

**OUT NOW**  
2020 OBAN  
**INDEX**

**Swimmer  
Max takes  
job appeal  
to extremes**



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## Firefighter urges others to donate their stem cells

by David McPhee  
dmcphree@obantimes.co.uk



An Oban firefighter is urging others to sign up to the Anthony Nolan register after he donated stem cells to help save a life.

Craig MacDougall signed up in 2012 at a Scottish Fire and Rescue Service event, which has a partnership with the charity.

The 27-year-old works as a firefighter at Oban Airport and has been a retained firefighter in Oban since 2011.

Craig received an email in December revealing he was a match and after having blood taken and heading to London for a medical, preparation for the operation began.

Writing on social media, the firefighter said: 'I've just donated stem cells via Anthony Nolan - a remarkable charity that helps those with leukaemia and other blood disorders when they need it most. Knowing you have possibly given someone a second chance at life is an amazing feeling.'

He had to receive four injections beforehand, which

were administered by nurses who travelled to Oban from Glasgow.

The operation took place on December 30 in London, which involved the stem cells being extracted from four pints of blood, which was then cycled back into his body.

'I could not move for five hours,' he told The Oban

**'I thought it would be painful but it was more uncomfortable'**

Times. 'I thought it was going to be painful, but it was more uncomfortable.'

He added: 'It was absolutely worth it. The chances of being a donor are slim, but it is what I signed up for. The feeling of helping someone outweighs the negativity of the opportunity and the operation is not even that bad. At the end of the day, you are potentially saving a life.'

He thanked his employers, the nurses who travelled

from Glasgow, the staff at the London clinic, and his partner, Louise MacLeod, who went as far as feeding him soup and ice cream when he could not move.

Craig now plans to set up a recruitment drive to encourage others to sign up to the Anthony Nolan register, the details of which are still to be confirmed.

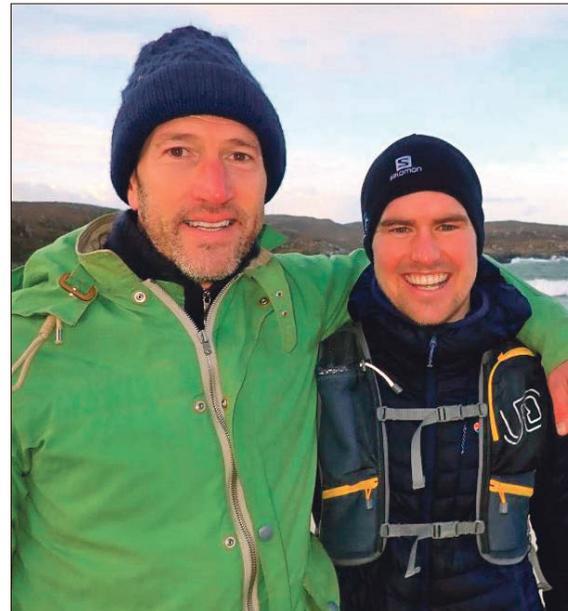
Amy Bartlett, regional register development manager for Scotland at Anthony Nolan, said: 'We are delighted Craig has donated his stem cells to someone in desperate need of a transplant. Donating stem cells is an entirely selfless act that will give someone with blood cancer a second chance of life.'

'Every person who joins the Anthony Nolan stem cell register has the potential to save a life.'

We're particularly calling on young men like Craig aged 16 to 30 to consider joining the register, as they are more likely to be chosen to donate.'

To sign up for the register or to find out more, visit [www.anthonynolan.org](http://www.anthonynolan.org)

### In the deep midwinter...



It's a challenge most of us could not even contemplate but Dunbeg scientist Max Holloway took the plunge, swimming every day in Britain's coldest water to help Lewis Pugh prepare for a glacial swim of 1km across an Antarctic lake. And TV presenter Ben Fogle turned up to see them for himself. To read the full story, turn to page three.

### Oban's playpark reopens

After being closed for almost two years, Oban's Community Playpark reopened this week.

Council staff removed the fencing surrounding the facility on Monday and children were spotted playing there later in the day.

The ultra soft reopening follows a final safety inspection which took place just before Christmas.

Lyndsay Elliott, chairperson of Friends of Oban Community Playpark (FOCP), said: 'Team Playpark are absolutely delighted that the kids can get back into the park and have some fun.'

'Thanks to Argyll and Bute Council for resolving this lengthy and complex matter, and to the contractors who have given us the gold standard in playpark flooring.'

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

FOCP are holding their AGM in Atlantis Leisure on Saturday January 25 at 11am. All are invited to go along.

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OT

## Oban High pupils race to raise £4,000 for charity

Oban High School pupils made their teachers proud after raising more than £4,200 for Cancer Research.

Senior pupils organised a Race for Life to raise money for the charity.

Glynis Dewar, chairwoman of the Oban branch of Cancer Research, said the money would be 'hugely important'.

'Most of the money raised in Scotland goes to the Beatson Research Centre, which a lot of people are grateful for, including a number of [us],' she added.

Murray Hamilton, Oban High's head of PE, said the Race for Life was organised by the sports coaching class as part of their certificate.

Each year the class has to plan and run four events – and one of those is usually for charity. This year, they decided to raise the funds for Cancer Research, as many of the pupils knew someone who had been affected.

The pupils worked out that six laps of the school was five kilometres and organised the run to take place on November 15. However, they handed the cheque over to the Oban branch of Cancer Research last month.

Mr Hamilton said the pupils were 'excellent'. He added: 'They did really well. I am really proud of them. They all bought into it and motivated lots of kids to do it.'



Oban High School pupils hand over a cheque to the Oban branch of Cancer Research. 17\_T02\_OH5Cheque01

# Gordon Buchanan: the MBE and me

by David McPhee  
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A cameraman and presenter from Mull has received an MBE for his services to conservation and wildlife film-making.

