nationwide, who was on the Community Board,

## MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



In the words of Thomas Miller in his 1851 poem: 'Christmas comes but once a year.' And as this paper will be published on Christmas Eve, it is only fitting that a Yuletide theme will dust this piece in festive snow.

I recently watched a very fine film on the theme of Christmas Eve. The Glasgow-based, low budget film was titled Wigilia, which is the Polish name for the celebration of Christmas Eve. The plot and the message are refreshingly simple and powerful and had more strength of meaning and feel-good factor than many a Hollywood blockbuster.

The story brings a chance meeting between a Polish cleaner working in Glasgow and the down-on-his-luck brother of the owner of the flat that she is tidying. Both are lonely people in a world that is not welcoming. Their initial surprise and unwelcome encounter is the catalyst for their bonding and, due to the festive timing, they agree to celebrate Wigilia together.

They are two people who in different ways are going

through a difficult time and whose lives are in a precarious place. Their meeting has a significant effect on them and changes the course of their lives in the most positive way.

Showing kindness and understanding to another human being can have a huge effect. This awareness of the benefits of showing kindness to others is, of course, important throughout the year, but at Christmas it is a particularly good time to reflect and re-calibrate our attitudes and actions to others.

From Ebenezer Scrooge in A Christmas Carol to characters of Love Actually and It's a Wonderful Life, to the protagonists of Wigilia, the history of literature and film is full of positive stories of lives turned around at Christmastime.

As we head from Christmas into the new year, we should all keep the magic of kindness to others in our minds. We will make our own and the lives of everyone we encounter richer, better and more fulfilling.

'Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!'

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# A piping family legend –

## Morvern lines

IAIN THORNER

ian.thorner@btinternet.com



The music of the pipes is essentially the music of a mood. It is intended to express or commemorate a moment of emotion, and nothing more; it deals with the simple and fundamental feeling common to all mankind: grief, defiance, joy, longing, or contempt, but before all, the lust for a fight and the call to battle. Its range is very limited, but within its limits, it is unsurpassed.

The pure spirit of sorrow was never better expressed than in the finest of the pipe laments, whether the wild despairing grief of MacCrimmon's, or MacGregor of Roro's Lament, or the solemn mourning of Mackintosh's or Lord Lovat's. This – that it is the simple statement of a fundamental feeling – is the secret of its appeal to all nations as well as Scots; the reason why you may find a Gurkha regiment marching to a pipe band playing Bonnie Laddie, Highland Laddie.

For many of these airs, tradition has preserved the story of how many of them came to be made. In the old days every clan had its own particular tunes; each had its own lament, played at the death of a chieftain; its gathering, which summoned the clan to battle; and its rant, which hurled defiance at the enemy. Many, perhaps all, of these arose from



Scott Burgess Hay with client Iain MacGillivray, of Calrossie, Tain, who has just purchased a set of Burgess bellow pipes. Photograph: Iain Thornber.

particular circumstances. Unlike some Gaelic singers who may excel in their presentation but know little of what they are singing about, Scott Burgess Hay does. His knowledge of the history of the pipes, their tunes, composers, and the stories behind their titles is phenomenal. As a historian I enjoyed his easy way of telling them.

A gruesome tale is associated with the MacDonells of Glengarry attacking a church in Mackenzie country.

About the year 1610, the chief was a very old man and his son had not yet come of age, so his nephew, Alan MacDonnell of Lundy, was chosen captain, or commander to use the modern term, of the clan. He was nicknamed 'Alan with the Red Jacket' from a handsome scarlet coat which he was fond of wearing.

One day Alan, wishing to introduce his young cousin in the arts of war, took him with him on a raid on their hereditary enemies, the

Mackenzies. On this occasion the Mackenzies got the better of it; they laid an ambush for the MacDonnell's galleys as they returned, sunk two of them, and killed the young chief.

Alan, who himself only escaped by swimming, was furious, and vowed to wreak such vengeance for his kinsmen that it would never be forgotten. He waited quietly until a day came round when he knew that the most important families of the Mackenzies would be attending a service in the church of Killechrist. There he secretly led a band of picked men, surrounded the church, and set fire to it.

Meantime, the alarm passed through the country, and the Mackenzies gathered and pursued their retreating foes. Most of them were cut off and killed, and Alan with the Red Jacket himself was severely wounded and only escaped, it is said, by leaping a tremendous chasm in the rocks, where no one dared to follow. The tune, however, was preserved under the name of Killechrist and became the gathering call of the MacDonnells of Glengarry.

The Spoiling of the Wall is another pipe tune associated with the burning of a church. It happened on the Waternish Peninsula on Skye in 1578 between the MacDonalds and the Macleods and was a tit-for-tat revenge between these two feuding clans.

The MacDonalds barred the door of Trumpan Church, or St Conan's, to give it its old name, when the Macleods were at prayer. They then set fire to it. No one escaped except for one girl who, although badly burned, managed to give

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# part two

the alarm. On hearing the news, the chief of Clan MacLeod and his men set off for Ardmore Bay and slaughtered the MacDonalds. Their bodies were laid out side by side below a nearby dyke which was then pushed over on top of them thereby saving the Macleods having to dig a grave.

I do not know who composed the tune and can only speculate that it must have been a Macleod. The contempt in lamenting the loss of the wall rather than the death of the MacDonalds is almost palpable, but that was life in the 16th century. The church has remained a ruin since as a memorial to the Macleods who perished there.

A more pleasant story is that of the Cock of the North – a 6/8 military march – with the title coming from the nickname of Alexander, 4th Duke of Gordon, who in 1794 raised the 92nd Regiment of Foot which later became the Gordon Highlanders.

The popular tune, The Barren Rocks of Aden, is said to have been written when a Highland regiment was stationed there. The pipe-major fell in love with the colonel's wife and they became lovers. The colonel found out and sent her back to Scotland. Whether it was the pipe-major who was distraught and wrote the tune or the pipe-band taking the Mickey, we will probably never know.

When William, Duke of Cumberland, marched from Edinburgh to Culloden his pipers played, Up and waur them a', Willie, which is still a popular pipe tune. MacCrimmon's

lament, with its refrain, 'No More, No more', used to be played when the 17th century Highland emigration began. To my mind, the old, original version, known to very few pipers, is the best. It can be heard on YouTube under Jacobite Piper Plays Lochaber No More. This funeral march, or lament, which may or may not be Irish, is said to have been written by Myles O'Reilly about 1636 in Killinkere, County Cavan.

No better example of an expression of grief or sorrow in a lament is to be found than in the opening lines of an old melody preserved in the Ardgour district called The Lament of the Maclean of Ardgour: 'Wail loudly, ye women, your coronach doleful, lament him ye pipers, tread solemn and slow; mown down like a flower is the chief of Ardgour, and the hearts of the clansmen are weary with woe'.

The composer is unknown but the subject was Donald the 1st Maclean of Ardgour, known in Gaelic as 'Dhomhnuill na Sealgair' – Donald the Hunter. His death occurred about 1450 when he was killed by a stag during a deer drive in the foothills of Sgurr Donald – a 2,915ft high mountain named after him, lying at the west end of the ridge separating Glen Gour from Glen Scaddle.

Scott, himself a composer of pipe tunes, is gathering information for a book on piping to coincide with the opening of the Burgess family Highland Bagpipe Centre. Watch this space.

■ The final part of this series will be forthcoming.



Scott Burgess Hay playing a set of small bellows pipes which he made (Photograph HIE)



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## Happy New Year to all.

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## LETTERS

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## Have a peaceful and very merry Christmas

There is a wonderful sense of loyalty among readers and advertisers of The Oban Times.

And in return we strive every day to represent the issues that matter to our communities, reporting all the concerns, events and activities.

At this time of the year, our staff – and contributors – are out and about covering all the many festive activities as well as more serious issues, including last week's General Election.

However, by far the main focus over this next couple of weeks will be Christmas and all that the season entails.

Wherever you are and whatever you are doing, we wish you all a peaceful and very merry Christmas.

## Correcting inaccuracies in opinion piece on Kilmartin

The Trustees of Kilmartin Museum, Dunadd Community Council and Dunadd Community Enterprise write to correct some inaccuracies in Iain Thornber's article in The Oban Times titled 'A visit to historic Kilmartin Glen'.

Kilmartin Museum is a local charity focusing on the prehistoric and early historic archaeology rather than on 19th century, ecclesiastical history. It acts as the repository for over 22,000 archaeological artefacts and must raise the funds annually to care for these as well as run an education service that reaches thousands of people. Museum facilities are no longer adequate, hence the need for a major expansion.

The church could not easily be converted for this use. Moreover, the project is already well under way, and every penny of the funding raised is ring-fenced, so changes proposed cannot now be made. It is a great pity that Mr Thornber did not bother to contact the museum to discuss the matter. Since learning of the decision to sell a number of local churches, the museum has worked closely with church representatives, Dunadd Community Council, and Dunadd Community Enterprise, the group aspiring to find a sustainable use for the building. Any one of these groups would have told

him this, and that a very generous supporter of the museum has, in fact, already purchased the building as a holding measure, allowing the museum to use it – depending on planning consents – while building works are taking place, giving Dunadd Community Enterprise the time needed to develop the business case required to bring the building into community ownership.

**Kilmartin Museum Trustees,  
Dunadd Community Council and  
Dunadd Community Enterprise.**

## Thanks to people who voted in General Election

I would like to thank everybody who voted for me at the General Election and the many people who helped in my campaign. I congratulate Brendan O'Hara on his re-election.

**Alan Reid, Liberal Democrat candidate.**

## Challenge NHH on failure to provide essential facilities

I have often read in The Oban Times and Lochaber Times press releases from the Joint Community Council Working Group which extol the initiatives by the Working Group and NHH Highland to maximise the use of the Dail Mhor care home for the benefit of the communities of Ardnamurchan.

In addition, every month in our local De tha dol? we are provided with a Dail Mhor Update, including a regular report on the fact that 'respite beds' are being utilised almost to capacity.

Now, while all the peripheral facilities are very welcome and appreciated, the community has made clear to the Working Group and to NHH that the facility, which is by far the most important to the residents of these remote communities, is permanent residential care beds.

It is noticeable, however, that never in any of the reports or updates is the matter of permanent beds mentioned. It's as though both organisations believe that by not mentioning 'the elephant in the room' members of the communities will in time forget about it. It is, after all, a minor inconvenience for families to visit more distant facilities for a small period of respite care compared with the life committing need to travel such distances to visit their loved ones on a permanent basis.

I would urge the Combined Working Group to start seriously challenging NHH by public campaign on their failure to provide absolutely essential care facilities for the elderly residents of these remote areas, or to explain why they are

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

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

Ith, òl, agus bi subhach! Sin pàirt mhòr den fheallsanachd a tha a-nise a' cuartachadh àm na Nollaige 's na Bliadhna' Ùire, agus nach math co-throm a ghabhail draghan agus trioblaidean làitheil a leigeil à cuimhne airson tacan.

Ach tha e fìor a ràdh gum bheil mòran againn buailteach a dhol thar nan tomhasan le ìre na ròic a tha ga deasachadh agus tha an t-uamhas bìdh a dol a dholaigh an dèidh làimhe.

Aig an aon àm tha milleanan air feadh an t-saoghail a' fulang le acras agus tart, agus 's fhiach dhuinn cuimhneachadh gum bheil daoine anns an dùthaich seo fhèin cuideachd a tha fo bhuaidh bochdainn.

'S dòcha gur ann air sgàth a' mhòr-chuid againn a bhith a' caitheamh uiread an-dràsta a tha sinn nas buailtiche mothachadh dha suidheachadh nan truaghan sin.

Bidh sibhshe mothachail, mar a tha mise, air an obair ionmholta aig buidhne-an carthannais a tha a' toirt biadh, aodach, agus beagan cofhurtachd dhan fheadhainn aig nach eil na

sochairean sin aig àm sam bith den bhliadhna.

'S math an còcaire an t-acras, 's mairg nì tarchais air a' bhìadh! Comhairle a tha ga fàgail an urra ri Iarla Mhàrr nuair a bha e na fhògarrach an dèidh Blàr Inbhir Lòchaidh, agus tha e heart cho fìor, agus pailt cho iomchaidh, an-diugh 's a bha e anns a' chòigeamh linn deug.

'S ann nuair as gainne am biadh as còir a roinn a rèir seanfhacal eile, ach nuair a tha ana-caitheamh ga dhèanamh air uimhir tha fhios gum bheil àm roinne fiù 's nas deatamaiche buileach.

Bha coibhneas bheante anns an dualchas againn agus 's math as fhiach na seann dòighean a chumail air chumhne agus an cleachdadh nuair a ghabhas. Nam òige bhithinn a' cuideachadh seann chuibear, a bha a' fuireach faisg oirnn, le obair earraich is foghair agus bhithinn a' gabhail annas nuair a dhòirteadh e drama nach robh aige ach aon ghlainne fiona is a cas briste dhith.

Dh'fheumadh gach duine feitheamh chun an ruigeadh a' ghlainne airsan.

Bha Pàdraig còir fada mar-

bh mun do bhuail e orm nach b' e 's dòcha bochdainn a bha seo idir ach seann chleachdadh bhon àm sam bithte ag òl à adharc nach gabhadh cur sìos chun am biodh i falamh.

Chuala mi cuideachd uair mu sheann chleachdadh Gàidhealach eile a chòrd rium gu mòr, agus b' e sin mar a bhiodh "roinn a' choigrich" ga chomharrachadh aig àm bìdh, ge b' e dè cho pailt neo gann 's a bha beairteas na dachaigh. Chan eil mi idir a' feuchainn ri bhur fàgail a' faireachadh ciontach às an t-saidhbhreas neo am furan a bhios agaibh, gu dearbh 's ann a tha mi a' guidhe sin dhuibh gu dùrachdach, agus cuideachd gum bi "roinn a' choigrich" daonnan deiseil agaibh!

I wish you a wonderful Christmas, and the opportunity to share kindness and happiness with as many as possible! Remember, a stranger is just a friend you do not know!

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



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# DISTRICT NEWS

## Hundreds enter Rotary card competition



Left to right above are Erika Baines, Chaya Wesley and Freya Felgate with Rotary president Douglas Small and, right, Riley Wallace with Rotarian Alan Hoar.



The Rotary Club of Oban has just run their popular primary schools Christmas card competition with a staggering 627 entries from 10 different primary schools throughout the area.

The competition is a great favourite and highlights the fantastic imagination and artistic talents of our wonderful young pupils.

President Douglas Small paid particular thanks to all the heads, teachers and classroom assistants for all their enthusiasm in giving time to their pupils to participate in the event.

He said: 'Without the support of our head teachers, teachers and support staff, this event would not be possible, so on behalf of

Oban Rotary, I would like to warmly thank all those who took part at the sharp end of the coloured pencils and glitter as well as all those behind the scenes.'

Rotary youth convener Alan Hoar organised the competition this year and as usual the competition was split into two categories, P1-P3 and P4-P7.

The competition was judged by former Oban High School art teachers Val Hamilton and Val Leckie, who are now art and design teachers at the Rockfield Centre.

Val Hamilton said: 'It was a very high standard of entry this year and a tough job to pick the winners, but we got there. We just have to watch out for the small

mountain of glitter ... it gets everywhere!' The P1-P3 winners were: Riley Wallace (St Columba's) and Chaya Wesley (Easdale). The P4-P7 winners: Erika Baines (Barcaldine) and Freya Felgate (Park).

As competition winners, Riley and Chaya had a wonderful ride in Santa's sleigh at the Reindeer Parade, and Erika and Freya did a fine job in turning on the Christmas lights to much fanfare in Argyll Square.

Winners certificates were designed and printed by Rotarian past-president Ronnie Neil, a renowned architect.

Another memorable Christmas card competition enjoyed by all. Well done to everyone who took part.

## At random

MARTIN LAING

mllaing@obantimes.co.uk



## Highlights of 2019

Just a few words on the year almost over and what, for me, have been some of the highlights.

From recent times, there was the always enjoyable Oban Winter Festival, which I look forward to each year. Well done to the organisers for this year's splendid events.

Hope Kitchen continues to amaze me. The excellent work done there to help the less fortunate among us is brilliant and deserves high praise. And in connection with that, Martyn's Monday Club – for both men and women now – has become an established part of the community, offering help for those with mental health issues.

On the health front, the Dove Centre in Stevenson Street also does a fantastic job in helping people with lime-limiting illnesses.

My colleague Nicky Murphy, as we reported last week, continues to organise the Pink Ladies Day of pampering and pleasure for women who have experienced breast cancer. Well done, Nicky.

It has been an excellent year for Oban Saints, with a great start to a first season in the Central Scottish AFL – Division 1B, winning all 11 fixtures to date. Let's hope the boys keep winning.

## Happy new year

I still have to pinch myself over how rapidly this year seems to have flown past.

Now we are on the verge of 2020, a whole new decade. How time flies, indeed.

I would like to offer all you dear readers a very happy new year and thanks to the many people who have been in touch with feedback on my ramblings in this space. And, quite rightly, many of the comments have not been complimentary!

However, responses are always much appreciated and I would encourage anyone who wants to disagree with me or otherwise to feel free to speak up.

## What do you think?

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

## Choir sing for Tesco shoppers

Oban Parish Church Choir entertained Tesco shoppers with a selection of favourite Christmas Carols.



**HIGHLAND FASTENERS**  
Happy New Year!!

**FESTIVE OPENING HOURS**

Tuesday 24th December	07:30 – 13:00	Monday 30th December	07:30 – 17:00
Christmas Day	CLOSED	Tuesday 31st December	07:30 – 13:00
Boxing Day	CLOSED	Wednesday 1st January	CLOSED
Friday 27th December	07:30 – 17:00	Thursday 2nd January	CLOSED
Saturday 28th December	08:00 – 12:00	Friday 3rd January	07:30 – 17:00
Sunday 29th December	CLOSED	Saturday 4th January	08:00 – 12:00

Back to our normal hours of business

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# Is 2020 the year you decide on an independent school?

*Your choice for your child and practical financial steps you can take to make it happen*

## Never too soon to start budgeting

One of the biggest concerns for parents is how to manage the cost of sending children to an independent school.

With this concern in mind, SCIS – the Scottish Council of Independent Schools – spoke to Dave Roberts, director of Chiene and Tait, a chartered accounting firm in Edinburgh and he offered some great advice for parents who are unsure about how to take the first steps towards budgeting for, and best managing, school fees.

He said start as soon as possible, adding: 'It costs on average £195,000 to put a child through private school education, based on P1 to S6 – an increase of more than 20 per cent since 2012 – so the sooner

you can start saving the better!' He recommends that you begin to save each month.

Remember that grandparents can contribute up to £3,000 a year for each child and this would be exempt from inheritance tax; and contributions of more being 'potentially exempt'.

On average fees are increasing by four per cent annually; some schools offer 'future funding'. By paying in advance you are protected from inflation.

Fee plans go from a simple monthly direct debit to an annual plan or a plan to cover the entire duration your child is at school.

With the latter you normally pay one lump sum towards the beginning of the plan with regular contributions throughout, which are invested in unit trusts. Units are then sold on a regular basis to pay for school fees.



## Erskine Stewart's Melville Schools

*A unique family of independent schools*



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Like any family, values lie at the heart of who we are, and we help the boys and girls who live in our Boarding House to live up to these values in all that they do. Dean Park House provides a comfortable, close-knit and affordable home from home for children whose parents may work overseas or live too far from Edinburgh to commute daily.

Our House accommodates up to 30 boarders in separate, secure study bedrooms. This small size means that boarding is like being part of an extended family, and children forge deep and lasting friendships. Living just a short walk from the west end of Edinburgh's historic centre, boarders enjoy regular field trips within the city, as well as further afield across Scotland.

ESMS offers more than 300 clubs and societies as well as unrivalled opportunities in sport, music and

drama, outdoor education, trips and community involvement, all with the intention of helping your child discover their talents, explore something new, have fun and make new friends.

Rated 'Excellent' in all categories assessed in our most recent Care Inspectorate Report, each child receives a high level of care and individual attention in the House.

For more information or to arrange a personal visit at any time, please contact our Admissions Manager on admissions@esms.org.uk



# At Strathallan, the *possibilities* are endless

Our mission is to provide an outstanding education that gives opportunities for all pupils to perform to the very best of their abilities. Our pupils excel, whatever their passion or interest: last year, 60 pupils played as part of a national or international team across a range of sports, and in 2019 Strathallan students achieved their best A Level results in a decade, with a quarter of all A Level students awarded straight A\* or A grades.

## ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Academically, we strive for excellence and our ambition is to inspire a lifelong enjoyment of learning for learning's sake. Our flexible curriculum and innovative teaching means we can support every pupil, whatever their ambitions and style of learning. Our leavers go on to Oxbridge and Russell Group universities, international study, work placements, the Armed Forces and professional sporting and performing arts careers.

## GLOBAL COMMUNITY

Strathallan is a friendly, welcoming place with a strong sense of community.



In 2019 The Care Inspectorate rated Strathallan a Grade 6 (Sector Leading) Excellent for the Quality of care and support. We make the most of our self-contained, rural location every day, but at our core, we are a truly international community with pupils and alumni around the globe.

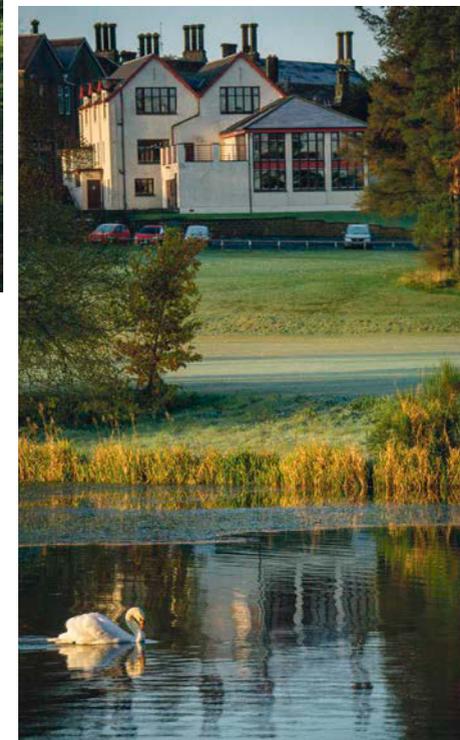
This diversity of community and experience means Strathallians leave our school with the maturity and cultural intelligence to succeed, wherever they go.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL TO EXCEL

Strathallan pupils have the freedom and space to develop their own skills in an idyllic environment with the support of a close, caring community. We believe a holistic approach to education leads to a rich diversity of pupil experience and consistently exceptional achievements. Young people leave Strathallan with the skills and knowledge to succeed in their chosen career, and the confidence to make their mark on the world.

*"I look back at my time at Strathallan with fondness. The quality of education in the classroom, in the creative arts and on the sports field was of the highest possible level. With Strathallan on my CV there are no doors that are not open to me."*

**Former Pupil**



Where 79% of A-Level students achieved A\*-B grades in 2019...

Find out what your child could achieve at Perthshire's leading independent school for 9-18 year olds...

## Open Morning: Saturday 7th March 2020

9.30 am - 1.30 pm

Register online: [www.strathallan.co.uk/open-days](http://www.strathallan.co.uk/open-days)

Strathallan School, Forgandenny, Perthshire, PH2 9EG | +44(0)1738 812 546 | [admissions@strathallan.co.uk](mailto:admissions@strathallan.co.uk)

## 'Interesting times'

'It is a fair bet that fewer people are wishing that we may live in 'interesting times'. Independent schools in Scotland have seen 2019 draw to a close with the Non-Domestic Rates Bill now two-thirds of its way through the Scottish Parliament towards Royal Assent – planned for 2020. Running contrary to the 2005 charity test, this will reduce the financial space that allows schools to offer at least five times more in public benefit than they receive. The reasoning is still hotly debated, but Scottish schools are preparing themselves for the new reality if appeals for consistency fail.

'As ever, our schools will be concentrating instead on what works, what is achievable, and what makes a genuine difference to young people's lives.' – John Edward, director of the Scottish Council of Independent Schools, a charity providing a listing of Scotland's independent and private schools with relevant information and advice on finding the right school and financing your child's education.



*Get professional advice on funding*

*Amongst the methods that professionals can give advice on are:*

- *Set up a family business or trust*
- *Utilising an existing company*
- *Grandparent contributions*
- *Utilise an ISA*
- *Pension withdrawal*

## Dollar Academy *First class teaching and outstanding facilities*

Dollar Academy, the world's oldest co-educational day and boarding school, offers a unique boarding experience from its stunning 70-acre campus nestled at the foot of the Ochil Hills.

Few other schools in Scotland can boast such a fantastic blend of rural and urban living. Located in Dollar, a picturesque town surrounded by outstanding countryside, the school is a 30-minute drive from both Stirling and Perth, with Glasgow and Edinburgh easily accessible in just under an hour's drive.

The boarding houses are home to boys and girls aged 10-18, with juniors and seniors mixing together to create a family atmosphere. With hundreds of day pupils living in Dollar itself, boarders also make strong friendships outwith the houses and are very well integrated into the fabric of the town. Boarders live in period houses that balance traditional charm with modern comfort and style, providing welcoming bedrooms, stimulating work spaces and contemporary social rooms. The houses are run by Houseparents who absolutely view the young people in their



care as an extension of their own family. They are supported by house tutors and pastoral specialists.

Dollar Academy is one of the top-performing academic schools in the UK, and students can choose from the widest range of subjects on offer in Scotland. Some of the greatest lessons are learnt outside the classroom, and here Dollar excels with its vast extra-curricular programme which includes over 70 cultural, service and sporting opportunities. All pupils have access to the first-class teachers, coaches, instructors and facilities, which boarders can benefit from additionally during the evenings and weekends.



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[www.dollaracademy.org.uk](http://www.dollaracademy.org.uk)

The Governors of Dollar Academy Trust is a charity registered in Scotland, no SC009888

# Lomond School – Applications open for 2020 scholarships

Following the success of the scholarship programme launched on the back of the school's recent 40th Anniversary Celebrations, Lomond School is pleased to announce they are welcoming scholarship applications for January and August 2020 entry.

The scholarship programme is open to applications for both day and boarding places from Junior 5 to Senior 6 with scholarships awarded for Academic Excellence, Music, the Creative Arts and Sport as well as the David Arthur All-Rounder Scholarship.

Like all young people attending Lomond School, in Helensburgh, Argyll, Lomond Scholars will benefit from the excellent systems in place

which help pupils to achieve their very best. Academic achievement is supported by small class sizes, dedicated teaching staff, superb facilities and a significant emphasis on pupil happiness, health and wellbeing.

The continuous encouragement, support and guidance provided by the school ensures that every pupil receives a tailored education and the personal support and guidance needed to help them achieve their full potential.

Beyond the classroom, Lomond School provides many opportunities for young people to further explore their interests with pupils enjoying a wide variety of extra-curricular clubs and sports. They also have access to life-changing

experiences such as the recent trip to Tanzania where pupils worked with Moving Mountains Trust.

Principal, Johanna Urquhart said: 'Beyond the help and support our teachers and staff provide, the school itself has a

very welcoming environment where young people support each other and celebrate each other's achievements. In many ways this is the backbone of much of our pupils' success, at a time in their lives when peer acceptance and acknowledgement is so important. We are looking forward to providing more opportunities for young people to benefit from all we have to offer through our Scholarships Programme for 2020.'



## NEW SERVICE!

To support families living in Argyll and the surrounding area, Lomond School has recently introduced a weekly boarding option with travel services, allowing pupils to attend Lomond School during the week and return home for the weekend.

Contact the Registrar to find out more.

Tel: **01436 672 476**,

Email:

**admissions@lomondschool.com,**  
**lomondschool.com/scholarships**



Lomond  
School  
Helensburgh



## 2020 Scholarships

Lomond School is now inviting applications from talented 9 – 18 year olds for our scholarship programme for January or August 2020 entry.

Join our unique family environment, with boarding and day scholarships available for young people who excel in academia, music, creative arts or sport.

For more information, please contact our Registrar:

T: 01436 672476

E: [admissions@lomondschool.com](mailto:admissions@lomondschool.com)

W: [lomondschool.com/scholarships](http://lomondschool.com/scholarships)

Enquire about transport options available for weekly boarders.

# LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

## Rockin' new year for Kim

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Oban's Kim Carnie is heading to home territory to kick-start her happy new year.

The Gaelic songstress, who still has a little sister and tons of cousins around the town, will be at the Corran Halls on January 2 with folk supergroup Mánran.

You will also be able to see Kim on this year's BBC Alba Hogmanay Show.

Kim was one of two new band members, along with her good friend and guitar maestro Aidan Moodie from Orkney, announced as joining Mánran in time to celebrate their 10th anniversary at the heart of the Scottish traditional music scene.

'It's going to be wild and wonderful,' she said.

Being signed to the band came as a total surprise for Kim and the invite came over a coffee with Mánran accordion player Gary Innes, who she has also been touring



with this year. 'A lot of people are emphasising a female joining the band,' Kim told The Oban Times. 'A lot of people were surprised by that, but the boys did not think about it as a big move – they

just though I was the right fit. 'I'm good pals with Aidan, the other new member. It feels right to be going into this new project with him, the dynamics are perfect.'

Recording a new solo album

is also on the 2020 horizon for Kim.

She said: 'I've got some cool ideas for it but I'm keeping that under wraps for now.'

Kim also has Mánran's two-day festival in Fort William

Kim Carnie with Mánran – the band comes to Oban's Corran Halls on January 2.

coming up on Friday April 10 and Saturday April 11 when they will be joined by a line-up of musician pals and longtime-cohorts, including Skerryvore.

Taking place at the foot of Britain's tallest mountain, Mánran: 10 by the Ben will take over An Aird shinty field, with two of the band's founding members, Ewen Henderson and Gary Innes, being local Lochaber lads, bringing the weekend celebrations back to their hometown.

Looking back on 2019, it has been a busy year for Kim, who only got back from Germany last month with her Highland Blast Tour.

Other highlights for the singing star, who also fronts music show Alt on BBC Alba, and has a presenting spot on

Finnish TV, included time with her own band and other friends in Norway and the Basque country. One of the most memorable gigs was in a Basque cave that sold out to 500 people.

Despite a busy schedule ahead, Kim hopes to push on with a project she calls VOX and one she started in early 2019 by bringing together a mix of singers in harmony from varying influences – Gaelic, English folk, jazz and Canadian.

'We are going to keep the collaboration up in 2020. We are all so busy but there are dates in the diary and we hope the five of us will do some recording,' she said.

'I've had a really nice year and I've a feeling 2020 is going to be even better,' she added.

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### Bad news for Snowmen

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# Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk

I hope everyone is having a relaxing time over the Christmas break.

It is a strange period for the Glasgow Letter because it is a time of year I am very seldom in Glasgow, preferring instead to head back home to Lochaber and get my mum to do my washing! Sometimes I even remember to bring her up a Christmas present as a thank you!

Anyway, apart from a brief visit to the Christmas market at the St Enoch Centre, I cannot claim to have had a particularly Christmassy December in Glasgow.

In my eight years in the city, I have never endorsed the festive Glasgow tradition of going to the panto; I've never been to the ice skating in George Square; and, this year, I never even wandered down from my flat to nearby Kelvingrove Museum to check out Elflingrove, which has generated so much conversation (both positive and negative) since its appearance this month. I went to the Vatersay Boys and the Glasgow Skye, though, and have covered them fairly extensively in this letter; so what more can a good teacher ask?

## Celtic Connections

I suppose now is as good a time as any to turn our attention towards Celtic Connections which, as always, is the first big event to look forward to



The critically acclaimed Grit Orchestra.

in the calendar of the Glasgow Gael! A fair bit of the programme has been announced and it is as impressive as ever.

The much-loved Grit Orchestra (an 80-piece ensemble formed five years ago to celebrate the music of the late Martyn Bennett) are back to launch the festival on Thursday January 16 with a performance of The Declaration – a new commission written by six members of the orchestra inspired by the Declaration of Arbroath ahead of its 700th anniversary in April.

By the following Saturday, the orchestra will have moved to the Barrowland to perform Martyn Bennett's Grit and Bothy Culture which (in a venue not necessarily associated with orchestral music) will be quite a spectacle.

Over the course of the month that follows, there are concerts by Duncan Chisholm, Breabach, Blazin' Fiddles, Emily Smith, Julie

Fowles, Mánran, Sian, Mike McGoldrick, Peat and Diesel, Peatbog Faeries, Phil Cunningham, Session A9, Kinnaris Quintet, Transatlantic Sessions, Rura and many more!

As usual, I will be covering it as best as I can. In the new year, I will introduce a special What's On at Celtic Connections section with more details of each gig; and try to make it to as many concerts as possible in order to review them. And most likely have a very good time in the process! It really is a great way to fend off the dreaded January blues. Although, in my experience, it really just delays them until February!

## New Year...

Wishing all readers of the Glasgow Letter a good New Year when it comes. Thanks for reading my rambles and stay tuned for more Glasgow-based nonsense in 2020!

# Oban quiz-lovers raise vital cash for Tear Fund

For the second year running, Oban quiz-lovers have helped raised vital cash for charity.

Oban Baptist Church hosted Tear Fund Big Quiz Night in the Corran Halls during the Winter Festival, with 136 people taking part in the quiz. They included members of Oban's churches, friends and families, members of Oban community and the surrounding areas, who enjoyed an evening together of brain searching, fun and tea and cakes.

The Choc Shop team took first place with an excellent score of 63.5 out of 80, with the Fred team second with 61 out of 80. All the tables chose a name for their own table – the best table name chosen was Willy and The Wonkies and the funniest table name was Dazed and Confused!

Quiz organiser Mary Black

said: 'We would like to thank all who helped in making this event such a success.'

'We would like to thank the businesses who contributed items for our fundraising mini-auction – Saffron/Millstone Foods, BID4Oban/Love Oban vouchers, Alba Arts Shop, Highland Fasteners, Cafe Harris, Costa Cafe, Pets at Home, Bookers, Homebase, Hope Kitchen, Specsavers.

'We'd also like to thank Maree and friends and others who contributed to this fundraiser, and to those who provided baking and tablet for the table top sale and provided for the participants teas.

'And thanks to those who gave money donations. Our thanks to the Corran Halls staff who were so helpful during the preparation, selling

tickets etc, and for all their help at the event.'

While the figure is still rising, Tear Fund figures on Friday December 13 were: UK participants – 25,931 (last year 24,117); UK money raised – £180,000 (last year £66,496);

Scotland – 67 quiz nights (do not have number of participants); Scotland – money raised £21,469.

Mary added: 'The amount Oban raised to send to Tear Fund after expenses was £1,200. Thank you for all who joined with us to support this excellent charity. Tear Fund Scotland is an excellent charity that works through church partners in 50 countries to bring lasting transformation to people living in extreme poverty.'



# OBAN PHOENIX CINEMA WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

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## MOTHERLESS BROOKLYN

CATS - SHOWING DAILY FROM FRIDAY 3RD JANUARY

### FRIDAY 27TH DECEMBER

Frozen 2 | U 12:30  
Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker | 12A 12:30/16:00/19:30  
Last Christmas | 12A 14:45  
Knives Out | 12A 17:00  
Motherless Brooklyn | 15 19:45

### SATURDAY 28TH DECEMBER

Stardog & Turbocat | U 11:30 ★  
Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker | 12A 12:30/16:00/19:30  
Frozen 2 | U 13:45  
Knives Out | 12A 16:15  
Motherless Brooklyn | 15 19:00

### SUNDAY 29TH DECEMBER

Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker | 12A 10:00/13:30/19:30  
Frozen 2 | U 10:15/12:30  
Last Christmas | 12A 14:45  
Knives Out | 12A 17:00  
Monthly Musical: Meet Me In St. Louis 17:00  
Motherless Brooklyn | 15 19:45

ALL 3D SHOWTIMES ARE SHOWN IN RED



### ANDRÉ RIEU 70 YEARS YOUNG

André Rieu invites you to celebrate his incredible life & career together with him and his world-famous Johann Strauss Orchestra this New Year. André Rieu: 70 Years Young comes to cinemas on 4 and 5 January!

SAT 4 | 19:00 SUN 5 | 15:00



## TO TOKYO RATED 15

Challenged by her step-sister to return home, a young woman hiding from her past in a remote Japanese village, is abducted into a fantastic wilderness and pursued by a monster, with only four nights to escape to Tokyo and face her demons.

SAT 11 JAN | 20:15 FOLLOWED BY A Q&A WITH THE WRITER/DIRECTOR OF THE FILM CASTAR SEALE-JONES

### MONDAY 30TH DECEMBER

Frozen 2 | U 12:15  
Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker | 12A 12:30/16:00/19:30  
Last Christmas | 12A 14:45  
Knives Out | 12A 17:00  
Motherless Brooklyn | 15 19:45

### TUESDAY 31ST DECEMBER

Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker | 12A 12:30/16:00  
Frozen 2 | U 12:45  
Knives Out | 12A 15:00

### WEDNESDAY 1ST JANUARY 2020

Closed New Year's Day  
Happy New Year! from all the staff at Oban Phoenix Cinema

### THURSDAY 2ND JANUARY 2020

Frozen | U 12:15  
Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker | 12A 12:30/16:00/19:30  
Le Mans '66 | 12A 14:30 ★  
Last Christmas | 12A 17:30  
Motherless Brooklyn | 15 19:45

ALL 3D SHOWTIMES ARE SHOWN IN RED

## MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS SUNDAY 29TH AT 5PM

BFI Musicals! The Greatest Show on screen #bfimusicals bfiemusicals.co.uk Supported by National Lottery, BFI Film Audience Network and the ICO.



## MAGICAL MUSICALS



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**MONDAY:** 8am-12pm: Breakfast with Stephen, 12pm-3pm: Sounds of the 60s with Bob G, 3pm-5pm: Clyde 2, 5pm-7pm: Drive time with Marcus, 7pm-8pm: Rosie's Highland Fling, 8pm-9pm: John McLuckie Show, 9pm-10pm: David Cullen Show, 10pm-12am: Clyde 2

**TUESDAY:** 8am-10am: Breakfast with Stephen, 10am-1pm: Ken Hunter, 1pm-3pm: Macky on Fm, 3pm-5pm: Mental Health, Musings with Mer, 5pm-7pm: Drive times with Bob G, 7pm-8pm: Highest Praise with Stuart Chalmers, 8pm-9pm: Sounds Scottish with Archie Cameron, 9pm-12am: Clyde 2

**WEDNESDAY:** 8am-10am: Breakfast with Stephen, 10am-1pm: Comfort Zone with Lesley, 1pm-3pm: Doug Carmichael lunch show, 3pm-5pm: Clyde 2, 5pm-7pm: Drive time with Campbell, 7pm-9pm: Country meets Rock & Roll with Ken or Len, 9pm-11pm: Gordon's Grooves, 11pm-12am: Clyde 2

**THURSDAY:** 8am-11am: Breakfast with Andy & Sarah, 11am-3pm: Molly's Mix, 3pm-7pm: Drive time with Stephen, 7pm-9pm: Christine's Collection, 9pm-10pm: Anne's Ceilidh, 10pm-12am: Margo till Midnight

**FRIDAY:** 8am-10am: Breakfast with Laura, 10am-1pm: Teeny & Tiny, 1pm-5pm: Clyde 2, 5pm-6:45pm: Drive time with Jim Lynch, 6:45pm-7pm: Sports View, 7pm-8pm: Country meets country with Jackie Craig, 8pm-10pm: Peter Rainnie, 10pm-12am: Clyde 2

**SATURDAY:** 8am-10am: Breakfast with Stephen, 10am-1pm: Saturday morning live with Linda Crosher, 1pm-6pm: Clyde 2, 6pm-7pm: Sports view with the dream team, 7pm-8pm: Sounds Scottish with Archie, 8pm-10pm: Dave Lewis, 10pm-12am: Margo till Midnight

**SUNDAY:** 9am-11am: Sunday Morning with Breege, 11am-1pm: Sunday brunch with Allan, 1pm-7pm: Clyde 2, 7pm-9pm: New Country with Dave & Murdo, 9pm-11pm: Drum & Bass with Graham Scott

# OHS festive offering a treat with Oban

by Fiona Scott  
[fscott@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:fscott@obantimes.co.uk)



Oban High School held their 15th annual pensioners' treat last week when local senior citizens were invited along to the Glencruitten Parish Church Hall for a morning of music and festive fun.