Gordon Buchanan, who grew up on the island but now lives in Glasgow, still has family in both Oban and Mull.

The 47-year-old has presented shows such as The Polar Bear Family and Me, Tribes, Predators and Me, as well as Snow Wolf Family and Me,

to name a few. He managed to catch up with some of his family over the festive period, but not all: 'I will have to come and see those who I missed,' he told The Oban Times.

'I really miss it,' he added. 'As soon as I drive up the A82 and I know that I am heading home, I get that feeling. I relax when I get to Mull. It is a place that is so familiar to me.'

Even though he has lived in Glasgow for 11 years, he said he still gets a real sense of being at home on the island.

'It's a special part of the



Gordon Buchanan MBE.

world,' he added. He found out about his MBE in mid-November, but had to keep it un-

der wraps. He said: 'The office had phoned and said, "Do you have a minute? It's a call you want to take," and I immediately thought that's bad news.' However, his agency confirmed it was good news, and he was told about his new title. 'I was very surprised. They got in touch and asked if I would accept it there and then and to keep it quiet.'

'In recent years, the most important thing to me is trying to draw people's attention to the natural world and the plight of our animals.'

By doing this, the Mull man hopes to inspire others to care and to do more.

'It is not a necessary thing to be recognised for that, because the reward is trying to do some good, but it is nice to get that recognition.'

'On the back of being offered it, you think of all the people I have encountered throughout my work who are far more deserving of something like this, but that is not a reason to turn it down.'

Gordon said his favourite show to work on was his Lost

Land of the... series, which included jaguars, tigers and volcanoes.

While he enjoys the difficulties that come with the job, his toughest show was one of his earliest when he filmed leopards in Sri Lanka. To capture the elusive animals, Gordon worked non-stop throughout the 200-day project.

But one of the best things, Gordon said, is that he is now approached by young people who are studying things such as conservation thanks to the shows.



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# Swimmer Max takes job appeal to extremes

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



An unusual job advert plunged Oban open water swimmer Max Holloway deep into a teeth-chattering challenge.

The oceanographer, who works at the Scottish Association for Marine Science and is co-founder of Oban SEALS (Sea and Loch Swimmers), has just spent nine days in cold waters on the Isle of Lewis helping endurance swimmer Lewis Pugh prepare for a pioneering swim across one of planet's most hostile expanses of water later this month.

The extreme swimmer had put out a nationwide advert seeking training buddies to join him and it was spotted by Dr Holloway's wife, Stacey, who replied 'Max is your guy!' and put the two in touch.

Lewis, who is also the United



Endurance swimmer Lewis Pugh with Oban's Max Holloway ready for the day's training.

Nations patron of the Oceans, plans to swim a kilometre across a lake on the Antarctic ice sheet to raise awareness for the need to protect our seas and respond to the climate crisis.

The challenge, which takes place on January 22, will see him dive into a stretch of water no human has ever swum in before, risking severe wind-chill factors and the threat of the lake suddenly

emptying through a crack in the ice sheet.

To help get ready to swim the 0.6 miles across the super-glacial lake, Lewis, who has previously swum in the seas around the Antarctic, in the Arctic and the length of the English Channel, headed to Lewis hoping for the coldest water he could find.

He pre-warned applicants they needed to be prepared to work hard, committing themselves to two training sessions a day, each lasting more than an hour and involving running on beaches and swimming in waters close to freezing with no tea breaks and no Hogmanay celebrations.

Max, who has previously carried out fieldwork in the polar regions, was not put off and said he was 'absolutely honoured and delighted' to have been chosen.

'The experience probably

won't sink in until I get back to work and the real world.

Coming from someone who normally wears a wetsuit, this opportunity has been a massive learning experience.

'Swimming with someone as motivated as Lewis was just amazing. As a team, we worked well together and thrived off each other.'

They were also joined, in winds of more than 60mph at times, by TV presenter Ben Fogle on two of the training days and by island guide and keen swimmer Colin Macleod.

Sea temperatures were at about seven to eight degrees, the coldest waters at around five degrees were found in the lochs and rivers. The ice-sheet water during the challenge will be just above freezing.

'Lewis is hoping to do a live-feed from the challenge, we'll definitely be following him but from somewhere much warmer,' added Dr Holloway.

## Concert in aid of MS centre

A charity concert will take place this weekend in aid of the MS Therapy Centre in Oban.

The event will take place on January 11 at the Balmoral Hotel, Oban, from 6pm.

Acts will include The Disclaimers, who perform covers and original material, Ceilidh n' Craic, as well as Harry Stage on pipes, plus special guests.

Disclaimers band member Guy Forteith, 26, was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis when he was 16.

The Oban man is looking forward to the gig. He told The Oban Times: 'It will be good fun, it is good to play at the Balmoral.'

In addition to the music, there will also be a raffle, as well as some games.

**CONTACTUS**  
email us at [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)  
telephone 01631 568000



Daily runs on the beach were part of the training.

## Water-taxi plan will bring pier back to life

Tourists coming to Tobermory could be catching a sea-taxi service across the bay to connect them to a new water sports centre on Mull.

Tobermory Harbour Association (THA) has come up with an ambitious regeneration plan to breathe life back into a historic pier at Aros that dates back to the early 19th century and was rebuilt around 30 years ago.

The project, which would also see a new section of pontoon fitted, would benefit islanders and visitors, and cost an estimated £467,000.

Tenders for engineers and architects are now out and the project could be shovel-ready by the end of this

year, said project officer Jenny Hampson, who is tasked with seeking more funds to make it happen.