Talented pupils performed carols while festive treats were also in abundance thanks to the OHS hospitality department.

Organisers would like to thank the many local businesses and staff of Oban High School who donated so kindly to the raffle. A merry old time was had by all.

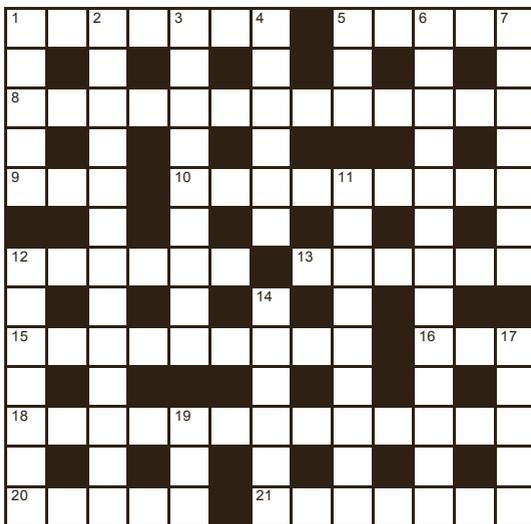
The all-star musical line-up included OHS Pipe Band, Traditional School of Music, Single Reed Ladies, a vocal solo from Bethany Dunlop, who played the lead role in Little Shop of Horrors earlier this year, a solo performance on tuned percussion by Matthew Hoodless and a surprise act from compere Frank



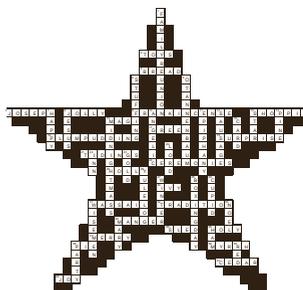
McKenna, former teacher, Murdoch MacDougall, former classroom assistant and Simon Robertson music teacher.

OHS Hillbillies, Simon Robertson (banjo), Frank McKenna (washboard) and Murdo MacDougall (vocals and guitar) gave the pensioners a surprise when singing a country and western number; and, top right, vocal duet with Erin Byars and Maria Clark. Photographs: Kevin Mcglyn

## Crossword



### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



#### Across

- 1 Computer type (7)
- 5 Stock holder? (5)
- 8 Batter cooked in an iron (7,6)
- 9 One-horse carriage (3)
- 10 Financial investigation (5,4)
- 12 Enter a new home (4,2)
- 13 Calling (6)
- 15 Courage (9)
- 16 Bath (3)
- 18 The thing one must not mention in a room (5,8)
- 20 18th Greek letter (5)
- 21 Rot (7)

#### Down

- 1 Remove errors from (5)
- 2 Independent (4-9)
- 3 One of three officers in Roman times (9)
- 4 Scribe (6)
- 5 Untilled tract (3)
- 6 Make a distinction between (13)
- 7 One who casts out (7)
- 11 Retain one's hand as dealt (6,3)
- 12 Tribal people, with a popular hairstyle (7)
- 14 Small amount (6)
- 17 Sandwich (5)
- 19 Time (3)

## WHAT'S ON

In partnership with Oban Town Diary [BID4oban.co.uk](http://BID4oban.co.uk)

### BOXING DAY

**Oban Health Walks**  
Oban Congregational Church  
10:00am - 12:00pm

### Live Music & Entertainment @

#### Markie Duns

Chunks  
Open till 2:00am

### FRIDAY 27TH DECEMBER

### Live Music & Entertainment @

#### Markie Duns

Tritones  
Open till 2:00am

### SATURDAY 28TH DECEMBER

#### Hill Walk

Glenfinnan

All day

#### Parkrun

Ganavan Sands

9.30am

### Live Music & Entertainment @

#### Markie Duns

Crackin' Craic

Open till 2:00am

### SUNDAY 29TH DECEMBER

### Morning Service - Refreshments follow

Salvation Army Hall

11:00am - 12:00pm

### Live Music & Entertainment @

#### Markie Duns

QUIZ NIGHT at 9:30pm

£1 per person, max of 6 per team  
Win £20 bar voucher

### MONDAY 30TH DECEMBER

### Slimming World Fort William

Salvation Army Hall

9.30am & 11.30am

Tel: Gillian 07796 040803

### Fellowship Meeting

New Hope Kitchen

2pm

### Martyn's Monday Club

New Hope Kitchen

7pm-9pm

### Slimming World Lochgilphead

Union Street/Argyll Street

5:30pm & 7:30pm

Tel: Rhona 07880 878906

### NEW YEARS EVE

### Slimming World, Oban

Glencruitten Church Hall

9:30am, 11:30am, 5:30pm & 7:30pm

Tel: Gillian 07796 040803

### Live Music & Entertainment @

#### Markie Duns

Crooked Reel

Open till 2:00am

### NEW YEARS DAY

### Live Music & Entertainment @

#### Markie Duns

Afternoon - Crooked Reel

Evening - Buddha and the Band

Open till 2:00am

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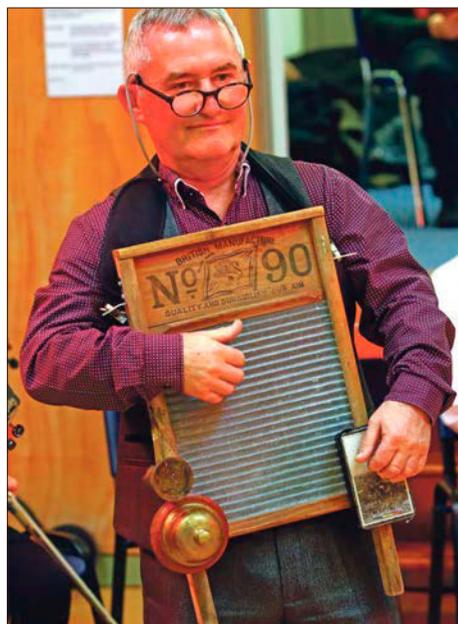
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# ng goes down pensioners



Rising star Bethany Dunlop, above left, had the pensioners shedding tears with her moving solo; above, former teacher Frank McKenna, who was master of ceremonies, gave the old folks a surprise playing his granny's washboard along with the Oban High Hillbillies; Emma Hill, left, part of the traditional school of music, was the last Member of the Hill girls to play at the pensioners' treat, which has been running and supported by OHS for 15 years.



Teachers and pupils from the food and nutrition department kept the pensioners well topped up with tea cakes and mince pies.

# M' ALBA

## MY ALBA

### DIARDAOIN 26th An Dùbhlachd THURSDAY 26th Decem-ber

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
18.55 An Là – News  
19.00 ÙR/NEW: Mod nan Coisirean 2019  
20.30 ÙR/NEW: Sgoil nan Sagairt/ Priest School  
21.00 Am Posadh Afraganach/The African Wedding (rpt)  
22.00 ÙR/NEW: Scottish Premiership- Hamilton v St Johnstone

### DIHAOINE 27 An t-Samhain FRIDAY 20th December

17.00 Programan Chloinne – Children's Programming  
18.30 Machair (rpt)  
19.00 An Là – News  
19.05 Breabach @ Blas (rpt)  
19.30 ÙR/NEW: Spors na Bliadhna 2019  
20.30 ÙR/NEW: Na Trads: An Dara Teud  
21.00 ÙR/NEW : Na Trads: An Dara Teud  
22.30 Trapped (S2) (rpt)  
23.30 Func (rpt)

### DISATHAIRNE 28 An t-Samhain SATURDAY 28th December

16.00 Programan Chloinne – Children's Programming  
17.55 An Là – News  
18.00 Treud na Dluth-Choille – Air ais chun na Lic-eighe (rpt)  
19.00 Mod na Cloinne 2019(rpt)  
20.00 Machair (rpt)  
20.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)  
20.30 Dealbhan Fraoich (rpt)  
21.00 ÙR/NEW: Belladrum 2019 (Highlights)  
22.00 Mathair a' Chinn Suidhe – Trump's Mother (rpt)

23.15 Na TRads: An Dara Teud (rpt)  
00.45 Binneas – Na Trads (rpt)

### DIDÒMHAICH 29 An Dùbhlachd SUNDAY 29 December

16.00 Programan Chloinne – Children's Programming  
16.55 An Là – News  
17.00 ÙR/NEW : A' Bhliadhna 2019  
18.00 ÙR/NEW : Scottish Premiership – Hearts v Aberdeen  
20.00 Spors na Bliadhna (rpt)  
21.00 Macleod MP/Maclean KGB (rpt)  
22.00 Am Posadh Afraganach/ The African Wedding (rpt)  
23.00 Trapped (S2)  
23.55 Eurovision Choir Gothenburg 2019 (rpt)

### DILUAIN 30 An Dùbhlachd MONDAY 30 December

17.00 Programan Chloinne – Children's programming  
19.00 An Là – News  
19.05 Astrid:The Quay Sessions (rpt)  
19.30 Dealbhan Fraoich (rpt)  
20.00 Geamannan Nan Eilean 2019 (rpt)  
20.30 Coisr Alba aig Eurovision 2019 (rpt)  
21.00 ÙR/NEW: Curaidh na Coille/Birdman of Pollock  
22.00 Am Posadh Afraganach/ The African Wedding (rpt)  
23.00 Opry le Daniel (rpt)  
23.55 Fraochy Bay (rpt)

### DIMÀIRT 31 An Dùbhlachd TUESDAY 31 December

17.00 Programan Chloinne – Children's programming  
18.55 An Là – News

19.00 Mod nan Coisirean 2019 (rpt)  
20.30 ÙR/NEW: Two Go To Tolsta- Sgeulachd Syd Agus Millie  
21.00 ÙR/NEW: Moulin Rouge Ecosse  
22.00 ÙR/NEW: Oidhche Challainn le Robert Robertson  
23.00 ÙR/NEW: Func  
23.30 ÙR/NEW: Ceilidh na Bliadh'n' Uire

### DICIADAIN 1st Am Faoilleach WEDNESDAY 1st January

17.00 Ceilidh na Bliadh'n' Uire  
19.00 An Là – News  
19.05 Mallachd an Fhir-rabaide/Wallace & Gromit in The Curse of the Were-Rabbit (rpt)  
20.25 Tha Thu Air Aigeann M'inntinn(rpt)  
20.30 ÙR/NEW: Wild Atlantic Way, with Anne London  
21.00 ÙR/NEW: Thugainn dhan Phark/Park Bar Life  
22.00 Moulin Rouge Ecosse (rpt)  
23.00 Oidhche Challainn le Robert Robertson(rpt)

### DIARDAOIN 2nd Am Faoilleach THURSDAY 2nd January

17.00 Programan Chloinne – Children's programming  
19.00 An Là – News  
19:05 Am B.F.G (rpt)  
20:30 Sgoil nan Sagairt/ Priest School (rpt)  
21:00 ÙR/NEW: Crodh Gaidhealach an Aird Bhain: The Highland Cattle of Ardbhan  
22:20 Thugainn dhan Phark/Park Bar Life (rpt)  
23:20 Func (rpt)  
23:50 Dhan Uisge (rpt)



[BBC.CO.UK/ALBA](http://BBC.CO.UK/ALBA) | [BBC.CO.UK/IPLAYER](http://BBC.CO.UK/IPLAYER)

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# Christmas crossword

**ACROSS**

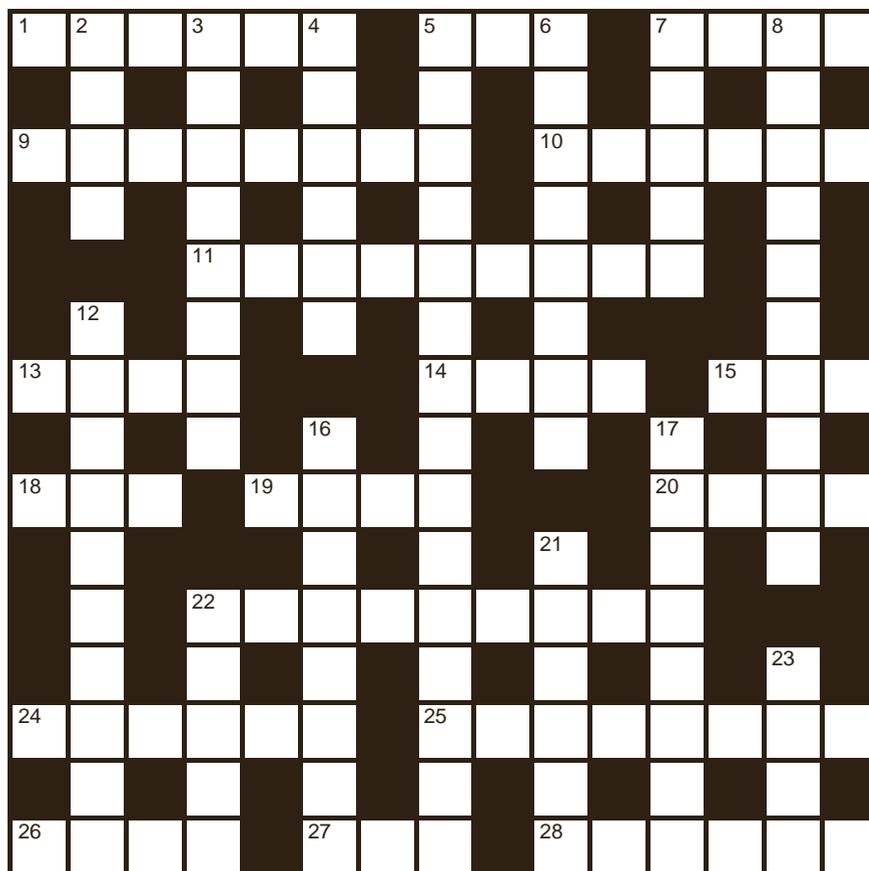
- 1 They may visit you at Christmas. (2-4)
- 5 One of Santa's little helpers. (3)
- 7 '\_\_\_\_\_ the night before Christmas'. (4)
- 9 You may work this if you are busy at Christmas. (8)
- 10 If you are lucky, you may be able to have one of these after lunch on Christmas Day. (6)
- 11 Make sure you have a good supply of these on Christmas Day for all those new toys. (9)
- 13 '\_\_\_\_\_ the thimble was a party game played at Christmas in Victorian times. (4)
- 14 A type of cheese enjoyed with fruit at Christmas. (4)
- 15 You may tie one of these when you wrap up a present. (3)
- 18 Watch out for this on the pavement if the weather is very cold. (3)
- 19 You will find these in Christmas crackers. (4)
- 20 Shepherds watched these when the angel of the Lord came down. (4)
- 22 You will do this when you receive visitors at Christmas. (9)
- 24 A person who speeds around the ice. (6)
- 25 Santa will be this on Christmas Eve. (2,3,3)
- 26 You wouldn't use a tortilla to do this to a present. (4)
- 27 The area of a bishop's ecclesiastical jurisdiction. (3)

28 Hopefully, the postie will deliver one of these to you at Christmas. (6)

**DOWN**

- 2 Part of the church that may be decorated at Christmas. (4)
- 3 You may see these if you go to a circus at Christmas. (8)
- 4 Very holy people. (6)
- 5 Jacob Marley visited this miserly money-lender on Christmas Eve. (8,7)
- 6 Many towns and cities hold one at Christmas. (8)
- 7 You might prefer artificial ones at Christmas. (5)
- 8 This scientist might happen to see Santa on Christmas Eve. (10)
- 12 The \_\_\_\_\_ is a ballet first, performed in Russia in December 1892. (10)
- 16 You may use these to light your way at a Christmas parade. (8)
- 17 Santa traditionally uses eight of these. (8)
- 21 If you are very lucky, someone might buy you one of these in Lapland. (6)
- 22 You will probably have to do this to leftovers after Christmas. (3,2)
- 23 You might play one of these on Boxing Day. (4)

■ The answers to the Christmas Crossword will be in next week's paper. Make sure you pick up your copy on December 27.



WIN £200 WORTH OF SHOPPING

# TROLLEY

# DASH

COURTESY OF TESCO OBAN

We all spend far too much money over Christmas and New Year, so how great would it be able to fill your shopping trolley COMPLETELY FREE OF CHARGE in January?!

Courtesy of our friends at Tesco in Oban, one lucky reader will win the chance to fill their trolley with up to £200 worth of goods (see T&C's for exclusions). All you have to do is collect four tokens over four weeks starting on 12th December, get them to us by 10am Thursday 9th January and you will be entered into a prize draw to win this fantastic trolley dash. What are you waiting for, banish those post-Christmas blues and start collecting your tokens!

All four tokens must be sent in a single envelope to Oban Times Trolley Dash Competition Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate Oban, PA34 4HB.

One token from each week is required, multiple entries are allowed, but must be submitted in separate envelopes. Photocopied tokens will not be accepted. Winners must agree to take part in publicity. Employees of Wyvex Media Ltd and their immediate family are not eligible to enter. The editor's decision is final.



**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

Winner must be at Tesco, Lochside, Oban, PA34 4HP for 9.30am January 20th. Excludes tobacco, lottery, baby food, non-food items and alcohol. Quantity limited to two per item. The winner will be given a hand held scanner to monitor spend to the value of £200. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition. Entry data will be deleted/dispensed immediately upon the competition entry deadline and in a manner appropriate to GDPR regulations. Entrant's details will not be used for any other activity'.

**DIGITAL SUBSCRIBERS**

Digital subscribers who have an active subscription covering the period from December 13, 2019, to February 3, 2020, can enter the competition by sending their name, address and email address that they subscribe with to Oban Times Trolley Dash Competition, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban PA34 4HB by 10am Thursday January 10. Only one entry per subscription permitted. Entrant must be able to attend the trolley dash in Oban on the January 20, 2020.

# ALBA

Ri thighinn air BBC ALBA...  
Coming up on BBC ALBA...  
[bbc.co.uk/alba](http://bbc.co.uk/alba)



## Curaidh na Coille – Birdman of Pollok

30 Dùbhlachd, 9f  
30 December, 9pm

Sealladh air beatha Chailein Mhicleòid, fear a thog fianais an aghaidh diofar rudan ann an Glaschu.

*A profile of Colin Macleod, the legendary Glasgow activist known as the "Birdman of Pollok".*



## Cèilidh na Bliadhn' Ùire

Oidhche Challainn, 11.30f  
Hogmanay, 11.30pm

Beò à Tobar na Màthar còmhla ri Cathy & Niall Iain. Sàr-cheòl bho Mhànrán, Peat & Diesel, Còisir Alba is eile...

*Live from Motherwell with Cathy & Niall Iain. Music from Mhànrán, Peat & Diesel, Alba Choir and more...*



## Two Go To Tolsta – Sgeulachd Syd Agus Millie

Oidhche Challainn, 8:30f  
Hogmanay, 8:30pm

Ann an 1949, agus gun chead, dh'fhàg dithis chloinne an dachaigh ann an ceann a deas Sasainn air an slighe gu na h-Eileanan an Iar.

*The incredible adventure of two young children who ran away from home and travelled the length of post-war Britain to the Outer Hebrides.*



## Slighe a' Chosta an Iar le Anne Lundon / Wild Atlantic Way with Anne Lundon

Bho Latha na Bliadhn' Ùir, 8:30f From  
New Year's Day, 8.30pm

Tha Anne Lundon air ais air turas-rathaid eile. Thig cuide rithe gu Slighe Chosta an Iar na h-Èireann.

*Anne Lundon embarks on another road trip, join her on the Wild Atlantic Way in Ireland.*



## Moulin Rouge Écosse

Oidhche Challainn, 9f  
Hogmanay, 9pm

Tha Cathy Bhàn a' leantainn trìuir nighean Albannach a tha mar phàirt de dh'eachdraidh iomraiteach Moulin Rouge.

*Cathy Macdonald follows three Scottish girls who form a part of the illustrious history of Moulin Rouge.*



## Thugainn dhan Phark – Park Bar Life

Latha na Bliadhn' Ùir, 9f  
New Year's Day, 9pm

Feuch an dearbh sinn dè a tha a' tàladh Ghàidheil de gach aois thar iomadach bliadhna.

*Joe MacNeil explores the enduring draw for Gaels young and old of Glasgow's Park Bar.*



## FUNC

Oidhche Challainn, 11f  
Hogmanay, 11pm

Tha FUNC air ais airson Oidhche Challainn le prògram ùr loma làn sgeidsichean luath is èibhinn.

*The award-winning sketch show FUNC returns with a new programme full of fast-paced, irreverent sketches.*



## Crodh Gàidhealach an Àird Bhàin - The Highland Cattle of Ardbhan

2 Faoilleach, 9f  
2 January, 9pm

Film mu theaghlach à Uibhist a Tuath agus an crodh iongantach is ainmeil a tha iad ag àrach.

*A film about a family from North Uist and their world-famous herd of Highland cattle.*



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# Everyday story of extraordinary herd of Highland cattle

A new documentary which tells the everyday story of an extraordinary 170-strong herd of Highland cattle from North Uist and the MacDonald dynasty which bred them is to air early in the new year on BBC Alba.



Fraser, Angus, Ena and Robert MacDonald.

Photograph: Sophie Gerrard, TrixPixMedia

Crodh Gàidhealach an Àird Bhàin (The Highland Cattle of Ardbhan), filmed by crofter and film-maker Beatrix A Wood of South Uist-based TrixPix Media over two years, will be shown at 9pm on BBC Alba on Thursday January 2.

Footage of the fold became a viral sensation in April last year and garnered headlines across the country after the Ardbhan Highland Cattle Facebook page posted a video of the cows making the two-mile journey from the deserted Hebridean island of Vallay across a beach at low tide back to the mainland. The cows walk and swim to Vallay every November to give birth on clean ground.

Beatrix's film documents

this journey, which the cows make twice a year, in April and October, while painting a vivid year-round picture of what makes the MacDonald's herd so special.

For the past 30 years, breeders have travelled from all over Europe to buy the premium Ardbhan Highland cattle. Beatrix captures the moment in February this year when the MacDonald's prize

black bull, Muran Erchie of Ardbhan, sold for the top price at the sale for just over £12,000. Muran Erchie was bought for this record sum by the von Heise Fold in Germany at the Highland Cattle Society's Oban sale.

The Ardbhan fold was established more than 40 years ago on North Uist by Ena MacDonald, when she bought a single Highland cow. A single mother, her son Angus was 10 at the time. Today, together with Angus's wife Michelle, and children Alexander, Sarah, Fraser and Fraser's wife Carianne, they all work together as a business to ensure the fold thrives.

Known affectionately as 'Granny Island', Ena, now 79, is still hands-on with the fold. The documentary shows Ena out in her Jeep checking on the cows at calving time on Vallay, which the fold can only reach at low tide by a mixture of walking and swimming.

## Around the markets

Dingwall – Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd on Wednesday December 18 sold 83 MV accredited edigree females at its annual show and sale. The judge, Mrs K. Davidson, Corsairly Farm, Keith, awarded the Texel champion to a Strathbogie Yes Sir sired gimmer, carrying a pair to Knock Yardsman, from Mr R. H. Wilson, (Milnbank), North Drollaithers, Turriff, realising 4,000gns to Messrs James C. Innes and Sons, Duncroft, Huntly.

Reserve in the Texel section went to a Hollylee Acrobat sired gimmer carrying a pair also consigned by Mr R. H. Wilson, realising 1,000gns. In the Suffolk section, champion went to a Castleisle Spotlight sired gimmer, carrying twins to Glenagh Winston, from Mr J. Douglas, Cairness, Fraserburgh, realising 800gns. The reserve award went to a Cairness High Achiever sired ewe carrying a pair to Glenagh Winston also consigned by Mr J. Douglas realising 600gns.

In lamb gimmers: Texel sold to 4,000gns from Milnbank, North Drollaithers. Beltex sold to 800gns from Muirfield, Cuminestown. Suffolk sold to 800gns from Cairness, Fraserburgh. Millenium Blue sold to 750gns Muirfield, Cuminestown. In lamb ewes: Suffolk sold to 650gns from Cairness.

Ewe lambs: Texel sold to 320gns from Clinterty, Fraserburgh. Suffolk sold to 200gns from Marian, Culnasketh. Other leading prices: Texel: In-lamb gimmers – Milnbank and Mid Haddo, Fyvie, 1,200gns, Milnbank and Barnyards, Beauly, 1,000gns, Milnbank, 900gns. Texel ewe lambs – Clinterty, 220gns, 200gns.

Beltex: In-lamb gimmers – Overhouse, Orkney and Muirfield, 700gns, Overhouse, 600gns (twice), Upper Tullochbeg, Huntly, 450gns. Suffolk In-lamb gimmers – Cairness, 600gns, East Murkle, Thurso, 500gns, Cairness, 450. Suffolk In-lamb ewes – Cairness, 600gns, 500gns (twice). Suffolk ewe lambs – Drummuie Farm, Golspie, 180gns, 150gns. Millenium Blue: In-lamb gimmers – Muirfield, 600gns, 350gns.

Stirling – United Auctions on Wednesday December 18 sold 137 store cattle, 136 cast cows and 1302 store and feeding sheep. Bullocks (73) – averaged 203.16p to 223.80p per kg for a 344kg SimX from Camoquholm, and to £1200 for a 625kg CHX from Gillmill. Dairy Bullocks (18) – averaged 124.74p to 148.80p per kg for a 477kg BFX from Newpark, and £710 for a 477kg BFX from Newpark. Heifers (44) – averaged 194.20p to 211.00p per kg for a 365kg CHX from West Park, and to £1060 for a 528kg LimX from Airthrey Kerse. Young Bulls (2) – to £1010 for a LimX from Airthrey Kerse.

Beef Cows and Bulls (109) – averaged 117.43p to 159.40p per kg for a LimX from Loanhead of Duchally, and to £1110 for a BRBX from Kinnaid. Dairy Cows (27) – averaged 89.87p to 135.60p per kg for a HFX from High Langmuir, and to £925 for a HFX from High Langmuir. Bullocks: 301-350kgs- Camoquholm £770, 223.80p; 351-400kgs- Braidland £810, 213.20p; 401-450kgs- Newpark £890, Dyke 210.90p; 451-500kgs- Newpark £940, 203.90p; 501-551kgs- Newpark £990, 194.10p; 552-601kgs- Inchgall £1080, Dalvey 195.70p; 602-

651kgs- Gillmill £1200, 194.40p, 652-701kgs- Gillmill £1200 Heifers: 251-300kgs- Braidland £615, 205.00p; 301-350kgs- Braidland £625, 185.50p; 351-400kgs- Newpark £785, West Park 211.00p; 401-450kgs- Dyke £890, 210.90p; 451-500kgs- Dyke £905 194.20p; 501-551kgs- Airthrey Kerse £1060, 200.80p; 552-601kgs- Dyke £990; 602-651kgs- Ormiston Mains £940. OTM Cows: £ per head- Kinnaid (BRB) £1110, Airthrey Kerse (Lim) £1090, Killochries (BS) £1070, Newpark (Sim) £1050, Bowridge (AA) £1030, Loanhead of Duchally (Cont) £995, High Langmuir (HF) £925. PPK- Loanhead of Duchally (Lim) 159.40p, Beinn Dorain (SH) 141.30p, Kinnaid (BRB) 139.80p, Newpark (AA) 139.10p, High Langmuir (HF) 135.60p, Newpark (Sim) 134.60p, Loanhead of Duchally (Cont) 132.00p, Bankhead of Balcurvie (BF) 131.70p. OTM Bulls: £ per head - Ardtornish (Sim) £1130, Wester Balgair (AA) £1110, Percival (Lim) £1110. PPK- Ardtornish (Sim) 126.10p, Lower Luthrie (Lim) 106.70p.

Stirling – United Auctions on Wednesday December 18 sold 1302 store and feeding sheep. Leading Prices – Langank of Balhaldie (Suf) £74.00; Edengrove (Suf) £71.00; Mains of Kinnettles (Suf) £67.50; Badyen (Tex) £84.00; Cainfold (Tex) £80.00; Borenich (Tex) £79.00; Succoth Ardeonaig (Mule) £70.00; Badyen (Mule) £69.00; Edengrove (Mule) £68.00; Halls (BF) £65.50; Langbank of Balhaldie (BF) £62.00; Halls (BF) £61.50.

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## S&S SERVICES

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# West Coast **MOTORING**

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TELEPHONE: 01631 568000 Lines open: Mon to Fri 9am- 5pm	FAX: 01631 568001	POST & IN PERSON: Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB Office hours: Mon - Thurs 9- 5pm, Fri 9 - 4pm	E-MAIL: adverts@obantimes.co.uk Please remember to give your name, address, postcode and phone number.
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**WANTED 4X4S FOR CASH**



**WANTED ALL 4X4'S & COMMERCIAL VEHICLES**

We buy for retail, breaking and export so no matter the age or condition we can make a cash offer. Young or old, all makes and models, engine problems, farm used, accident damaged, mot failures etc.

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**WANTED**

All types of 4x4 vehicles, Landrovers, Mitsubishi, Kia, Ford etc and all 4x4 pickups. Older models and non runners/ MOT failures etc considered. Will collect.

**Tel 07546 788945**

**WANTED**

All touring caravans and motor homes, campers etc, high mileage, MOT failures or damp, all considered, any make or model, will travel.

**Tel: 07546 788945**



**DEFENDER 110 SW XS 2.4TDCI**



2007, MOT Nov 2020, 3 Owners, Serviced with history, Met Grey. 7 seater, Alloys, A/T tyres, heated seats, Elec windows, Full roof rack, adjustable towbar & twin elec, 161,000 miles  
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All types of motor homes and caravanettes. Any age or condition. We also buy water damaged or in need of repair. Also all types of touring caravans from 95 onwards.

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120hp Sabre Diesel inboard, many modern refinements for effortless classic cruising with 21st Century comforts.

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<p><b>NEW CAR INDEX</b></p>	 <p><b>SUZUKI</b> Gordon Motors Uk Dealer Of The Year 2014 Comrie Rd, Crieff, Perthshire PH17 4BQ Tel.01764 652125 Delivery throughout the West <a href="http://www.suzuki.co.uk/gordonmotors">www.suzuki.co.uk/gordonmotors</a></p>	 <p><b>W.D. Semple</b> <a href="http://www.wdsemple.com">www.wdsemple.com</a> Inveraray Shore Street Tel.01499 302150 Lochgilphead Highbank Park 01546 606767/ 606272</p>	 <p><b>ISUZU</b> S &amp; S Services Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr 01292 880080 01292 880440</p>	 <p><b>Great Wall</b> S &amp; S Services Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr 01292 880080 01292 880440</p>	 <p><b>SUBARU</b> S &amp; S Services Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr 01292 880080/880440</p>
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# S & S SERVICES

ISUZU

SUBARU

## NEW YEAR, NEW CAR!

COME AND SEE US AT THE TESCO JANUARY SALE EVENT SATURDAY 11TH & SUNDAY 12TH JANUARY.

### ISUZU D-MAX COMPLETES HAT TRICK AT THE 2020 WHAT VAN? AWARDS

The multi award-winning Isuzu D-Max has been awarded What Van? 'Pick-up of the Year' for the third consecutive year, a testimony to our ongoing desire to provide the best working pick-up for professionals. The Isuzu D-Max was awarded What Van? Pick-Up of The Year for 2020 with the monthly title praising both its substance and style yet again. This accolade being hot on the heels of being crowned, Pick-up of the Year in the Commercial Fleet Awards for the second year.

The Isuzu D-Max emerged victorious, beating strong competition from rivals in a highly contested sector.

Judges were impressed by the economy and refinement of the innovative 164 PS turbo diesel engine, that provides impressive performance and builds upon the Isuzu D-Max's reliable workhorse character.

With a 3.5 tonne towing

capacity and over 1.1 tonne payload, the Isuzu D-Max was also praised for providing a quieter, more economical driving experience. The 1.9L turbo diesel engine meets Euro 6 standards without the need for the addition of AdBlue, unlike most of the Isuzu D-Max's competitors.

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 5 years' roadside assistance (in the UK & Europe), the Isuzu D-Max proved it was truly built for the professionals who use it.

What Van? editor and judge James Dallas said of the win: "With competitive prices, an injection of lifestyle sophistication to



complement proven off-road and workhorse ability, a full range of body styles and a frugal engine that requires no AdBlue, the Isuzu D-Max has deservedly won a hat trick of Pick-up of the Year prizes."

Isuzu UK Managing Director William Brown added: "This third consecutive award for the

Isuzu D-Max is a testimony to the great product which our customers already love and trust. Isuzu is proud to make reliable and quality vehicles for the professionals that need them, and this award highlights the Isuzu truly is a step above the rest."

Following an already successful year for the

award-winning Isuzu D-Max, winning WhatVan? Pick-up of the Year yet again for 2020 is a fitting finale to 2019. The award-winning Isuzu D-Max has already had a successful 2019, being crowned 'Pick-Up of The Year' at the Commercial Fleet Awards and 'Pick-up of the Year' 2019 from Pickup & 4x4 Pro, 'Best Working Pick-Up' for

2019 by Professional Pick-Up & 4x4 magazine, 'Best Workhorse Pick-Up' for 2019 by Trade Van Driver and Van/Truck Brand of the year 2019 by On The Tools for the 2nd year.

For more information on the Isuzu D-Max range please see S&S Services at the Tesco Oban Roadshow 11th & 12th January 2020.



**ISUZU**  
THE PICK-UP  
PROFESSIONALS

## 0% APR AVAILABLE ACROSS THE ISUZU D-MAX RANGE

## 50% DEPOSIT + MONTHLY PAYMENTS OVER 2 YEARS



S & S Services has been supporting the people of Argyll for more than 30 years and it is coming to you.  
**Tesco Oban Roadshow JANUARY Sale Event**

S&S Services, Heathfield, Ayr Tel: **01292 880080** or John Spicer: **07831 808702**

# S & S SERVICES

ISUZU

SUBARU

## AWARD WINNING DEALER COMES TO ARGYLL

**SATURDAY 11TH & SUNDAY 12TH JANUARY AT TESCO OBAN**

One of the longest serving Subaru & Isuzu dealers in the UK, S & S Services are a family run business aiming to meet each customers individual needs. S & S Services was first started by Brian and Dulcie Spicer in November 1979 from a small building at Sandyford Toll, Ayr. An escalating client base was soon formed and the business relocated to Mossblown.

Whilst at Mossblown, Brian and Dulcie's son John joined the family business. For almost two decades cars were sold and serviced and many friendships formed.

The family business was further enhanced when John's wife Lesley joined the business in 1997. It was in the latter nineties that the business had out grown the location and plans were put in place to build an impressive state of the art showroom and workshop at Ayr.

The plans soon became a reality and S & S moved to Old Bridge Road, Ayr in September 2000. Now on the 3rd generation with Matthew Spicer, business has flourished to unbelievable standards meaning that S & S are now the top UK Subaru dealer. Achieving Subaru UK's dealer of the year status continuously from 2007, S & S Services are your number one for Subaru, Isuzu and Great Wall franchise, with a large stock of new and used cars at competitive prices.



SATURDAY 11TH  
JANUARY  
SUNDAY 12TH  
JANUARY,  
TESCO, OBAN.

**Come & meet the all new XV E-Boxer at our event & find out how you can beat the January price increase. For more details please contact John on 07831 808702.**



**SUBARU**

*Confidence in Motion*



**(BETTER where it MATTERS)**



**S & S Services has been supporting the people of Argyll for more than 30 years and it is coming to you. Tesco Oban Roadshow JANUARY Sale Event**

S&S Services, Heathfield, Ayr Tel: **01292 880080** or John Spicer: **07831 808702**

# RECRUITMENT

**North Argyll House**  
 Bealach an Rìgh, Oban, Argyll PA34 5TG  
 Currently recruiting for:  
**Senior Carer - £10.25 - £10.88 per hour**  
**Care Assistants & Bank Care Assistants - from £9.18 per hour**  
**Cook - £11.58 per hour**  
**Housekeeping staff - £8.37 per hour**  
 Full and part-time permanent positions.  
 Good pay and conditions.  
 Experience not essential as training will be given.  
 Paid breaks and pension scheme.  
 Salary increases under review.  
 For an application form contact manager  
**Morag A Telfer. 01631 562168**  
**Email info@northargyllhouse.org**

**Rannoch Estate seeks Cattleman**  
 to look after a small herd of cattle while summer grazing on hill, wintering on lower ground. Also to help with stalking and other estate duties. Excellent accommodation. Must have cattle experience.  
 Apply with references to:  
**lordpearsonofrannoch@gmail.com** or in writing to: **Rannoch Barracks, Rannoch Station, Perthshire, PH17 2QE.**

**Career opportunities** **MACLEOD CONSTRUCTION LIMITED**  
**CONSTRUCTION SITE MANAGER – OBAN**  
 We are looking for an experienced Site Manager to join our team in Dunbeg Development in Oban. The successful candidate will be responsible for organising & monitoring progress, meeting deadlines and ensuring a safe working environment. This a full time/permanent position 8am-5.30pm (Mon-Fri).  
**Please send CV to jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk or call 01546 602989 for further information.**

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# PUBLIC NOTICES

**www.highland.gov.uk** **The Highland Council Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd**  
**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**  
**PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**  
 The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>; electronically at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, CHARLES KENNEDY BUILDING, ACHINTORE ROAD, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6RQ; or electronically at your nearest Council Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link [https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a\\_to\\_z](https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z)  
 Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
19/05182/FUL	Dha Seallach Na Beinne Banavie, Fort William	Erection of small log cabin in garden for family and letting use
19/05293/MSC	Land 100M SE Of Polgarbh Gairloch, Spean Bridge	Erection of 3 No. Dwelling Houses
19/05325/FUL	Land 1740M NE Of Munerieg Munerigie, Invergarry	Erection of dam to replace existing intake at Munerieg hydro scheme
19/05119/FUL	Land 90M NE Of Achnacon Glencoe	Erection of Storage/Workshop Building
19/05323/PIP	Land 110M NE Of Torcastle House Banavie, Fort William	Erection of house
19/05492/FUL	Corpach Boatbuilding Co, The Slipway, Annat Pier	Erection of Steel frame, PVC Fabric Clad Boat Shed and new boat Slipway
19/05478/FUL	12 Riverside Park, Lochyside	Change of use from garden room to holiday letting unit

**Time period for comments is 14 days**  
 ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
 Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

**www.hie.co.uk**  
 BUILDING OUR FUTURE  
 Operating across half of Scotland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) is one of Europe's most highly-regarded development agencies. HIE's unique integration of economic and community development is central to its mission to generate sustainable economic growth in every part of the Highlands and Islands, particularly in fragile areas.