She added: 'It's early days and there's big work ahead. We're still distilling what will go in the buildings but we know what we want to achieve for the area. We want to retain as much of its heritage as possible, create opportunities for groups and businesses, reconnect people between Aros and Tobermory via the water and create a loop so people can walk through the lovely woodland, getting exercise and enjoying the beauty around them.'

As well as introducing a water-taxi service, the old

sawmill and boathouse buildings on the waterfront would be repaired for community groups and small businesses to use.

Ideas still being considered are an outdoor centre, a cafe, crafting workshops, toilets and changing rooms.

THA has also bought a piece of land above the waterfront on a scenic headland, where an undercover playpark could be built to give youngsters fun in wet weather.

Improving a footpath between the town centre and Aros waterfront, taking about half an hour to walk and suitable for wheelchairs and buggies, would help cut the carbon footprint.

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OT

# Tartan tribute to Cruachan Tunnel Tigers

by David McPhee  
dmcph@obantimes.co.uk



A new tartan has been created to commemorate the 15 men who died during the construction of Cruachan Power Station.

The Hollow Mountain's owner, Drax Group, based the design on the Clan MacColl tartan.

It uses 15 strands of a special dark blue thread to represent those who tragically lost their lives building what was the world's first reversible pumped storage hydro system.

Ian Kinnaird, head of hydro at Drax, said: 'Building this unique power station was an astonishing feat of engineering, completed in challenging conditions. The work was physically demanding and, at times, incredibly dangerous. Sadly, during the course of the construction, 15 men lost their lives.'

'When we were commissioning this new tartan, we decided it was a fitting tribute to incorporate 15 dark blue threads in memory of those who tragically died – many of whom were very young.'



Ilan Kinnaird and Ian MacLean inside Cruachan.

Between 1959 and 1965, a 4,000-strong workforce built the power station on the shore of Loch Awe. Around 1,300 of them were known as Tunnel Tigers – the men at the forefront of the work. They drilled, blasted and cleared the rocks from the inside of the mountain.

Ian MacLean, from Oban, was a 20-year-old joiner when he started working at Cruachan in 1962. He said: 'I worked as a joiner on the roof of what is the machine

hall now. The noise from the blasting was incredible – you didn't just hear it, you felt it too.'

'There was a lot of dust, but what bothered us the most was the smell – it was horrible.'

'There were fumes from the explosives as well as the dump truck's diesel engines that were running all the time – and we didn't have masks to wear.'

'Some days the air was so thick you could only see a few

yards in front of where you were standing.'

The 15 men who died are remembered at Cruachan in a mural on the wall of the turbine hall at the heart of the power station and now visitors will see the new tartan waistcoats worn by guides.

One of those who died was 23-year-old Edward Gallagher, from Donegal – the fiancé of Barbara McCabe, now 81, who lives in Inverness-shire.

Mrs McCabe explained how she got engaged to Edward on December 21, 1961, and they were planning to get married the following September.

However, tragedy struck just before Easter 1962, when loose rock in the ceiling of a tunnel fell down – the force of which was so strong, it pulled Edward out of his protective footwear.

'He was such a lovely, lovely man,' Mrs McCabe, recalled.

Speaking about the tartan, she said: 'I think it's a lovely way to make sure Eddie and the others who died are always remembered. I've told his family about it and I'm going to be sending them one of the new tartan scarves.'

## POLICE FILES

■ About 1.20am on January 1, in Corran Esplanade, Oban, a man was assaulted by another man. A 39-year-old man was traced and arrested and was issued with a recorded police warning.

■ About 3.55am on January 1, near the Corran Halls, Oban, a car was stopped and searched by police and a man, 34, was found to be in possession of cannabis. The man was charged and issued with a recorded police warning.

■ In the early hours of January 1, police received complaints that fireworks were being let off outside an address in Hill Street, Oban, in a dangerous and reckless manner, placing members of the public in danger.

■ About 7pm on January 3, police officers observed a group of youths acting suspiciously near to licensed premises in Oban. Inquiries revealed that a woman, 19, had allegedly purchased alcohol for a number of youths aged 14-15 knowing them to be underage. The woman was charged and report will be submitted to the fiscal.

■ About 4pm on January 4, police were called to an address in Combie Street, Oban, where a man was allegedly being assaulted. A man, aged 28, was arrested and charged.

■ About 10.30pm on January 4, in Lochside Street, Oban, a car was stopped by police for a routine check which revealed that the driver, a man aged 27, allegedly did not have insurance. He was charged and a report submitted to the fiscal.

■ About 12.30pm on January 5, in Stevenson Street, Oban, a 42-year-old woman was arrested for behaving in an abusive manner. She was issued with a recorded police warning.

■ About 4am on January 1, in Morven Drive, Tobermory, members of the ambulance service were dealing with an incident when they were verbally abused by a 43-year-old woman. The woman was issued with a recorded police warning.

■ If anyone has information on any of the above incidents, call 101, or anonymously on 0800 555 111.

# Meeting will discuss Oban Bay's future

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Questions about the future of Oban Bay will be raised at a public meeting next month.

The meeting at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls on February 4 at 7pm will give people a chance to find out more about plans for the bay to be run as a community harbour trust port.

Oban Community Harbour Development Association (OCHDA) has welcomed Argyll and Bute Council's recent support to help it explore opportunities.

Members of the council's harbour board have agreed officers will now work with OCHDA to look at how a new Statutory Harbour Authority – covering Oban Bay and its approaches – could be run as a

community venture. OCHDA chairman John MacAlister said: 'These are still early days but it's a great encouragement that the council is willing to work in partnership with the community of Oban to see

## 'Many other ports on the west coast are run as trust ports'

whether a trust port can be established here.