## HEAD OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Based in Lochgilphead  
 Starting salary £36,043 per annum, excellent benefits package  
 Salary progression from £36,043 - £41,400 per annum  
 Full-time, 35 hours per week

We are looking for an experienced, proactive and ambitious Head of Regional Development to join our Argyll and the Islands area team.

**The role**  
 As part of this job you'll:

- lead the development of the European Marine Science Park, working with key partners to deliver the strategic vision for this regionally significant project
- manage specific regional development projects on behalf of the Argyll and the Islands area team
- represent HIE at local and national partnerships or strategic workshops
- support HIE's role as a key partner in the Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership
- develop policy as defined by Scotland's Economic Strategy and support other staff in implementing these changes
- oversee and monitor specific budget commitment, spend and reporting for regional development projects
- contribute to the effective management of the Argyll and the Islands area team, providing guidance and support to colleagues when required, and;
- build effective working relationships with colleagues across HIE, as well as local and national partners and stakeholders

**The person**  
 It's essential that you are a proven leader who can quickly build successful working relationships with senior managers, colleagues across the organisation and HIE's external partners, clients and stakeholders.  
 You'll also have confidence in your technical skills, demonstrating practical and operational experience in the project delivery of capital or revenue-based projects. You will also bring strong project appraisal and management skills as well as budget management skills.  
 You'll also be a natural communicator and presenter, with the ability to influence a wide range of clients and stakeholders, both internal and external.

**TO APPLY ONLINE VISIT:**  
[www.hie.co.uk/vacancies](http://www.hie.co.uk/vacancies)  
**CLOSING DATE:** Sunday 5 January 2020

**JOB REFERENCE:** 934  
**INTERVIEW DATE:** Wednesday 15 January 2020  
 – in Lochgilphead

**disability confident EMPLOYER** **INVESTORS IN PEOPLE Silver** **HIE Highlands and Islands Enterprise Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd's nan Eilean**

**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
19/01399/PP	Erection of wooden walkway, steps and handrail	Beaton Cross, Land West Of The Old Church, Pennyghael, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute
19/02522/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and garden shed	Land North West Of Carraig, Tobermory, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute
19/02564/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Grounds Of Dungallan House Hotel, Gallanach Road, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 4PD
19/02490/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of sewage treatment plant	Land Between Drumclach And Drumclach Lower, Lower Kilchattan, Isle Of Colonsay, Argyll And Bute

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Councils website.  
 To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:  
**www.argyll-bute.gov.uk**  
**Comhairle Earra – Ghàidheal agus Bhòid**

**Argyll Bute COUNCIL**

**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**  
**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**  
**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**  
**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**

**FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT**  
 Mr Donald James MacDougall has registered his croft known as Oban Seil, Oban Seil, Kilbrandon & Kilchattan 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 10th September 2020.  
 Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C6526.

**Argyll and Bute Council**  
**CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR REFUSE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS**  
**Oban and Lorn**  
 Refuse and recycling collections due over the festive period will be carried out as follows:  
 • Collections due on 25th, 26th and 27th December will be collected a day later than normal i.e. due on 25th will be collected on 26th, due on 26th will be collected on 27th, due on 27th will be collected on 28th December.  
 • Collections due on 1st, 2nd and 3rd January will be collected a day later than normal i.e. due on 1st will be collected on 2nd, due on 2nd will be collected on 3rd, due on 3rd will be collected on 4th January.  
 All other days will be collected as normal.  
 Moleigh recycling and civic amenity site will be closed on 25th/26th December and 1st/2nd January.

**Mull and Iona**  
 Refuse and recycling collections due over the festive period will be carried out as follows:  
 • Collections due on Wednesday 25th December will be collected on Friday 27th December.  
 • Collections due on Wednesday 1st January will be collected on Friday 3rd January.  
 All other days will be collected as normal.  
 Glengorm recycling and civic amenity site will be closed on 25th/26th December and 1st/2nd January.

**Tiree**  
 Recycling collections due on Wednesday 25th December will be collected on Tuesday 24th December.  
 Recycling collections due on Thursday 26th December will be collected on Friday 27th December.  
 All other days will be collected as normal.  
 Gott Bay recycling and civic amenity site will be closed on 25th/26th December and 1st/2nd January.  
 Information is also available on the Council website and from your local office.  
 To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:  
**www.argyll-bute.gov.uk**  
**Comhairle Earra – Ghàidheal agus Bhòid**

**Argyll Bute COUNCIL**

**Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence**  
 A & A MacPhee Haulage Ltd trading as A & A MacPhee Haulage Ltd of Almar, Shore Road, Connel PA37 1PT is applying to change an existing licence as follows. To add an operating centre to keep 4 goods vehicle and 0 trailers at Furnace Quarry, Furnace, Inveraray, PA32 8XW. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

# West Coast CLASSIFIEDS

✓ BUY LOCAL ✓ SELL LOCAL ✓ TRADE LOCAL ✓ SWAP LOCAL

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**BIRTHS**

**MACCALLUM** - Iain and Carol Zall, in Boston, USA, are delighted to announce the birth of their son Alasdair Michael on December 10, 2019. A second grandchild for Bill and Mary MacCallum, Fernoch Park, Lochgilphead.

**THWAITES** - Colin and Rachel are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Freya Isabella, on August 1, 2019 in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Glasgow, a sister for Rhuaridh, and a first granddaughter for both families.

**DEATHS**

**CLARK** - Jean Clark of Dervaig, Mull passed away peacefully aged 96 on December 11, 2019. Our thanks go to the Craignure hospital staff for their wonderful care. Her funeral service will be on December 27 at 2pm at Perth Crematorium. Family flowers only please. Any donations if desired can be made to the RNLI and will be received at the crematorium.

**HENDERSON** - Anne Henderson, Camusaine, Strontian. Peacefully on December 18, 2019. Beloved wife of the late John Alec and mother of Duncan and John Angus. Funeral service on Monday, December 30 at 1pm in Acharacle Parish Church.

**MACNAUGHTON** - Peacefully, in the loving care of Eadar Glinn Care Home and with her daughter by her side, in her 88th year, on December 19, 2019, Jessie nee MacGill, formerly of McCaig Road, Oban, much loved wife of the late Peter MacNaughton, beloved mum of Cathy and mother-in-law of John, a dear sister and aunt. Funeral will take place from Oban Parish Church, Glencruitten Road, Oban on Friday, December 27 at 1.00 pm, thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Retiring Collection/Donations if desired for Eadar Glinn Residents Comfort Fund.

**TIERNEY (SMITH)** - Peacefully with her 3 daughters by her side, on December 14, 2019, at the Vale of Leven

Hospital, Frances, aged 63, much loved mum of Kerry, Patricia and Lindsay, a dear mother-in-law, granny, sister and auntie. Funeral took place at St. Columba's Cathedral on Friday, December 20. May she Rest in Peace.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**MACKENZIE** - Heather and Cameron and all the family of the late Flora would like to thank everyone for their kind expressions of sympathy, flowers, cards and support given after our recent very sad loss. Grateful thanks to Dr Wallace and to the District Nurses and all the team at Craig Nevis Surgery, for their care of Mum over many years. Thanks also to the carers at Lochaber Day and Night Owls for their support. Special thanks to Rev. Richard Baxter for a comforting service, and to all at John McLellan Funeral Directors for their support at a difficult time. It was wonderful to see so many family and friends at the funeral and so good to meet up at the Moorings after-

wards. Finally thank you to all who donated the very generous sum of £734.00, which has been sent to the District Nursing Team at Craig Nevis who helped Mum over many years. Flora will be very sadly missed.

**MEMORIALS**

**CAMERON** - Fond memories of my dear sister and our loving aunt Morag, who passed on December 25, 2013.

Silent thoughts of times together. Memories forever cherished. - Inserted by Chrissie, Caalmojo, Kilmory.

**CAMPBELL** - In loving memory of my dear wife Liz, who passed away suddenly on December 26, 1998, aged 43 years.

Quietly loved and remembered always. - Cammie, Fort William.

**CAMPBELL** - Remembering Liz, who died so suddenly on December 26, 1998.

Gone but never forgotten. - Love Simmo.x

**CLARK** - Kirsty. This Christmas we quietly remember a wonderful mum and granny, who passed away on December 22, 2012. Also Graham, a beloved dad and grandpa, who passed away on August 7, 2006.

So greatly missed by us all. Such happy memories. - Alison, Rhuaridh, Katie and Coll.

**JAMIESON** - In loving memory of my friend Helen, who passed away December 28, 1999.

Always remembered. - Marleen.

**MACGILLIVRAY** - Christina MacGillivray (Chrissie). Remembering my Gran who passed away on December 24 2009, always thinking about you, so many fond memories of a wonderful Gran. Also remembering my Mum Katherine MacGillivray, miss you always Mum. - Paul MacGillivray.

**McTAGGART** - Precious memories of our loving parents and grandparents John, who died December 25, 2005 and Mary (née Nicolson), who died August 23, 2011.

Always in our hearts and thoughts. We all miss you both so much. - Ian, Philina and boys xxxxx, Christina and Ellie xx

**THORNE** - Mary. 27/12/1971.

In loving memory. Because you're missed so very much

Far more than words can say. And sadly mum no presents, cards or hugs on Christmas day. Just silent tears and a special kiss Blown to Heaven above. To thank you for a lifetime of devoted selfless love.

- Wendy and Marie, Rebecca and Rachael.xxx

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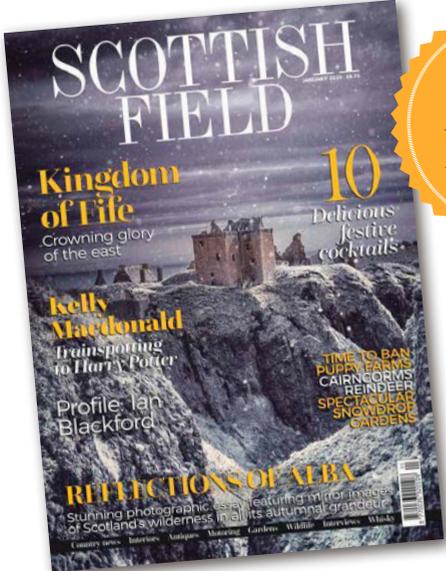


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January issue



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## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

I have a small obsession – I collect models of the nativity scene. It began when I visited Nazareth on my first visit to Israel/Palestine.

At one point, we were taken to a shop which sold a huge array of crafts and handiwork. What took my eye was a beautifully carved olive wood representation of the stable scene.

I now have about 15 different styles and representations that reflect the culture from which these works come.

One of my favourites is usually placed in a corner of the sitting-room. We can move the pieces around to fit the story. Maybe I will leave my thoughts about dates and times and who went where in the tableau until next year!

One of the most important activities, albeit small and quickly executed, and usually on return from the midnight communion service, is to put the small figure of Jesus in the crib. On one particular

yea recently, when it came to placing Jesus where he belonged, the cry went up: 'Where is Jesus? Where is he? He is not here.'

It seems somehow this small replica, now missing, had become a vital component in our celebration of Jesus's birth. Thinking through this simple family drama did raise a fundamental observation.

Christmas without Jesus empties the meaning of the event.

Christmas with Jesus gives us grounds for hope.

Jesus will never be lost to us if we have embraced the gift of undeserved love that he brings.

Oh yes! Jesus was found and is at the centre of our family life - not as a wooden carving but a living loving man who was willing to give up his life for us.

May it be so for you too. Have a very happy Christmas.

**Ian McFarlane, Oban Baptist Church.**

# Seafarer hands over the tiller after 45 years

The vagaries of the west coast weather ensured Captain Alex Morrison's career finished just as it started.

After a 45-year career with ferry operator CalMac, Captain Morrison's last scheduled sailing from Oban to Barra was cancelled due to bad weather, just as his first sailing as Master was back in 1980.

'I've finished as I started. That's what I'll be remembered for,' he joked. 'No-one will remember what happened in between.'

Captain Morrison started his career with the company as a second mate on the MV Iona in 1974, before taking command of his first vessel, MV Lochmor, serving the Small Isles' routes six years later.

He has been Master of the MV Isle of Lewis for the last 22 years, first on the Ullapool-Stornoway route and latterly serving Castlebay.

'I've seen a lot of changes over the years, but it still comes down to the lowest common denominator, taking passengers and cargo safely from port A to port B. That's what we were doing when I started and that's what we are still doing today,' said Captain Morrison.



**Captain Alex Morrison berths the MV Isle of Lewis for the last time.**

Photograph: Mark Nicolson

and more services is one of the challenges he'll be happy to leave behind.

'In a way, we've become victims of our own success. The more successful we've become as an operator, the more that's demanded of us. In the old days you had set services for the winter. Now there is not much difference between summer and winter timetables. People are definitely travelling more, but that brings its own challenges for the fleet.'

'We used to have periods of downtime for maintenance but that's hardly there now with the timetables we have to run, resulting in more breakdowns. Is it sustainable to continually work to such intensity? I find it questionable that it is.'

Looking forward to his retirement, Captain Morrison doesn't think he will struggle to occupy his time.

'I've got nine grandchildren, so I've got a full-time job giving them ideas of mischief they haven't discovered yet,' he added.

'They'll keep me on my toes.'

Over the course of his career he has served on all of the major routes served by the company up and down the West Coast, but has fondest memories of sailing the Uig Triangle between Skye, Harris and North Uist.

'I had very many happy years on the MV Hebridean Isles, 10 years as Master of that run. These were probably my 'golden years', as they say.'

'It was a more relaxing run, which I discovered when I moved on to the Stornoway route. That was more demanding, much more pressure from hauliers. It was far more intense than on

the 'triangle.' Over the years Captain Morrison said one of the biggest changes he's noticed is the weather and the impact it has on services.

'The weather is more unpredictable nowadays than it was in my younger days. There was more of a set pattern to climate at that time. If you had depression coming in from the Atlantic it would pass through and then the wind veered and eased off but now it seems to have more of a sting in the tail.'

'I would say there are more vicious depressions coming in than there was in the past.' Pressure to deliver more

## Season's greetings

Your personal Christmas messages to friends and family, near and far

**Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year**  
to relatives & friends in Lismore, Appin, Benderloch, Connel, Taynuilt, Lochawe, Dalmally & Oban. All the best for 2020.  
From James MacArthur, Oban

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Oban Saints FC. Photograph and cup review: Derek Black

## Oban Saints – a look back at this season's cup exploits

With Oban Saints currently enjoying a four-week festive break, Derek Black takes a look back at the season so far continuing this week with Saints exploits in the cup competitions.

### Saturday 21 September West of Scotland Amateur Cup First Round

**Oban Saints 1 – 2 Inverclyde**  
A disastrous opening 16 minutes in which Oban Saints fell two goals and a man down left last season's runners-up with a West of Scotland Amateur Cup mountain to climb at a sun baked Glencruitten.

Despite enjoying the majority of possession throughout the first round match Saints were unable to turn the tie around and suffered their only defeat of the season so far.

Craig MacEwan scored the Saints' goal.

### Saturday 12 October The Scottish Amateur Cup Second Round

**Oban Saints 4 – 4 Vale of Earn**  
Oban Saints and Vale of Earn shared eight goals in a highly entertaining Scottish Amateur Cup second round tie which ebbed and flowed through 90 incident packed minutes at Oban High School.

Scoring for Saints were Matt Rippon, Craig MacEwan (2) and Cammy Hill.

### Saturday 19 October The Scottish Amateur Cup Second Round Replay Vale of Earn 3 – 3 Oban Saints (Oban Saints win 4-3 on penalty kicks)

Following the previous week's high scoring draw at Oban High School, Oban Saints and Vale of Earn produced another thriller in the Scottish Amateur Cup second round replay at Market Park, Crieff.

Once again 90 minutes of ebb and flow could not separate the two evenly matched sides who finished on three goals each and a penalty shoot was required to decide who



Cammy Hill nets the third goal in Saints' 3-0 win at Rothie Rovers.

## FOOTBALL

would progress to face Westerlands in round three.

On target for Saints during the 90 minutes were Willie Gemmell and Donald Campbell (2). The game went to penalties with Cammy Hill, Dene Cassells, Lewis Cameron and Craig MacEwan successfully netting for the Oban side to give them a 4-3 penalty shoot-out win.

### Saturday 2 November The Scottish Amateur Cup Third Round

**Westerlands 1 – 4 Oban Saints**  
Two typically crisp strikes from Donald Campbell helped Saints past a stuffy Westerlands side, who gave a good account of themselves throughout, and into the fourth round of the Scottish Amateur Cup at a damp Garscube Sports Complex.

Also on the score sheet for Saints against the Caledonian League First Division promotion chasers were captain Dene Cassells, who showed the strikers how to dispatch a penalty kick, and the evergreen Ross Maitland who wrapped up a 4-1 victory with his first touch after coming on as a second half substitute.

### Saturday 30 November The Scottish Amateur Cup Fourth Round

**Rothie Rovers 0 – 3 Oban Saints**  
Oban Saints made a gruelling 410 mile round trip to the chilly North East for a Scottish Amateur Cup re-match with last season's conquerors Rothie Rovers.

Co-manager Willie Gemmell was dealt a selection blow on the eve of the match when illness ruled out midfielder Kerr Newbigging and leading goalscorer Craig MacEwan forcing Gemmell to include himself on the substitutes bench alongside Ross Maitland, Matt Rippon and youngster Aaron McKay.

However, MacEwan's goals were not missed, with a brace from Cammy Hill adding to David Beaton's 15th-minute opener, giving Saints revenge for the agonising penalty shoot-out defeat in last season's epic encounter and confirming their place in the fifth round with a home draw against Renfrew Town.

Next week, in the final instalment of the trilogy, Derek Black will take a look at Saints league fixtures from September to December.

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### Competition rules

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# Season – part one

## cottages.com MacTavish Cup

Caberfeidh, Lovat, Newtonmore, Skye Camanachd and Strathglass all won their first round ties in the MacTavish Cup.

## Scottish Sea Farms Glasgow Celtic Cup

There was an opening round win for Ballachulish at Col Glen's expense.

## April 2019

### Mowi Premiership

Lovat and Kingussie remained out if front with four wins, two draws and a defeat apiece from their opening seven matches.

### Mowi National Division

Fort William were the team to beat as they maintained their 100 per cent record with Glenurquhart remaining just a point.

### Mowi North Division 1

The Newtonmore, Fort William and Caberfeidh second teams all took eight points from their opening matches.

### Mowi South Division 1

Unbeaten Aberdour's opening day draw with Tayforth was their only blemish from their first five fixtures.

### Mowi North Division 2

Lochcarron pulled away at the top with five straight victories.

### Mowi South Division 2

Glenorchy took over from Kilmory at the top of the division on goal difference with the Aberdour colts also on six points.

## Liberty British Aluminium

### Balliemore Cup

The opening round went pretty much to form with Bute the biggest winners; defeating Ballachulish 6-0.