'Many other ports on the West Coast are run as trust ports and these bring considerable benefit to the communities they serve. That's what we want for Oban. We are keen to hear from anyone who would like to join us and support our work.'

Marine traffic in Oban Bay

has increased, highlighting the need for the waters to be controlled and regulated by a single harbour authority.

Leisure users and businesses in the town raised concerns after CMAL (Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd) announced plans to run the entire harbour, saying having the biggest user having full control of the harbour would not be fair.

Oban Community Harbour Development Association was set up to develop the option of creating a trust port wanting to see a transfer of the council's powers and responsibilities in Oban Bay, including those around the North Pier, to the new harbour authority.

Any transfer will not go ahead unless a Harbour Order is granted by Transport Scotland.

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

# Jan goes hairless to help threatened koalas

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A Seil woman has raised hundreds of pounds so far to save koalas caught up in Australia's wildfires.

Jan Wolfe had her hair shaved off to raise money on a JustGiving page that has already smashed its £500 goal, bringing in almost £800 since the end of November.

Funds raised will go to WIRES, a charity run by volunteers who rescue, care for and release sick, injured and orphaned native Australian wildlife.

Jan said receiving the donations, some sent by complete strangers, has been humbling as the devastating horror keeps unfolding in Australia. 'Thank you so much to all who have donated so far.

'When I started this there were just one or two bush fires and I thought they would



Jan Wolfe from Seil has her hair shaved off to raise funds for a charity rescuing koalas caught up in Australia's wildfires.

soon get it under control but it's so far from that now.

'They say 500 million animals have been burned, and it's not just koalas but lots of different animals. How can they come back from that? It's devastating,' she said.

'If I lived there I would

go and try to help but when you're over here all you can do is send money.

'It sounds rather a cold thing to do but they can put the money to good use. The charity I'm supporting will help all those beautiful creatures, their care, rehabil-

itation and habitat,' she said.

Jan is staying in touch with family who live in Melbourne.

She added: 'The family's okay for now, the fires have not hit their quarter yet, but they are on alert. Everyone is anxious.'

Helping Jan in her



Operation Koala Hair was Wendy Dugdale from Balvicar Stores, who took charge of the shaving shears.

One of Jan's 44 JustGiving supporters wrote this message on her page: 'Fantastic effort for such a worthy cause. The footage we've seen in the UK is truly shocking, and we hope that Australia and its wildlife make a strong recovery.'

To make a donation go to [justgiving.com/fundraising/jan-wolfe](http://justgiving.com/fundraising/jan-wolfe)

## Essential tree safety work in Oban

Woodland Trust Scotland will be undertaking essential tree work along the A85 in Oban from Monday January 13.

The work, from the Corran Halls up the hill towards the edge of town on the Bealach an Righ, will remove a number of potentially dangerous trees from the steep ground above the road. These include broken, snapped, and uprooted trees that risk slipping onto the road. In addition, the works will remove branches in the vicinity of the street lights and those encroaching the pavement.

Works will take up to seven week days to complete and will require the closure of a single lane of traffic from 8am to 5pm each day.

The traffic management contractors are aware of school times and the ferry timetable so will ensure disruption is kept to a minimum.



Just some of the 99 cyclists who turned up for the Boxing Day ride in aid of Marie Curie.

## Bike ride boosts cancer funds in memory of Steven's mum

Cyclists raised hundreds of pounds for a cancer charity which brought comfort to a Barcaldine mum during her last days.

On Boxing Day, Helen Groom's son, Steven, organised a cycle ride round Loch Creran for Marie Curie and, with the help of 99 riders of all ages, made £271.20 for the charity.

Self-employed joiner Steven from Benderloch, who is also a committee member of North Argyll Cycling Club

(NACC), said the bumper turnout was a record for the annual event, now in its fourth year.

And he said the next one, the 2020 Boxing Day ride, would be in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support - which also helped his family. He hopes it will attract more than 100 riders.

'This time last year Marie Curie and Macmillan Cancer Support played a huge part in the comfort of my mum in her last days,' he said.

Steven's mum was diagnosed as being terminally ill with cancer just after Boxing Day 2018 and passed away just weeks later on January 19.

Steven will be linking up with NACC team-mate Fraser Inglis to take on the 24-hour Strathpuffer endurance event on January 18 and 19. Out of 120 pairs who entered the mountain-biking challenge last year, Steven and then team-mate Nick Charlton came in at seventh place.

## Vehicle Restrictions at Recycling Centres

From 3rd February 2020 the following vehicles will not be permitted entry into Recycling Centres.\*



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online [www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk) or by calling 01349 886603

\*Vehicle Restrictions do not apply at The Highland Council's Waste Transfer Stations. However, charges are applicable.

OT

## Let us know about your events

Around Oban

**KAY MCDONALD**  
editor@obantimes.co.uk



That's the festivities all over for another year and, to be honest, I'm glad to get back to normal, whatever normal is.

However, January and February are quite flat months, so I've been trawling Oban Town Diary to find things to look forward to but it's quite empty so far.

Please, please if you have events coming up take a few minutes to put them on the diary. It's easy: just Google Oban Town Diary and Submit Event. If you have any problems, you can call the office on 01631 569915 or email me at kay@bid4oban.co.uk with the details and a poster or picture if possible and I'll put them on for you.

We all need things to look forward to during these dark days and nights, and with so much bad news around just now it's good to have community events with people supporting each other to cheer you up.

### WHERE IS THIS?



There are a few quizzes coming up, which are one of my favourite things, as well as a live screening at the cinema of Kinky Boots which I would highly recommend.

The Corran Halls is also doing its bit and has Legends of Country tomorrow (Friday January 10), followed by Princesses of Pop on January 18 and a Bon Jovi tribute act on February 29, as well as our own Ballet West performing Swan Lake on January 25.