### HIS Sutherland Cup

Teams from Glenurquhart, Kingussie, Kinlochshiel, Lovat, Newtonmore, Skye and Strathglass all had good opening round wins.

## May 2019

### Mowi Premiership

Kingussie went two points clear at the top of the division with bottom side Inveraray still looking for their first point.

After drawing twice and losing twice from their opening four fixtures, Oban Camanachd went on to put together a five-match winning run by the end of April.

### Mowi National Division

Fort William marched on; now with maximum points from six matches. Oban Celtic recorded arguably

their best result of the season; winning 5-2 on Skye in the league with Ross Macmillan grabbing a hat-trick.

### Mowi North Division 1

The Fort William reserves went clear at the top of the table with six wins from nine matches.

### Mowi South Division 1

Aberdour were now seven points clear of second placed Lochside Rovers who had a game in hand.

### Mowi North Division 2

Lochcarron went four points clear at the summit but they did suffer their first league defeat of the season; losing 2-1 to the Kilmallie second team.

### Mowi South Division 2

Glenorchy and Kilmory pulled clear at the top.

## Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup

Beaully, Fort William, Glasgow Mid Argyll, Oban Celtic and Skye Camanachd all made it through to the Scottish Cup second round.

### Artemis Macaulay Cup

Oban Camanachd were given a first round bye when Col Glen were unable to fulfil their first round tie whilst Kingussie won 5-1 at Lochaber.

## cottages.com MacTavish Cup

Glenurquhart and Newtonmore won through to the MacTavish Cup Final. The Glen defeated Strathglass 2-0 whilst Newtonmore edged out Kingussie 2-1.

### Scottish Sea Farms

## Glasgow Celtic Society Cup

Oban Camanachd and Kyles Athletic reached the Celtic Society final. Daniel Cameron netted twice as Oban Camanachd enjoyed a 5-0 semi-final win over Inveraray whilst Robbie MacLeod bagged a brace as Kyles Athletic beat Glasgow Mid Argyll 3-2.

### Liberty British

## Aluminium Balliemore Cup

Fort William, Glasgow Mid Argyll, Glenurquhart and Strathglass all enjoyed quarter-final victories in shinty's intermediate competition.

## June 2019

### Mowi Premiership

Kingussie held a two-point lead over Newtonmore who had two games in hand.

It was another good month for Oban Camanachd who won all five of their matches, stretching their 100 per cent record to ten games.

### Mowi National Division

Fort William extended their

lead to seven points although second placed Glenurquhart had played a couple of matches less.

Oban Celtic were level on points with fourth placed Beaully but with a game fewer played.

### Mowi Division 1

Glengarry took over as league leaders following wins over Aberdeen University, Fort William and Kingussie.

### Mowi South Division 1

Aberdour showed no sign of faltering with nine wins and two draws from eleven games.

### Mowi Division 2

Leaders Lochcarron held a three point advantage over Strathspey who had a game in hand.

### Mowi South Division 2

Kilmory maintained their two-point cushion over Glenorchy but they had played a match more.

## Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup

The 10 Premiership sides entered the Camanachd Cup with Caberfeidh, Kingussie, Kinlochshiel, Kyles Athletic, Lochaber, Newtonmore and Oban Camanachd all winning their ties. Skye were the only team outwith the top flight to reach the last eight.

### Artemis Macaulay Cup

Glasgow Mid Argyll, Kingussie, Newtonmore and Oban Camanachd reached the last four of the Artemis Macaulay Cup.

## cottages.com MacTavish Cup

Newtonmore lifted the cottages.com MacTavish Cup for a record 43rd time after beating Glenurquhart 3-0 in the final. Iain Robinson gave 'More the lead just after the hour and skipper Evan Menzies added two more late in the final.

### Scottish Sea Farms

## Glasgow Celtic Society Cup

Oban Camanachd retained the Scottish Sea Farms Glasgow Celtic Society Cup, beating Kyles Athletic 2-1 after extra-time in the final at the Taynuilt Sports Field.

Scott MacMillan was awarded the Duncan J McNiven memorial medal as man of the match and Oban Camanachd captain Daniel Cameron stepped forward to collect the Glasgow Celtic Society Cup from Donald Fletcher from the society.

Oban Camanachd manager Stephen Sloss was delighted afterwards. He said: 'It was a tough game and both sides had chances but I felt we were the fitter team and we showed that by scoring near the end and that's the boys' reward

for training hard every week. This was a big step for Oban Camanachd as it sends out a message to our rivals.'

## Liberty British Aluminium

### Balliemore Cup

Fort William and Glasgow Mid Argyll will contest the Balliemore Cup Final after both won their last-four ties. Fort William beat Glenurquhart 4-1 in their semi with Lachie Shaw grabbing a hat-trick whilst Iain Luke's double helped GMA defeat Strathglass 3-0.

### HIS Sutherland Cup

Lochside Rovers beat the Newtonmore seconds 4-1 to win through to next month's final where they will face the Lovat seconds.

### Mowi WCA National Division

Badenoch suffered their first defeat of the season; losing 4-3 to Skye Camanachd at the Dell.

### Mowi Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup

Badenoch and Skye Camanachd won through to women's shinty's main event; the Mowi Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup Final. Badenoch beat Strathspey whilst Skye defeated Lochaber.

### Artemis Macaulay Sixes

A total 25 teams took part in the Artemis Macaulay Sixes at Mossfield Park.

The main competition, the Ian Cumming Memorial Trophy, for P7 (and under) players was won by Inverlochty with runners-up Taynuilt taking the Oban Celtic Shield.

The Alastair Campbell Shield for P5 (and under) players was won by Glasgow Gaels who defeated Rockfield Raiders in the final.

### Rothsay lifted the Macaulay Development trophy.

The player of the tournament awards were given to Liam MacLean from Beaully and Nicola Duncan from Park.

### Kingussie U17 Lift MacTavish

Kingussie won the MacTavish Juvenile Cup as Ewen Baker's hat-trick helped them twice come behind to beat Newtonmore 3-2 in the final at the Bught Park.

Don't miss next week's Oban Times for the 2019 Shinty Review of the Season – Part 2



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## WEATHER

### Thursday

Light rain and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures  
5°C to 7°C.

### Friday

Light rain and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures  
5°C to 8°C.

### Weekend

#### Outlook

Saturday  
Light rain showers and a moderate breeze  
Sunday  
Light rain and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures  
6°C to 8°C.



## TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday December 26, 2018** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

	05.29	4.0	11.53	1.0
<b>Thur</b>	17.45	3.9	***	**
<b>Fri</b>	00.12	1.0	06.07	4.1
	12.36	1.1	18.21	3.9
<b>Sat</b>	00.51	1.0	06.46	4.1
	13.18	1.2	18.57	3.8
<b>Sun</b>	01.30	1.1	07.23	4.0
	13.58	1.3	19.33	3.7
<b>Mon</b>	02.10	1.2	08.02	3.9
	14.38	1.5	20.09	3.5
<b>Tues</b>	02.50	1.4	08.41	3.7
	15.19	1.7	20.46	3.4
<b>Wed</b>	03.31	1.5	09.22	3.5
	16.03	1.8	21.27	3.2

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**



Oban High School.

# Oban and Tob net a share of the spoils

Secondary school girls from Oban and Tobermory were aiming high last week at their annual derby netball tournament.

Hosted by Oban High School PE Department and Active Schools, the Argyll and Bute Secondary Netball Competition took place at Oban High School where standards were high despite

their only being two teams involved. Active Schools co-ordinator Gillian Walker said: 'This was a very competitive and fun day for all those who took part.'

'Thank you to Natalie Cassells from Netball Scotland who came to help out and gave the girls a development session at the end of the games.'

## NETBALL

Results: S1/2 junior tournament winners - Oban High; S3 Intermediate tournament winners - Oban High; S5-6 senior tournament winners - Tobermory High.

Active Schools provided trophies and medals for the event.



Tobermory High School.

## Home draw for Saints in Scottish Cup

Oban Saints have been given a home draw in the fifth round of the Scottish Amateur Cup. They will take on Renfrew Town at Glencruitten on Saturday January 11 for a place in the last 16 of the national competition.



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**Children light up Christmas with shows**



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## Lochaber residents receive hydro shares opportunity

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Lochaber residents and visitors will be invited early in the new year to buy shares in a new hydro electricity scheme in Glenachulish.

The community shares offer comes from Lochaber Environmental Group (LEG), which has grasped the chance to take on the building and running of a hydro-electric scheme in Glenachulish that will benefit many more environmental projects for the people of Lochaber.

A public drop-in information session held at the Dragon's Tooth golf course clubhouse and cafe earlier this month attracted more than 20 interested people, mainly residents of Glenachulish.

The evening, coordinated by LEG, gave the community a chance to look at the proposed route and infrastructure for the 544kw scheme to be constructed on the Abhainn Greadhain Burn.

The scheme actually received planning permission almost

three years ago, and has all the relevant licenses in place but it had not been taken forward by the original developers.

Staff and volunteer directors from LEG were on hand at the meeting to answer questions and, overall, a lot of positive feedback was received.

Plans are now under way to raise the funds for what will be called Lochaber Community Hydro. In line with other

**'We are very excited to have been offered this opportunity.'**

successful community-owned hydro schemes in Scotland, LEG says residents and visitors to Lochaber will be offered the chance to buy 'community shares' early in 2020 to help fund its construction.

'We are very excited to have been offered this opportunity to take on the development of a community-owned hydro for Lochaber,' said LEG chairperson Marian Austin.

'We hope Lochaber residents and visitors will jump at the chance to support environmental projects across the area by buying community shares.'

LEG is now in the process of creating 'LEG Power' – a society allowed to raise funds by offering community shares. This is a way of supporting a local business that serves the community and whose primary motivation is different because financial motivation is at best secondary.

Community shares cannot be transferred. Instead, the society allows shareholders to withdraw their share capital, subject to terms that protect the society's financial security.

All community shareholders have one vote, so LEG Power will be truly democratic.

Any shortfall in funds raised from the community shares offer will be financed by commercial loans. Importantly, net profits will be handed to LEG to ensure maximum community benefit with the majority of payments used to fund more environmental initiatives locally.

### Little angels' Christmas star turn



This group of angelic youngsters were clearly giving their performance everything in last week's Christmas show at Bun Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar in Caol. For more photographs of school Christmas shows, turn to page two.



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# Children light up Christmas with shows



The Bun Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar Christmas show and nativity lit up Caol as children from the school performed songs and a nativity show. Solo and group performances dazzled parents at the show and here are some pictures from the magical show. More photographs: [www.lochabertimes.co.uk](http://www.lochabertimes.co.uk). Photograph: A Brightside Photography



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# Glenfinnan speed limit reduction is confirmed

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Transport bosses have confirmed the agreed new 40mph speed limit for the stretch of the busy A830 trunk road at Glenfinnan will be in force by the end of March next year.

Transport Scotland had already agreed to implement local MSP Kate Forbes's request to reduce the 60mph speed limit to 40mph on the road, which lies sandwiched between two of Scotland's most iconic visitor attractions – the Glenfinnan railway viaduct and the 1745 monument.

Tens of thousands of tourists come to Glenfinnan each year via the A830 to see the viaduct, which featured in the Harry Potter films, as well as the monument, which honours fallen Jacobite clansmen.

Because the Glenfinnan monument does not have its own car park, visitors must



Kate Forbes, pictured at the entrance to National Trust for Scotland visitor centre at Glenfinnan, says she is delighted the new speed limit will be in force by the end of March.

walk along and cross the A830 – which has a 60mph limit – to gain access. Local children must also wait at the side of the road for their school bus pick-up.

Along with Glenfinnan Community Council, Ms Forbes campaigned for months to see a reduction on safety grounds.

News of a speed limit

reduction to 40mph and the installation of a controlled pedestrian crossing was confirmed earlier this year and now, in a letter to the MSP, Transport Scotland has stated the new signs will be installed before the end of March.

'This will help make visitor access to Glenfinnan easier, safer and more welcoming,'

Ms Forbes told us. 'For two years, the local community have been developing ideas for car parking and secured funding through the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund. During this time, they have also been campaigning for a lower speed limit at the crossing place to the monument.

'After a lot of correspondence, a few meetings and

continued pressure, I am delighted to see that Transport Scotland will be implementing the new and lower speed limit before the end of March.

'I hope this means it's much safer for visitors and locals alike. It's another example of community campaigning and sheer determination paying off.'

Although Glenfinnan has no community council at the moment, a spokesman for the group working to raise money towards the new village community car park and bridge project, told the Lochaber Times: 'The community is pleased that Transport Scotland listened to village concerns and will be reducing the speed limit to 40mph.

'This action also allowed development of the new community car park to be possible.'

## WHAT'S ON

■ On Saturday January 4, Nevis Radio begins its fitness focused Loch Ness Challenge to raise money for the local radio station. The challenge is to swim or row the equivalent length of Loch Ness, 22.5 miles, in 12 weeks, at your local pool or fitness centre. Individuals or teams can enter by emailing [admin@nevisradio.co.uk](mailto:admin@nevisradio.co.uk).

■ Nevis Hillwalking Club's first hike of 2020 will be Beinn Mheadhoin, Kingairloch, on Sunday January 5. More information can be found on the club's Facebook page, through [www.nevishillwalking.club](http://www.nevishillwalking.club) or by calling 01397 701975.

■ On Saturday February 8, the Nevis Centre will be hosting the baby and children's market from 2pm to 4pm. It's a great chance to get some pre-loved items for babies and children up to age 10. Entry is £1 and under-16s go free.

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# Rescue team is now in the Vanguard

by Richard Mason  
rmason@obantimes.co.uk

The husband and wife team of Vanguard Campervan Conversions spent seven years running a catering business and yearning for a life in the mountains.

The latest project for Mark and Nicola Trigg was to fit out a van to be used by Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team for communications.

The van belonged to LMRT previously but was used as a minibus. Now the team can charge drones, view live footage on monitors, and even have hot food and drink with the added microwave and kettle functions.

Mark Trigg is a cabinet-maker by trade and very thorough with his designs, making sure everything is in the right place, down to the millimetre.

He said: 'I am very particular about getting things right when fitting everything. People appreciate that level of detail because these things have to be very robust.'

'This is the first of this sort of



Mark and Nicola moved to Fort William and made a passion for customising vans into a business. Photographs: Abrightside

vehicle we have done. It's usually more holiday campervans we do, but we will be doing more projects like this in the future.

'All the electrics are powered by a solar panel on the top, so the extras don't affect the running of the van. There is also a water supply so the mountain rescue team have everything they need. We are looking to add things like showers, electric beds and other amenities to the new custom vans that we build.'

The couple build a new demo van every six months where they include new products, but are looking to appeal to the more active client with their larger, Volkswagen Crafter.

Nicola said: 'We have such a lot of kit - we surf, snowboard, hike and, with a short wheelbase van, we can only do one activity at a time. A lot of people who modify Crafters

## Electrics are powered by a solar panel and there's a water supply

aren't using all the space to the best advantage. We're away in them all the time so we know how to utilise everything.'

When they lived in Yorkshire, the couple were always coming up to Lochaber for outdoor activities and to get away from the grind of running a catering company.

'The thing with catering was

that you never stop. You're doing big functions at race courses where people treat you like you're invisible and we didn't have a social life or time for family. We did that for seven years straight and at the end I just broke thinking, "There must be more to life than this".'

The couple managed to sell the business quite quickly and, after a holiday, they moved to Fort William permanently and turned a hobby into a business that has now been

nominated for the Best Rural Innovation Award at the Scottish Rural Awards 2020.

Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team is delighted with the van and now have it available to use for any rescue in Lochaber.

Mike Smith, treasurer of LMRT, said: 'Eighty per cent of our rescues occur on Ben Nevis and, while we can conduct those from our base quite easily, this makes everything a lot easier.'

'The reason we needed to do this is because the changes to protocols for avalanches mean we need a vehicle close to the scene to run the rescue. It has not been cheap, but Mark and Nicola have been so helpful, being mountain people themselves, and gave us a generous discount. The whole team thanks them for their generosity.'

The group will be having a fundraising event in the new year to replace funds they used to fit out the vehicle.

You can support the volunteers at LMRT through their website [www.lochabermrt.co.uk/support-us/](http://www.lochabermrt.co.uk/support-us/).

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LT

# Minister Fiona is all rev'

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

A Church of Scotland minister has clocked up thousands of miles travelling around her rural Lochaber parish in a 'mobile manse'.

Reverend Fiona Ogg, who looks after an area that spans 131 square miles of Lochaber, said her trusty white Fiat Ducatto campervan is an 'excellent conversation starter'.

## 'Parishioners can stop me or pop in ... for a chat when I'm walking the dog'

She regularly stays overnight at Kilchoan when visiting her flock at Ardnamurchan Parish Church because travel times between there and her home in Archaracle can be lengthy.

Mrs Ogg, who regularly journeys with her Border terrier, Maisie, said the single-track roads are often snarled up by rural 'traffic jams' - including sheep, cattle and slow-moving tourists.

The minister, who leads the



Rev Fiona Ogg and Maisie have clocked up thousands of miles in the campervan and, right, with Lynne McLuckie enjoy a blether over coffee.

linked parishes of Acharacle and Ardnamurchan, said the campervan is 'great fun' to drive and she invites people on board for tea or coffee and a chat.

Her story actually features as Day 19 on the Church of Scotland's online Advent calendar.

Mrs Ogg said: 'I bought it second-hand in 2016 because I think it is important to be a visible presence in Kilchoan given that the church building closed in October 2018 for

health and safety reasons and the congregation meets in a community centre.

'If there is an evening event followed by a morning event in Kilchoan, going back to the manse in Acharacle to sleep then returning is tiring, time-consuming and pushes up travel costs. Having the van frees up the travel time for pastoral work and desk time.'

Mrs Ogg travels between her churches most Sundays and once a



week and has driven around 4,000 miles to date.

She said the 'mobile manse', registered in 2008, has gone down well with parishioners.

The minister added: 'Using it as a base is often an opening into conversation, but also means parishioners can stop me, or pop in, maybe just for a look around. They also stop for a chat when I'm walking the dog.'

'One of the best days was going for

a walk with someone, on a rare hot summer day, on a beach and returning to the van to eat ice-creams that we'd bought earlier and left in the freezer. The van is snug and cosy in the winter.'

Ardnamurchan Parish Church is the most westerly parish on the UK mainland.

Mrs Ogg, who also uses her car for work, said that while her congregations were small in worshipping numbers, they are active



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# 'd up

# Fort fundraiser Vince is 'just getting on with it' in memory of brave Clare

in the communities they serve. 'At Kilchoan, where I use the van most, the congregation has a group that offers hospitality to locals and visitors alike,' she said.

'During Advent there will be two mince pie mornings when, for a couple of hours, guests will be welcomed at the manse/ meeting room for coffees, teas, mince pies and a blether.

'This has proved to be very popular and provides a space and time for those who would like company.

'Over the summer, there are weekly scone teas with the same purpose of hospitality and these draw a good number of locals and visitors alike.'

Looking ahead to Advent, Mrs Ogg said the congregation was holding a breakfast with cafe-style worship event in the local hotel in Kilchoan, an ecumenical carol service in the neighbouring parish and carols in Ardnamurchan Distillery.

She added: 'In each parish, a Posada - a display featuring figures from the nativity story - will be journeying round the homes of primary children, and sometimes a few of the elderly.'

Fort William resident Vince Mackintosh is honouring his late wife, Clare, by hosting a 10-mile mountain bike cross country race for Macmillan Cancer Support.

The inaugural Clare Mackintosh Memorial Race took place last December, with this year's cycle set to take place on Sunday December 29 as part of the West Highland Wheelers' winter league.

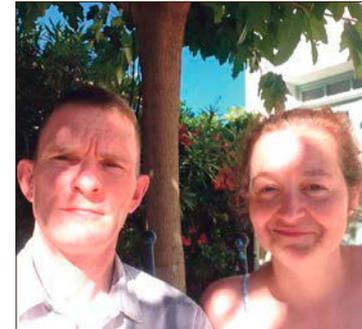
Fundraising from the race will benefit Macmillan Cancer Support services in the Highlands after Clare, 46, passed away on December 16 after a short cancer diagnosis and received support from Macmillan.

Vince, 46, from Inchree, said: 'Clare was nursed at home for the last three weeks of her life before passing away. Macmillan Nurses were key to the care Clare received in her courageous battle against cancer.'

The cycle will start at Inchree forestry car park and will cover a 10-mile course around Glen Righ.

Vince is hoping Clare's mantra of 'just got to get on with it' will spur supporters to take part and celebrate her memory with his family, friends and community.

Vince has been fundraising



Vince Mackintosh, left, is honouring his late wife, Clare, above, with his fundraising.

throughout the year for Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie and Lochaber District Nurses palliative care. Vince's charity cycling challenges this year have included the Great Glen Way off-road Fort William to Inverness and back to Fort William in 22 hours; a gruelling four days of cycling 292 miles immediately followed by riding the Pre-65 trial in Kinlochleven and then the Scottish Six Days Trial; Channel to the Med 1,000km road cycle through France in September; and, on Friday December 13, he shaved his head and

held a charity auction and raffle at the Dragon's Tooth clubhouse, raising more than £2,000 on the night.

To date, Vince has raised an incredible £11,436.17 and would like to thank everyone who has supported him over the year.

Local fundraising manager Louise Mackay commented: 'At Macmillan, we are so thankful to have supporters like Vince who fundraise for us.'

'Vince has been fundraising throughout the year and has been pushing himself out of his comfort zone and is committed to supporting

people living with cancer to find their best way through. Our ambition is to be there for everyone with cancer, right from the moment of diagnosis - providing physical, financial and emotional support to help them find their best way through.

'Some 98 per cent of our funding is from public donations and it really is down to people like Vincent that we are able to provide our vital services - thank you.'

To support Vincent's fundraising, visit [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rideforclare-sri-lanka](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rideforclare-sri-lanka)

## Happy Holidays in the Highlands!



The Scottish Highlands in winter is a truly magical place. It makes for romantic winter escapes with snow covered towering pines, crackling fireplaces and frozen waterfalls. It is a time to experience tranquility amongst the picturesque winter scenery or wander for miles by foot, car or bike amongst the world's most breathtaking landscapes.

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LT

# Views sought on holiday properties

by Richard Mason  
rmason@obantimes.co.uk

A proposal to build dozens of small holiday properties on the Ballachulish waterfront will be put before a public meeting on Tuesday January 7.

The proposals are a joint venture between the Crieff Hydro family of hotels, which owns the Isles of Glencoe and surrounding land, and the Young family, which owns much of the rest of the peninsula.

The proposed 48 units will be of modern design with most only having one bedroom.

However, some local residents are not happy that an area used by the community and home to wildlife will be developed into holiday accommodation.

Laurence Young, director of the nearby Dragon's Tooth golf course and other businesses,

told the community council the initial proposal was a way for people to start imagining what might be possible.

He said: 'Rather than say what we don't want, we now welcome a positive discussion with the community about what is possible. All ideas are welcomed: from "more houses" to "keep it just as it is" to "let's have a community purchase" to "more cycle routes and sports facilities please".'

The developers believe that something like this will make Ballachulish more of an overnight destination rather than just a day trip.

Community groups are remaining neutral on the subject until the public consultation has finished as there are strong opinions for and against. The community council suggested three options may be possible: accepting the full development, a compromise

whereby part is accepted and part is challenged, or outright refusal.

A spokesperson for the community council said: 'The public meeting on January 7 will hopefully provide the community council with a clearer answer as to which of these options is favoured in the wider community.'

'It has been suggested that if options two or three were favoured, then the community could undertake a community buyout of some or all of the land in question, and use the land for community benefit.'

'However, this would almost certainly require some development in order to make it financially viable. Inquiries have been made regarding the possibility of a community buyout, but this is not a quick or easy process and would require widespread community support to be progressed.'

## VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER

What a jam-packed year of events we've had at the Chamber!

We've brought back the regular monthly members' lunch, which has been hosted by different member venues over the year.

This regular one-hour lunch format on the last Thursday of the month has been well received and well attended by members, who value the opportunity to give short business presentations on their work and hear from the Chamber team about what's coming up.

We also ran our first-ever tourism roadshow early this year that took representatives from key tourism sector businesses, including Freetobook, VisitScotland and Expedia, to venues in Ballachulish, Strontian, Arisaig and Fort William.

Tourism members snapped up the chance to come and talk face-to-face with the companies they had questions for. The roadshow format was so effective that we're running another tourism roadshow in early 2020.

After feedback from members, we ran two drug and



alcohol awareness' events – an introductory session looking at the issues, followed by a targeted event for managers.

Plus, we've held two employment law seminars to ensure that member businesses can easily keep up to date with any changes in employment law.

We had regular contact with Scottish ministers over the year, with two special business forum meetings with the Minister for Trade, Investment and Innovation and the Minister for Business, Fair Work and Skills.

Bringing government ministers here to talk to businesses ensures that they are aware of the priorities and challenges of our business community, and gives us the opportunity to talk directly to those in power.

Ideas Week 2019 was another bumper week of events in November – we provided a wide range of events aimed at inspiring the whole community.

We ran business workshops on leadership, creativity and motivation, plus the ultimate easy networking event – Around Lochaber in 80 Tables.

Question Time offered the chance for everyone to air their views, while Lord David Steel inspired us with his Charles Kennedy Lecture.

Our first-ever Women in Business lunch was a great success, with 70 women coming along to enjoy lunch and the chance to listen to Sarah Heward of the Real Food Cafe in Tyndrum share her story of resilience, set-backs and success.

We topped it all off with a sumptuous gala dinner where we were wowed by the incredibly entertaining magician Kevin Quantum. What a fantastic year!

We're delighted at the attendance and great feedback we've had from members about the events in 2019 and we look forward to bringing you even more great business events in 2020.

If you'd like to come along, give us a call about joining the chamber on 01397 705 765 or visit [www.lochaberchamber.co.uk](http://www.lochaberchamber.co.uk)



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# New local beer is helping raise funds for mountain rescue team

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Every time someone buys a bottle or cask of Ben Nevis Brewery's new special 'Callout' beer, a donation goes to help the vital work of Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team (LMRT).

The nano brewery, based in Annat, created the beer especially to raise funds for Scotland's busiest mountain rescue team.

Brewer and owner Simon Delvaux created Callout last month and retailers are reported to have been struggling to keep up with demand.

The idea to make a mountain rescue beer was something Simon and the brewery's sales, social media and marketing specialist Freja MacDougall had wanted to do since the brewery



The new locally brewed beer 'Callout' sees a donation to Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team for every bottle, pint and cask sold; this photograph from the mountain rescue team archives adorns the bottle label.



was launched earlier this year. 'We want to make beer that celebrates the culture and community of Lochaber - the rescue team are a huge

part of that and with us both knowing so many of the men and women on the team we thought it's the least we can do,' Freja told us.

'Everyone visiting Lochaber this winter to head into the hills will hopefully spot the beer in the shop or the pub and realise how invaluable

the team really is and why it is important to support them. 'Buying a bottle of beer or a pint in order to give a donation isn't too much of a hardship either!'

Every bottle and cask of Callout sold guarantees a donation to the team and the unique label design showcases a popular photograph from the team archives featuring an RAF helicopter and around 15 original members of the team, including founding member Jimmy Ness.

The beer itself is very lager-like but not a lager. It is a smooth and flavoursome Belgian pale ale with a hefty 6.2% ABV.

To get your hands on some or fill a stocking or two this Christmas head to Clan Jamfrie on the High Street in Fort William for bottles or Garrison West for a pint on draft.

## £1M coastal defence for Kintail A87

A new £1 million coastal defence project is set to be carried out on a sea wall next to the A87 south of Kintail Lodge in the new year.

The project, due to begin on January 6 for around 12 weeks, will involve teams demolishing the existing coastal defence, which is showing significant deterioration, and rebuilding a new upgraded system.

Around 1,100 concrete blocks, each weighing 1.5 tonnes, as well as 2,000 tonnes of rock armour, will be installed along the shore to strengthen and protect the embankment from coastal erosion, ensuring the A87 carriageway and footway remain fully supported.

The existing footway will be widened and safety barriers on both sides of the carriageway will be upgraded to improve road safety.

Eddie Ross, of BEAR Scotland, said: 'It is essential these works are carried out to avoid more disruptive repair in the future.'

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LT

# Wind farm grants go to Christmas parties

by Richard Mason  
rmason@obantimes.co.uk

As part of their fight against social exclusion and isolation, the Point and Sandwick Trust has provided festive grants for social groups.

Donations from the community wind farm charity funded parties for over-60s groups Cairdean Og Allt nan Gall and Tiumpán Young at Heart Club, and also the Point Parent and Toddler Group.

A trip to the Boatshed at the Royal House Hotel got the Cairdean Og Allt nan Gall group in the festive spirit, with the grant covering the cost of meals.

Treasurer Willie Munro said: 'It was absolutely magnificent. It was on a par with, if not better than, last year and the entertainment, from Iain MacKay, was good as well. A lot of our members are Gaelic



The Tiumpán Young at Heart club at their event at the Caberfeidh Hotel and, below, Cairdean Og Allt nan Gall party. Photographs: Sandie Maciver of SandiePhotos

speakers and Iain was singing Gaelic songs, so they were fairly thumping their feet.'

The Young at Heart Club managed an open bar along with a meal at the Caberfeidh Hotel which tied in with the 55th anniversary of one of the group's couples.

For the Point Parent and Toddler Group, the grant covered the cost of party food, a book and toy for each child.

Chairwoman Catriona Dunn was happy parents could make a donation to the local foodbank instead of buying food.

General manager of the trust, Donald John McSween, said: 'These groups play such an important part in the health and happiness of a community and they can always count on support and encouragement from us at Point and Sandwick Trust.'



Kyleakin Primary celebrates winning.

## Kyleakin Primary wins winter theatre show

The Scottish Salmon Company (SSC) has announced Kyleakin Primary School as a winner of its 2019 Winter Show Competition, held in partnership with the National Theatre of Scotland.

Kyleakin Primary was awarded a funding package to support the development of its end-of-term winter show.

The package included a one-day winter workshop with the National Theatre of Scotland, plus £500 which contributed to a professionally-designed set, costumes and production equipment.

The pupils performed a festive hoedown called Prickly Hay, celebrating seasonal festivities with an alternative to the traditional nativity play. They also showcased a variety of song and dance as they told the story of Christmas from the view of a shrew.

Following a tour of theatre performances presented as part of Theatre in Schools Scotland,

schools across the West Coast and the Hebrides were invited to apply to SSC for their chance to win funding support.

A team from National Theatre of Scotland visited Kyleakin Primary earlier this month where the children benefited from a session of confidence and creativity building. The team offered expert help and advice on developing the school production with staging techniques.

This year marks the fourth year of SSC support for Theatre in Schools Scotland, a National Theatre of Scotland initiative, produced with Imagine to bring high quality theatre to children in remote and rural areas, where many SSC staff live and work.

Mary Logan, acting head teacher at Kyleakin, added: 'We are extremely grateful to the Scottish Salmon Company for making us a winner of the 2019 Winter Show Competition.'





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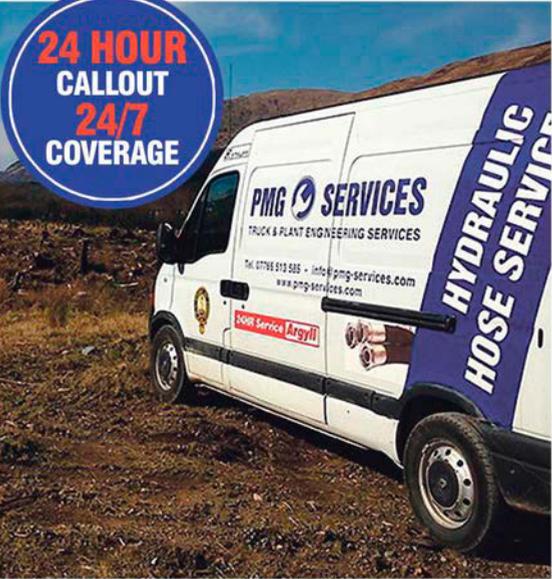
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# Zoe has an artist's eye to win Christmas card competition

Na h-Eileanan an Iar MSP Alasdair Allan last week announced the winner of the annual schools' competition to design his Christmas card.

The winner was Zoe Leparoux, a primary seven pupil from Sgoil Uig on Lewis, whose design featured festive Highland cattle with Santa in the sunset.

Dr Allan presented Zoe with an array of Scottish Parliament-themed prizes when he visited the school to announce the winner.

The islands MSP has run the schools' competition since he was first elected in 2007 and receives many hundreds of entries from schools across the Western Isles every year.

The winning entry is sent out to more than 1,000 individuals and organisations across the constituency and across the country.

Dr Allan commented: 'As always, it was very difficult to choose a winner from among the many wonderful and im-



Dr Allan with Christmas card competition winner Zoe and the other pupils at Uig School.

aginative designs submitted by children from across the islands. However, I am very proud to have Zoe's design as my official Christmas card and I hope she enjoys her prizes.

I would like to thank all

of the pupils and schools who took part this year, as well as this year's sponsors – Horshader Community Development Trust, Hebridean Energy, Bob Golland Plumbing and Heating, Ken MacDonald and Co, and The Blue

Pig Studio in Carloway for their generous donations towards the cost of printing the card. I would also like to take this opportunity to wish all of my constituents a very happy and peaceful Christmas with their families.'



James Martin with owner of Mrs Mack's Farm Shop, Sara MacKinnon. Photograph: Sara MacKinnon

## Skye farm shop gets a visit from TV star chef

Situated in the small village of Torrion on the Isle of Skye, Mrs Mack's Farm Shop is used to catering for locals and tourists in the summer.

The last person owner and operator Sara MacKinnon was expecting to see was TV chef James Martin coming to do some filming for a new TV show due to air in February.

Sara was shocked when James and another celebrity chef, Tony Singh, showed up.

She said: 'We spoke about how the shop started and our beef that my husband deals

with on our croft. They took some of it away with them and cooked it up in the north of Skye.'

Sara opened the shop, which is based in a shipping container she bought for £50, in November of 2017. Back then they thought they would be selling a cow per year for their Bla Bheinn beef, but now they are doing 10.

'Over the summer our main customers are tourists and they will take some beef if it is available. We are still very busy now.'

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# Warmest Christmas greetings to all



**Bishop Brian McGee, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles and Episcopal Secretary of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland:**

'One statement which I don't like is 'Christmas is all about the kids'. It's something that I often hear at this time of year.

Now don't get me wrong – I absolutely loved Christmas as a child and each year I find myself reliving many cherished memories. Now as an adult, I love seeing the excitement and joy of today's children. So what's my issue?

My problem is that by equating Christmas only for children we have reduced Christmas to presents, parties, lights and food.

Without a doubt, Christmas is a most wonderful time of the year.

Christmas reveals that we are precious.

At the first Christmas God took on human flesh to make us like God. Jesus loved us so much he was born in the stable to redeem us. From that moment, God would be with us in a new way. We would never be alone.

Christmas is a special time for everyone.

I hope that we all can enjoy its social moments but even more the beauty of encountering the love of Jesus in our hearts.

Jesus was born for us all and so I wish each one of you, young and old, a happy and holy Christmas!

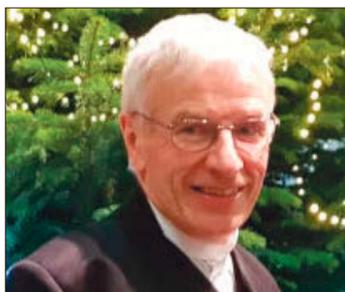
**Rt Rev Colin Sinclair, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland:**

'I think I'll give Christmas a miss this year.'

How often have you heard people say that?

'Christmas is family time', but if you are on your own, if you have been bereaved, if your family are not speaking to one another, then it makes sense to give Christmas a miss. Does it?

'Christmas is for the children'



but we never were able to have children, ours have grown up and scattered, we will leave it to others to enjoy. Should you?

'Christmas is expensive' and we don't have money to spend, my job is not secure, I daren't risk adding to my debt, not for us this year. Really?

If Christmas is good news only for those who have family, only those with money for food and gifts, then it is a very selective experience and leaves far too many out in the cold.

Christmas helps us recalibrate our view of God. He is not distant from us, nor demanding of us. Rather he is 'God with us' alongside us, sharing our joys and our sorrows.

Even if we do not have the means to have a traditional Christmas we can have a Christ-centred Christmas and that can mean so much more.

If you are able why not visit a local Church and perhaps the traditional carols will burrow their way into your heart and get you singing for joy.



**Kate Forbes, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch:**

I am writing this as the snow falls outside and Peat and Diesel sing Fairytale of Stornoway.

Peat and Diesel have so far overtaken Taylor Swift in the music charts but still trail Stormzy and Mariah Carey as the race for Christmas number one heats up.

I love seeing this self-confident, reinvented and relevant west coast culture taking us into 2020.

My objective in 2020, as your MSP, is simply to help create the environment in which west coast creativity, entrepreneurialism and hard work can prosper and thrive.

As we look back on the many successes of last year, as individuals, families and communities, there is much cause for celebration.

I can think of visits to the Highland Soap Company, or to Strontian Primary School, or to the Isle of Canna – all of those highlights the great potential in our area.

So, as 2019 comes to a close and 2020 looms with all of its uncertainties and opportunities, I would like to wish you all the best. My anchor in choppy waters is my faith, and Christmas reminds us of the birth of Jesus, who came to give peace – peace with God, peace with each other and peace with ourselves.

Our world certainly needs more of that. I hope you know peace, contentment and purpose this festive period and throughout 2020.'

## WHAT'S ON @ CORRAN HALLS



### JANUARY 2020

THU JAN  
**02**

#### MANRAN

Doors: 8pm  
Tickets: £20  
+ £1 Booking Fee

Strictly over 14yrs,  
14-17yrs must be accompanied by an Adult



FRI JAN  
**10**

#### LEGENDS OF AMERICAN COUNTRY SHOW

Doors: 7:15pm Start: 8pm  
Tickets: All Tickets £20  
+£1 Booking Fee  
Reserved Seating



SAT JAN  
**18**

#### PRINCESS OF POP

Featuring Little Mix Magic & Simply Ariana



Doors: 1:30pm Start: 2pm | Tickets: £17 + 1 Booking Fee

SAT JAN  
**25**

#### Ballet West presents SWAN LAKE

Matinee Doors: 2pm Start: 2:30pm  
Evening Doors: 7pm Start: 7:30pm  
Tickets: £15



### FEBRUARY

SAT FEB  
**29**

#### BON GIOVI

Doors: 7:00pm Start: 7:30pm  
All Tickets £19  
+£1 booking fee



### UPCOMING SHOWS

JULY

SAT JUL  
**25**

#### IRELAND! THE SHOW

7:30pm (Doors 7pm)  
All Tickets £25  
Reserved Seating



SEPTEMBER

SAT SEP  
**05**

#### HOTEL CALIFORNIA

8pm (Doors 7:30pm)  
Reserved seating  
All tickets £20 + £1 booking fee



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OCTOBER

SAT OCT  
**10**

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LT

## LETTERS

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

## Have a peaceful and very merry Christmas

There is a wonderful sense of loyalty among readers and advertisers of the Lochaber Times.