I feel cheered up already

with all this to look forward to and I'm sure there will be more coming up as we get back into the swing of things again.

If you can remember that far back, the last photograph of 2019 was of the gazebo as you go onto the Railway Pier and the first of 2020 is not too far away.

### YOURSTORY

email us at: editor@obantimes.co.uk  
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ACHA chief executive Alastair MacGregor, Councillor Roddy McCuish and project leader Margaret Cullen with the AHFA painting team, Jimmy McMahon, Graeme Watt, Stuart Smith and Robert Brown at the launch of the ACHA painting project in Soroba.

# ACHA starts major painting work in Soroba

Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) has gone onsite with a major external painting project in the Soroba housing estate in Oban, writes Fiona Scott.

The works which will run over the period from now until March 2020 involves roughcast, windows, facias, soffits, fences and downpipe refurbishment through new paintwork.

The contract is to the value of £150,000 and will cover four blocks – 2 Colonsay Terrace, 9 Colonsay Terrace, 8 Scalpay Terrace and 19 Shuna Terrace.

The works are being carried out by Argyll Homes for All,

the association's subsidiary painting team.

Alastair MacGregor, ACHA chief executive, said: 'I am delighted this contract has now gone on site.'

'It adds to the multi-million-pound investment ACHA has already made in Soroba with respect to the internal modernisation of our homes. It complements ACHA's Exemplar Estates initiative which will prioritise external improvements to the housing association's housing stock over a five-year period.'

Local elected member and secretary of ACHA's board, Councillor Roddy McCuish, said: 'I am really pleased to

see this external investment work going into properties in my ward which complements the new-build activity that ACHA is currently just completing in its 107 new-build project in Glenshellach.

'Decent, affordable housing is key to the future of Oban and this investment will help protect homes in my ward for the future.'

The Soroba estate was built in the early 1970s to meet huge housing demand in Oban. It was one of Argyll's largest council housing projects and the stock transferred to ACHA in 2006. The association owns 172 properties in Soroba.

## Deadline looms for council consultation on future plans for Argyll and Bute

Time is running out to have your say on how Argyll and Bute shapes up over the next 10 years.

The council's public consultation on its Local Development Plan 2 ends at noon on Thursday January 23.

The proposed plan looks at ways forward for developing homes, creating new work opportunities and looking after the environment through a catalogue of policies, proposals and deliverable



development sites which will be used when considering planning applications.

Consultations to draw up the plan have been held with communities, developers, key government agencies and other stakeholders.

Serious concerns have

already been raised from worried residents about potential plans to build a road connecting Ganavan direct to Dunbeg.

Fears are that motorists heading for Dunbeg would use the current coast-hugging road from the town centre to link with it, turning it into a rat-run. The twisty, narrow road that skirts past Dunollie Castle is unfit for purpose as it is, say some objectors.

To see the full proposals, go to [argyll-bute.gov.uk/ldp2](http://argyll-bute.gov.uk/ldp2).





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# HIE backs Argyll plastic-free food packaging project

Vital funding towards an Argyll-led project will help greatly towards the fight against plastic waste, writes Fiona Scott.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) has awarded the Celtic Crustacean Collaboration, headed up by CuanTec Ltd, £268,284 to develop plastic-free food packaging material from food waste.

Working alongside the Scottish Association of Marine Science (SAMS) at the European Marine Science Park near Oban, CuanTec has developed a world-first method for biologically extracting a naturally occurring polymer, chitin, from waste langoustine shells and converting this to the base material for plastic-free food packaging.

Over the next three years, the project is expected to lead



The CuanTec team are passionate about their recycled packaging project. Pictured are April MacLeod, Kirsty MacIntyre, Hannah Proctor, Toby Thomas, Federico Luppi, Tracy White and Christine Jesson.

to the creation of up to 13 new jobs in Argyll.

Dr Tracy White, head of science at CuanTec, said: 'We're dedicated to developing solutions to the issue that single-use plastic is creating.'

'I graduated from SAMS and I know, first-hand, the calibre of facilities and

resources it offers to bio-tech businesses like ours. We're confident we're in the right place to make a significant contribution to this global challenge.'

The company's process is environmentally sensitive, cost-efficient, requires less energy, and uses 95 per cent

fewer chemicals than conventional processes.

The resulting packaging material has natural food preserving properties and will be home compostable. It also has the ability to keep food fresh and potentially extend shelf life.

'Our whole team is really

driven and we all have a real interest in finding alternatives to the plastics that are out there as well as finding uses for the food waste,' added Dr White.

'There is a massive amount of plastic out there and there has to be a range of alternatives to replace all the non necessary plastic that we use.'

'This funding will allow us to work alongside SAMS to expand our chitin sources.'

'This new project will focus on the commercial viability of the product through developing industrial-scale methods of extracting and converting the polymer from the shells and other food waste sources of chitin.'

'It will further test the product against industry regulatory standards and end-user requirements and investigate other potential sources of the polymer.'

Confirming the HIE funding, Gillian Galloway head of innovation, added: 'This highly innovative project has the potential to help address this issue through reducing the use of plastic. It will also help cut carbon emissions from the burning of unrecycled plastic waste.'

'It is exciting to see this level of innovation being developed in Argyll and in such a collaborative fashion.'

Match-funding for the Co-Innovate programme has been provided by HIE and Scottish Enterprise in Scotland, the Department for the Economy in Northern Ireland and the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation in Ireland.

Versatile Packaging in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland firm, Kilkeel Seafoods are also involved in the project.

## Date announced for 2020 Oban Pride

Following on from the success of its inaugural event in 2019, Oban Pride has announced this year's festivities will take place on Saturday May 30.

Having recently been granted charity status, the group has also received £10,000 worth of funding from the National Lottery Community Fund to help towards the venue, technical and security hire.