And in return we strive every day to represent the issues that matter to our communities, reporting all the concerns, events and activities.

At this time of the year, our staff – and contributors – are out and about covering all the many festive activities as well as more serious issues. However, by far the main focus over this next couple of weeks will be Christmas and all the season entails.

Wherever you are and whatever you are doing, we wish you all a peaceful and very merry Christmas.

## Correcting inaccuracies in opinion piece on Kilmartin

The Trustees of Kilmartin Museum, Dunadd Community Council and Dunadd Community Enterprise write to correct some inaccuracies in Iain Thornber's article in The Oban Times titled 'A visit to historic Kilmartin Glen'.

Kilmartin Museum is a local charity focusing on the prehistoric and early historic archaeology rather than on 19th century, ecclesiastical history. It acts as the repository for over 22,000 archaeological artefacts and must raise the funds annually to care for these as well as run an education service that reaches thousands of people. Museum facilities are no longer adequate, hence the need for a major expansion.

The church could not easily be converted for this use. Moreover, the project is already well under way, and every penny of the funding raised is ring-fenced, so changes proposed cannot now be made. It is a great pity that Mr Thornber did not bother to contact the museum to discuss the matter. Since learning of the decision to sell a number of local churches, the museum has worked closely with church representatives, Dunadd Community Council, and Dunadd Community Enterprise, the group aspiring to find a sustainable use for the building. Any one of these groups would have told him this, and that a very generous supporter of the museum has, in fact, already purchased the building as a holding measure, allowing

the museum to use it – depending on planning consents – while building works are taking place, giving Dunadd Community Enterprise the time needed to develop the business case required to bring the building into community ownership.

**Kilmartin Museum Trustees,  
Dunadd Community Council and  
Dunadd Community Enterprise.**

## Thanks to people who voted in General Election

I would like to thank everybody who voted for me at the General Election and the many people who helped in my campaign. I congratulate Brendan O'Hara on his re-election.

**Alan Reid, Liberal Democrat candidate.**

## Challenge NHS on failure to provide essential facilities

I have often read in The Oban Times and Lochaber Times press releases from the Joint Community Council Working Group which extol the initiatives by the Working Group and NHS Highland to maximise the use of the Dail Mhor care home for the benefit of the communities of Ardnamurchan.

In addition, every month in our local De tha dol? we are provided with a Dail Mhor Update, including a regular report on the fact that 'respite beds' are being utilised almost to capacity.

Now, while all the peripheral facilities are very welcome and appreciated, the community has made clear to the Working Group and to NHS that the facility, which is by far the most important to the residents of these remote communities, is permanent residential care beds.

It is noticeable, however, that never in any of the reports or updates is the matter of permanent beds mentioned. It's as though both organisations believe that by not mentioning 'the elephant in the room' members of the communities will in time forget about it. It is, after all, a minor inconvenience for families to visit more distant facilities for a small period of respite care compared with the life committing need to travel such distances to visit their loved ones on a permanent basis.

I would urge the Combined Working Group to start seriously challenging NHS by public campaign on their failure to provide absolutely essential care facilities for the elderly residents of these remote areas, or to explain why they are failing in the single most important reason for their existence.

**Alan Thomson, Kilcamb Paddock, Strontian.**

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

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

Ith, òl, agus bi subhach! Sin pàirt mhòr den fheallsanachd a tha a-nise a' cuartachadh àm na Nollaige 's na Bliadhna' Ùire, agus nach math co-throm a ghabhail draghan agus trioblaidean làitheil a leigeil à cuimhne airson tacan.

Ach tha e fìor a ràdh gum bheil mòran againn buailteach a dhol thar nan tomhasan le ire na ròic a tha ga deasachadh agus tha an t-uamhas bìdh a dol a dholaigh an dèidh làimhe.

Aig an aon àm tha milleanan air feadh an t-saoghail a' fulang le acras agus tart, agus 's fhiach dhuinn cuimhneachadh gum bheil daoine anns an dùthaich seo fhèin cuideachd a tha fo bhuaidh bochdainn.

'S dòcha gur ann air sgàth a' mhòr-chuid againn a bhith a' caitheamh uiread an-dràsta a tha sinn nas buailtiche mothachadh dha suidheachadh nan truaghan sin.

Bidh sibhse mothachail, mar a tha mise, air an obair ionmholta aig buidhne-an carthannais a tha a' toirt biadh, aodach, agus beagan cofhurtachd dhan fheadhainn aig nach eil na

sochairean sin aig àm sam bith den bhliadhna.

'S math an còcaire an t-acras, 's mairg nì tarchais air a' bhìadh! Comhairle a tha ga fàgail an urra ri Larla Mhàrr nuair a bha e na fhògarrach an dèidh Blàr Inbhir Lòchaidh, agus tha e cheart cho fìor, agus pailt cho iomchaidh, an-diugh 's a bha e anns a' chòigeamh linn deug.

'S ann nuair as gainne am biadh as còir a roinn a rèir seanfhacal eile, ach nuair a tha ana-caitheamh ga dhèanamh air uimhir tha fhios gum bheil àm roinne fiù 's nas deatamaiche buileach.

Bha coibhneas bhiteanta anns an dualchas againn agus 's math as fhiach na seann dòighean a chumail air chumhne agus an cleachdadh nuair a ghabhas. Nam òige bhithinn a' cuideachadh seann chòbair, a bha a' fuireach faisg oirnn, le obair earraich is foghair agus bhithinn a' gabhail annas nuair a dhòirteadh e drama nach robh aige ach aon ghlainne fiona is a cas briste dhith.

Dh'fheumadh gach duine feitheamh chun an ruigeadh a' ghlainne airsan.

Bha Pàdraig còir fada mar-

bh mun do bhuail e orm nach b' e 's dòcha bochdainn a bha seo idir ach seann chleachdadh bhon àm sam bithe ag òl à adharc nach gabhadh cur sìos chun am biodh i falamh.

Chuala mi cuideachd uair mu sheann chleachdadh Gàidhealach eile a chòrd rium gu mòr, agus b' e sin mar a bhiodh "roinn a' choigrich" ga chomharrachadh aig àm bìdh, ge b' e dè cho pailt neo gann 's a bha beairteas na dachaigh. Chan eil mi idir a' feuchainn ri bhur fàgail a' faireachadh ciontach às an t-saidhbhreas neo am furan a bhios agaibh, gu dearbh 's ann a tha mi a' guidhe sin dhuibh gu dùrachdach, agus cuideachd gum bi "roinn a' choigrich" daonnan deiseil agaibh!

I wish you a wonderful Christmas, and the opportunity to share kindness and happiness with as many as possible! Remember, a stranger is just a friend you do not know!

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



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# DISTRICT NEWS

## Cancer Research team hits £3m



Volunteers past and present joined Fort William Cancer Research shop manager Sharon Smith, front, for Christmas lunch at the town's Imperial Hotel where they also celebrated raising a total of £3 million since opening 30 years ago.

Photograph, Iain Ferguson, alba.photos



Thirty seven senior citizens enjoyed a splendid three-course Christmas lunch at Russell's Restaurant. To accommodate the numbers, this was held over two days. It was organised by Spean Bridge Senior Citizens' Association, which thanked the restaurant staff for the high quality of food and service, as well as event sponsors SSE, Ferguson Transport, Spean Bridge Spar shop and Spean Bridge Woollen Mill for their various donations.

## Retro Roamer

fort@obantimes.co.uk

### More Roamerisms from the early 1990s

■ I really would have liked to have witnessed the 'turkey trot' in Safeway on Christmas Eve when a man and a woman approached the freezer cabinet from opposite sides of the aisle. They made a breenge for the last remaining frozen turkey. Both took a hold of it and wouldn't let go. They're said to have been 'talking turkey' for quite a long while afterwards. The last I heard was that they were tossing a coin for the privilege.

■ As I write this, I'm looking at a colour picture in the winter edition of Highland Focus, the region's Development Department's own magazine. It shows Highland Clansmen arriving - by helicopter - to enact a scene for Rob Roy in Glen Nevis. One of the kilted, tartan plaided, bunneted, thong-booted, bearded 'clansmen' is none other than Irish connection Brian McDermott, sporting his favourite Kerry kilt. Giving it an airing indeed, prior to Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team's dinner dance.

■ The council's Planning Department in Lochaber is facing a funding crisis after Christmas. Officials won't be attending meetings in January because that would require travel expenses to be paid. The mandatory insertion of planning applications in the local press is being centralised in one newspaper - and not a local one at that. These measures are being introduced to bring that favourite watchword 'budget' back into line, so that everything will be hunky dory for officialdom at the financial year end - if not for their paymasters, the local public.

■ A group of Americans in a Lochaber hotel where they are guesting during the festive season. During a bar meal, one of the younger ladies in the party sashayed up to a waitress and said: 'Excuse me. Where do you keep the condiments?' Waitress looked more than a little embarrassed and replied, reluctantly: 'Er, well, there's machines for these in the toilets.' The 'condiments of the season' indeed.

■ Before and after lunchtime on the next few Wednesdays if you spot the Rotarians going against the tide on the High Street, then don't

worry. They know where they're going. The members of the Rotary Club of Lochaber are being welcomed - temporarily - in the Alex, while the Grand undergoes a refit.

■ I suppose it had to happen! And it did. An official letter arrived at the Arjo Wiggins Mill. Addressed to R Joe Wiggins.

■ A classic on Scottish radio. 'Snow has blocked the Whitbridge to Fort Angus road'.

■ The thin end of the wedge for the West Highland Line? No sleepers. No Motorail. No steam trains. No line? The current leaflet which welcomes passengers aboard the West Highlander is signed by the Inter-City West Coast Sleeper Services business manager. It omits Fort William. As does the map of the Inter-City Network which featured Fort William heretofore.

■ Those waiting for their cases to be heard at Fort William Sheriff Court earlier this month could have been pardoned for having a sense of foreboding. In the defendants' waiting room are two piles of magazines. On top of one is a copy of Time and on the other is Take a Break.

■ An annoying habit is that commentators from the central belt persist in perpetuating the mispronunciation of Mallaig. Oh, they can say Seagull City alright. But never Mallaig. It's always Ma-llaig for some reason, with the accent firmly on the second syllable. And now, if you phone Mallaig numbers, a Glasgow voice-over insists on telling you: 'All four-figure Ma-llaig numbers have been changed to six.'

■ Interesting local conjectures about the forthcoming Old Firm New Year clash prompts me to back track a few decades. Because, in one particular derby match, there was a real Lochaber connection. Centre half for Celtic was 'Rogie' Gillies from Mallaig and centre half for Rangers was Bill Paterson from Kinlochleven.

■ The cry would have gone round Claggan Park like wildfire - if last Saturday hadn't been so wet. 'There's two of them!' Two of whom? Well it's difficult to believe, but there's two Nigel MacKenzies. Or, to be pedantic, two Nigels MacKenzie. Aye, while our local Nigel was 'flagging' on the Jungle side at Claggan Park, his namesake was getting stripped for action for Wick Academy in a far north fixture.

**HIGHLAND FASTENERS**  
Happy New Year!!  
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Christmas Day	CLOSED	Tuesday 31st December	07:30 - 13:00
Boxing Day	CLOSED	Wednesday 1st January	CLOSED
Friday 27th December	07:30 - 17:00	Thursday 2nd January	CLOSED
Saturday 28th December	08:00 - 12:00	Friday 3rd January	07:30 - 17:00
Sunday 29th December	CLOSED	Saturday 4th January	08:00 - 12:00

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Fort William FC.

## No early Christmas present for Fort as they lose at Keith

Keith	4
Fort William	0
Highland League	

Fort were unable to collect an early Christmas present from their trip to Keith on Saturday, going down 4-0 in this Highland League clash at Kynoch Park.

The score line does not reflect the effort put in by the Fort players to get a win, however.

There was an ominous warning early on when after just two minutes Craig MacAskill scored for the hosts.

Fort nearly hit back just 13 minutes later with a cracking 20-yard strike from Donald Morrison which, unfortunately, flew wide.

Fort had another chance in the 20-minute mark through Josh Knowles but his header was saved.

A penalty after 32 minutes saw Keith club captain Cammy Keith net his 250th goal for his club.

Fort almost got its side of the scoreboard to finally turn over in the 36th minute with Jack Brown's fine header forcing Keith's keeper to make yet another save right out of the top drawer.

The visitors kept battering away at the Keith defence, with Aidan Taylor coming close to scoring against his former club on the 44th minute mark.

His effort was kept out by the home keeper leaving half time score at 2-0.

Keith scores again on 58 minutes to make it 3-0 with the final nail in Fort's festive season coffin being hammered home on the strike of 78 minutes.

Outgoing Fort manager, Russell McMorran, said Saturday's result was greatly disappointing.

'There's no other way to put it. Again we found ourselves controlling the game and again we find ourselves on the end of a defeat, he told the Lochaber Times.

'The lads got caught cold within minutes when Keith reacted quicker to a speculative pass that should have been dealt with by our defence.

'After that we controlled the play and created chances.

'A very soft penalty gave Keith the opportunity to extend their lead, which they did.

'We started the second half like we ended the first, in control of the game with most of the possession and again created chances.

'I can't argue with the third goal as it was an excellent turn and strike into the top corner from the lad on the edge of the box, but again we then conceded a soft goal for Keith to make it 4-0.

### Chances

'You can't win games without taking your chances and at the end of the day Keith took their chances.

'We can't continue to have so much possession and control of the game without having the end product in the final third.

'I don't actually think that our keeper had a save to make, unlike his opposite number who was called into action a number of times.

'All that being said, we still have to take positives from the game, as we do from every game.

'The team is young, with the average age being around 19. They are still learning the game and as they are finding out, the Highland League is a quick physical league.

'We move on the face Fraserburgh this Saturday and I'll be looking for an improvement in the final third.'

## Boxing Day fun at Lochaber RFC

Boxing Day at Lochaber Rugby Club is always a great day out for all the family, with things kicking off with some pre-match refreshments from noon at the clubhouse.

The match kicks off from 2pm with everyone welcome to join in. Players old and new, even those who have never held a rugby ball before, join with the 1st team to play a social game where the President's Select XV take on the Captain's Select XV. There are a few things you can guarantee will happen during the game. Kicking the ball will be penalised, making a massive break will mean play will be brought back for a for-

### RUGBY

ward pass and the water bottles will not contain water.

The fun then continues into the evening as everyone heads upstairs for some post-match refreshments and games. Can anyone beat Robin Morgan in the best Christmas Jumper Competition this year? Probably not.

If you would like to join in this year's Boxing Day match just bring along a pair of boots and be there for noon. No previous playing experience is necessary, and you never know - you might just enjoy it. Oh, and don't forget your Christmas jumper.



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This game has a jackpot of £4150. If no one wins the jackpot outright then £2000 will be awarded to the person closest to the exact centre of the ball. The £2000 nearest prize will be taken from the jackpot fund. The competition will continue as normal from the issue dated 16th January 2020 with a jackpot fund of £2150. No other near miss prizes will be awarded for this game. In the event of a tie the prize money will be split evenly between all winning entries. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.

TO ALLOW FOR DISRUPTION TO THE POSTAL SERVICE / HOLIDAYS THIS GAME WILL RUN OVER 4 WEEKS - CLOSING DATE 2PM MONDAY 13TH JANUARY 2020

#### Easy to enter

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You may hand it into any of our offices - The Oban Times, Lochavullin, Oban; The Lochaber Times, High Street, Fort William; The Campbeltown Courier, Main Street, Campbeltown or The Argyllshire Advertiser, Argyll Street, Lochgilphead 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

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**Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses.** The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB or hand in to any of our offices as detailed above.

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# Lochaber is marking 150 years of the roaring game

Nearly 150 years ago a group of Fort William's townsmen gathered in the Caledonian Hotel – what is now McIntyre's solicitors opposite the West Highland Museum – and resolved that a local curling club should be formed.

And next month, Lochaber Curling Club will celebrate a century and a half of playing 'the roaring game'.

It was on January 28, 1870, that the meeting officially resolved to form a curling club which has been continuously active ever since and continues to compete against other curling clubs in Inverness and has its own league competitions played in Glasgow.

For the first 100 years of the club, the sport was entirely dependent on weather conditions. When the ice came, a notice was hung on the railings of the now demolished Kennedy Monument in Cameron Square announcing 'Curling in Glen Nevis tonight'.

Some 32 members are listed in the 1870 club minutes book and numbers have remained fairly steady ever since.

The early exploits of the club are worthy of some admiration: The Glasgow Herald of January 5, 1885, records that 'The Lochaber Curling Club had an excellent game on Saturday. The knights of the broom, getting impatient that there was no ice to play on the low ground, resolved to ascend to Lochan Meall-an-t-Suidhe 1850ft above sea level.

'Accordingly, three horses were laden with curling



Curling at Kinloch Castle on Rum in the early days of the Lochaber club.

stones and brooms. These were despatched at 8 A.M., and the curlers left at 9 A.M., arrived at the lake 10.30 A.M., and found the ice excellent, of unknown thickness, and any strength.

'There was no snow on it, but slight snow fell during the game. Play was continued for four hours. A number of skaters followed the curlers. The whole party arrived at Fort-William at 6 P.M.'

It's recorded that a curling club at Spean Bridge preceded that of the Lochaber club and the naming of the Fort William Club as the Lochaber CC caused some consternation in Spean Bridge circles at the time. They, too, must have been a hardy bunch –

their first curling rink was 2,000ft up the hill behind Letterfinlay.

There were curling ponds

**It was on January 28, 1870, that the meeting officially resolved to form a curling club which has been continuously active ever since**

all over Lochaber including Ardgour, Onich, Ballachulish, Invergarry, Roybridge and Spean Bridge where there

were two – the Spean curlers actually complained during construction of the West Highland Railway in 1894 that the proposed line was too close to their curling pond and asked them to build another for them – which they did.

Another famous exploit of the Lochaber curlers is recorded in The Scotsman newspaper of February 13, 1895, written by local headmaster Colin Livingstone and later president of the club, titled 'Curling under difficulties.'

Taking advantage of the opening of the West Highland Railway, a curling match was arranged at Rannoch with the Lochaber curlers arriving

from Fort William by train and the curling club of Dall gathering from the south.

The game started straightforwardly enough but as it progressed, a flurry of snow developed into a blizzard and when the curlers could not see from one end of the ice to the other they retreated to a workman's hut left from the construction of the railway.

Little did they know that this storm heralded the onset of the severe winter of 1894/5 which rapidly progressed to block the railway. They were marooned at Rannoch for three days.

The club's Chris Robinson told us this week: 'Outdoor curling, which sustained the club for 100 years, is now

## CURLING

rarely possible and regular competitions are currently held at Greenacres ice rink near Paisley.

'In addition, we compete against other clubs at Inverness Ice Rink.

'In recognition of this century and a half of curling locally, we intend to produce a small booklet which will tell the story of curling in Lochaber.'

And Mr Robinson says the club would like readers of the Lochaber Times to share any information, family connections or tales concerning curling in Lochaber, from Knoydart to Glencoe, and from Corroul to Ardnamurchan Point.

And he added: 'We would also be very keen to see and copy or record any photographs or memorabilia such as any curling medals or cups which may still be about locally.'

Should you be able to help, please contact Mr Robinson at 01397 712150 or email Mr Robinson at creaking-shelves@btinternet.com.

And if you would like to try curling with a view to joining what is believed is the oldest sporting club in Lochaber, just telephone that same number.



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