This year's event will also see a change of venue with the Corran Halls hosting a fabulous line-up of national and international stars, as well as community stalls, family area and introducing a new youth zone. Chairperson Phill Dexter told us: 'Oban Pride is pleased to be returning in 2020 bringing another fabulous pride event for the LGBTQ+ community and allies in Oban and surrounding areas.'

'The Oban Pride committee are working extremely hard to bring this event to the area while keeping it as a free public event.'

'We still have a lot of funds to raise for Oban Pride 2020 and have some funding applications in and are actively seeking sponsorships, donations as well as organ-



Oban Pride chairman Phill Dexter and secretary Anna Gregory are delighted that the 2020 event will take place at the Corran Halls.

ising fundraising events.'

The first of these fundraising events will take place on Saturday February 29 when the group will be working alongside Oban Phoenix Cinema to bring a sing-a-long Rocky Horror Picture Show hosted by Oban Pride's very own Crystal. More details will

be announced on the Oban Pride Facebook page in the forthcoming weeks.

Oban Pride is completely organised and run by volunteers. Anyone interested in volunteering or supporting the group should contact them via their Facebook page or by emailing obanpride@gmail.com

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OT

## Registration call for new primary ones

Children who turn five between March 1 2020 and February 28 2021 should be registered for primary school during the week beginning Monday January 13.

Parents should take their children to their local primary school to register next week, between 10am and 3pm.

Further information, including how to make a placing request and how to request early entry to primary school, can be found on the council website [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/primary-school-registration-2020](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/primary-school-registration-2020)

Alternatively, call the education team on 01369 704000. A list of all schools in Argyll and Bute, including Gaelic medium education, denominational schools and non-denominational schools, can be found on the council website.

**GET INVOLVED**  
email us at [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

# New year name change for Loch Awe rowers

by Kathie Griffiths  
[kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk)



Loch Awe coastal rowers have taken a new club name onboard.

Kilchrenan, Inverinan and Dalavich (KIDs) Coastal Rowing Club members were finding the long title a bit of a mouthful so decided to bring in the change at the start of 2020.

Now known as Loch Awe Coastal Rowing Club, the social rowers have won another community grant making it a hat trick of bids.

The latest grant, from Foundation Scotland, is in addition to an Suidhe Wind Farm Community grant for £2,405 to help the club buy a team pop-up shelter gazebo and a St Ayles skiff launch trolley, both of which are now on order. The other successful grant came from the Lottery.



Loch Awe Coastal Rowing Club out on the water.

Photograph: Mick Atkins.

Club founder and ex-submarine commander Gordon Leveratt said: 'That's three wins out of three submissions which is a special blessing, though not to be taken for granted in any way.'

Plans are also in the pipeline

for a new website this month, added Mr Leveratt.

Club members were hoping to get both its boats on the water at the weekend, the first time they have both been out since taking part in the 13-mile Castle to Crane C2C

race in September. The club now has more than 20 members and is looking for more to come on board.

Coastal rowing has taken off worldwide in the past few years with more than 70 clubs in Scotland alone and 150

boats built by communities, including Seil's Selkie.

In April, the Loch Awe club will be hosting its next Loch Awe Adventure regatta. It expects 14 boats to join it at Dalavich over the weekend of April 24 to April 26.

The club will also be one of 70 clubs joining in a remarkable Row Around Scotland bid in 2020, promoting the country's wonderful coastline and waters. The event is being supported by the Year of Coasts and Waters 2020 events fund, managed by EventScotland

To find out more about joining Loch Awe Coastal Rowing Club call 01866 833425 or email [gordonleveratt@uwclub.net](mailto:gordonleveratt@uwclub.net)



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Tobermory crew member Rose Skelton with wife Nomi Stone after their lifeboat blessing.

Photograph: RNLI/Sam Jones.

# Mull marriage blessing a first for RNLI

by Fiona Scott

fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Volunteer crew member Rose Skelton and her wife Nomi Stone had their marriage blessed on Tobermory's Severn class lifeboat in what is believed to be the first blessing of a same sex couple on an RNLI vessel.

After being piped down Tobermory's colourful Main Street by Mull and Iona Pipe Band, Nomi and Rose were met by a guard of honour, made up of crew members holding the traditional RNLI wedding oars at the Cal Mac pier with the lifeboat berthed alongside.

Rose and Nomi both read a poem called Mull and Iona, written by their friend Daniel Jenkins, before Tobermory RNLI Coxswain David McHaffie led a short blessing in which he said: 'In your marriage, may you find joy and laughter in each other

when times are easy, and may your marriage be a place of refuge when times are hard.'

The short ceremony concluded with everyone present raising a glass of Tobermory single malt whisky and making a toast 'to the wives'.

Rose, a freelance writer and journalist, and Nomi, an assistant Professor of Poetry at the University of Texas in Dallas, were married in November 2018 in Philadelphia. As many of their friends were not able to attend, they decided to celebrate their wedding again with a special lifeboat blessing and a ceilidh during the winter solstice on Mull.

Rose has been on the crew since 2015. Her grandfather, John Lewis Leroy, served as volunteer crew on the Dover RNLI lifeboat and his ashes were scattered by Tobermory's Arun class lifeboat, Anne Lewis Fraser, 20 years ago. For these reasons, Rose and Nomi decided it would be mean-

ingful to bless their marriage on Tobermory's Severn class lifeboat, Elizabeth Fairlie Ramsey.

'I had always wanted to be on the lifeboats after I grew up listening to my grandfather's stories about being on the Dover crew,' said Rose.

'Joining the Tobermory crew was one of the best things I've ever done, and I'm so happy to see how the station has welcomed Nomi in as part of the family too. Having our marriage blessed here has been really special for both of us.'

There was no rest for the crew, however, with the pagers going off just as the celebrations were getting underway, with Rose herself also running to the lifeboat station. Fortunately, there were more than enough crew and Rose was stood down meaning she was able to re-join Nomi and their families and friends.

## Former pupils' reunion supper dance

Former pupils of Oban High School are invited to a supper dance in the Royal Hotel, Oban, on Saturday March 14.

The event, organised by Oban High School Former Pupils Association, has been well supported over the last couple of years since the event was changed to a hot supper dance, rather than a formal

dinner dance. It has been well supported by the Royal Hotel which will provide a sit-down buffet menu at an excellent price. The hotel also offers a bed and breakfast deal for people attending from afar.

The price of a ticket for the buffet and dance, with music by Gunna Sound, is £20. Tickets are selling well but it

is important as many people as possible buy tickets early so that numbers are finalised. Tickets will not be available at the door.

More information and tickets are available from David Brown on 01631 565242; Lachie Beaton, 01631 565890; Rosemary Omand, 07876 585416 and on Facebook.

## High school library funding boost

Oban High School has received cash from a national funding programme designed to support creative and innovative projects within school libraries.

The School Library Improvement Fund (SLIF) aims to support activities which meet key education priorities including literacy development, information and digital learning and health and well-being.

The school has been given £4,000 from the fund, which is administered by the Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC) on behalf of the Scottish Government. The project aims to improve reading for pleasure and attainment among pupils with literacy-related additional support needs.

Thirty-four school library projects across Scotland have received a total of £272,000 in this round of funding. A new funding round opens on January 10, with £170,000 available.

SLIF was launched in 2017 as a three-year, £1 million fund to transform school libraries. All successful projects are assessed to meet the aims of



Scotland's national school library strategy, Vibrant Libraries, Thriving Schools.

Deputy First Minister John Swinney said: 'School libraries have a vital part to play in supporting literacy and improving attainment across the curriculum. We want libraries to be the vibrant hub of our schools and further investment of £272,000 through the School Library Improvement Fund will strengthen their role. I am pleased to see recipients focusing on not only literacy, but health and well-being, science, technology, engineering and maths and digital learning and engagement with their wider community.'

Pamela Tulloch, chief executive at SLIC, said: 'School libraries have embraced the

opportunity to develop new ways of engaging with pupils and the wider school community, enhancing the learning experience and attainment levels.

'School libraries have a vital role to play in the education of pupils. Research shows a well-run school library can impact positively on attainment and attitudes to learning. School libraries have enjoyed increased support since the introduction of the national school library strategy and we hope this continues to deliver long-lasting and sustainable benefits.'

The successful bids and details of how to apply for the next funding round are available on the SLIC website [www.scottishlibraries.org/funding](http://www.scottishlibraries.org/funding)

## Oban's European Union

While the creation of the University of the Highlands and Islands has created more opportunities for students native to the Highlands and Islands, it has also attracted people from all corners of the globe to the region.

This is clearly evident at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) UHI where visiting students from around the world join the BSc Marine Science Degree, study a Masters Degree or work towards a PhD.

At the same time, the international diversity of the institute is enhanced by the arrival of students on the European Union's (EU) Erasmus programmes: Erasmus+ and Erasmus Mundus. These are designed to encourage study and training opportunities and to promote student and staff mobility. While Erasmus+ exists to improve connections between European education institutes, the Erasmus Mundus programme aims to provide scholarships for Masters level students from across the world to study in the EU.

Visiting students may be at SAMS UHI for one term to a year but become part of a vibrant student community and part of the Oban and



Lorn community. Shona Magill, Head of Student Services at SAMS UHI, said: 'Erasmus is designed in a way that wherever the students go to learn, the only thing that changes is the geography and the language.'

'They strike up great relationships with the students already here, based on shared experiences and challenges. Nationality is never an issue.'

Ms Magill says students from across the world thoroughly enjoy their Oban experience, with some returning to further their studies or to gain work experience: 'It helps there is already an international feel to SAMS UHI, through its staff and students. Oban, as a popular tourist town, is a welcoming place and is a great hub for students to explore Scotland while they

are here.' The programme also allows SAMS UHI students to travel abroad and many have taken advantage of Erasmus placements, particularly on Svalbard in Arctic Norway. This offers a unique opportunity to live and study in the Arctic and undertake a degree in Marine Science with Arctic Studies. SAMS UHI is the only UK institute to offer this degree.

In the past five years, 40 SAMS UHI students have undertaken exchange opportunities in Norway and the Netherlands.

Those opting to spend time in Van Hall Larenstein University can take a module that includes a trip to the Caribbean.

Outside of Erasmus, SAMS UHI has established an exchange with Coastal Carolina University in South Carolina.

OT

# Craignure club on course to win environment award

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



A trip to Craignure Golf Club on Mull may provide visitors with a glimpse of a rare birdie or two.

And they don't even have to walk the fairways to do so.

Mull Eagle Watch started in 2000 at Loch Frisa and for the past two years the golf club has hosted the project which has fast become one of the island's premiere tourist attractions.

As a result of its involvement, the club has been selected as a finalist in the Golf Environment Awards in the Outstanding Environmental Project of the Year category.

The honour is awarded to golf clubs which have implemented a successful environmental project, with clear objectives and targets while contributing to a better



From left: Mull Eagle Watch rangers Lizzy and Caiomhe, Mull RSPB officer Dave Sexton and Craignure Golf Club volunteer Carolyn Whenman brief visitors.

environment and making progress in fulfilling the goals of the scheme.

Craignure Golf Club's Barry Whenman told The Oban Times: 'Mull Eagle Watch is a unique protection and public viewing partnership between Forestry and Land Scotland,

the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), Mull and Iona Community Trust, Scottish Natural Heritage and Police Scotland.

#### Volunteers

'It has been a privilege to host this project at the golf club for the past two years

and credit must go to our volunteers who help out with the tours as well as provide tea and home-baking to visitors.'

The hide, which gives nature lovers magnificent views of Scallastle Bay, allows visitors great views of resident eagles Scala and Anna who have

been nesting nearby for more than 20 years.

'The partnership has been hugely beneficial to everyone,' added Mr Whenman.

'A shelter has been constructed alongside the first green, which affords unobstructed views of the nest.

'The course also offers a wealth of other marine wildlife watching opportunities along the shores of the Sound of Mull - otters, seals and a variety of sea birds have all been seen regularly.

'Upon returning to the clubhouse, the eagle rangers and their guests are afforded a degree of comfort not often found at other wildlife hides, with tea/coffee and home-baked cakes available, as well as an impressive RSPB display.'

In return for their hospitality, the golf club, which is

run entirely by volunteers, receives a welcome boost to funds which enables the club to continue with the maintenance required to attract visiting golfers.

The project also supports other community groups on the island.

Golf Environment Awards judge Rowan Rumball said: 'This year was exceptionally difficult. We have had some amazing and very worthy entrants.

'I have seen some superb projects and many clubs are now looking beyond the confines of their own club boundaries.'

The Golf Environment Awards are managed and administered by sports turf consultants STRI.

The winners will be announced at a ceremony on Wednesday January 22 at the Crown Hotel, Harrogate.

## Crinan Hotel 2020

We wish you a happy New Year, and thank you for all your support during 2019

The hotel will be closed after breakfast 12th January until 31st January in the evening.

The Seafood Bar and coffee shop within the hotel will be open for the rest of 2020.

Lunch 12.00 till 2.30  
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when the weather  
warms up

### February 27th marks 50 years at Crinan hotel for the Ryan family

Frances and Nick arrived 5 days after their wedding having become engaged in Cape Town with a view to staying 6 months in Scotland but fell in love with Crinan. Frances' mother was from Oban and her grandmother from Tarbert so Argyll was already a favourite place and Nick soon realised why, and of course their children Julia and Ross and grandchildren Archie and Jock now live most of the time in Argyll.

Archie MacAllister will be playing at the Hotel on 29th February to celebrate so please book and come along.

01546 830261 www.crinanhotel.com enquiry@crinanhotel.com

## MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



Never in my life have I had any interest in the literature of horror or in the films of that terrifying genre and, until this summer, I had never read a book or watched an entire film in the category.

A contemporary author through a weaving and narrowing net of books and a brief encounter had earlier this year sparked my interest in one such work and the story behind it.

Bram Stoker's Dracula is a classic of the genre and I am grateful to the Irish author Joseph O'Connor for being the catalyst that brought me to this masterpiece.

For Christmas last year, I was given a copy of Joseph O'Connor's novel Star of the Sea. I had never heard of the book or the author but immediately became engrossed in the story and in awe of O'Connor's rich mastery of language. This led me to attend a talk and reading at the Edinburgh Festival in August where his just-published historical novel Shadowplay was the subject. Sometimes these events can be boring. Not so with Joseph O'Connor.

As he read excerpts, discussed content and took ques-

tions, it was clear this man was a master of his trade. He could articulate his thoughts, his inspirations, the background to the book and the process of writing it beautifully and with a precision, ease and humour that kept everyone hungry to hear his every word.

Shadowplay is based on the lives and interweaving connections of Bram Stoker, his boss and idol, actor and theatre operator Henry Irving and the even more famous theatre star Ellen Terry. Among the many strands of the book, the strongest theme is how unknown Bram Stoker was during his own lifetime and, conversely, how famous and everlasting his name would become through his creation of Dracula and crucially how none of the three could have predicted this.

During the lives of the three close friends, Stoker was no more than a hard-working theatre manager and personal assistant to Irving and his attempts at writing had gone relatively unnoticed. Irving and Terry were the biggest stars of the time, but there is no doubt as to whose name has been etched deeper in the consciousness of humanity since.

Stoker's primary ambition was to be an author, but time and again his work would be rejected, publications would go unnoticed and, through anger and frustration, he would destroy his own manuscripts. He also had to endure discouragement and disparaging comments from Henri Irving, whom Stoker idolised and was devoted to. However, he struggled on and, through the creation of that one character, brought to life in that one novel, Dracula gave Stoker posthumous fame and success none of the three could have imagined during their lifetimes.

If you want to make an impact on the world, do what Bram Stoker did and keep forging on regardless of adversity. Secondly, if you are working for or with someone who dismisses your dreams and gifts, get out and plough your own furrow. Had Stoker done this, I would speculate he might have enjoyed success during his lifetime as he could have focused fully on his literature, free of the ties of his job and, more importantly, the negativities of Irving.

Happy New Year and follow your dreams.



The Rotary Christmas lunch was over-subscribed again.

# Festive cheer for Oban's pensioners

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Father Christmas spread good cheer among Oban's senior citizens when he visited the annual Christmas lunch organised by the town's Rotary Club.

The event was held in the Oban Bay Hotel on Monday December 9, thanks to continued sponsorship from The Crerar Trust, a fantastic supporter of the event which has been running continuously for more than 100 years.

The event remains over-subscribed and once again there was a full house, with the dining room full of Christmas and community spirit.

This testifies to the contin-

uing popularity of the gathering, where old friends meet against a background of fun, good food and entertainment.

Music was provided by stalwarts Neil Mackay, drums, and Tom McAdam, accordionist/vocalist, as the large gathering participated with great enthusiasm in good tunes and songs.

### Highlight

The highlight of the afternoon was, as usual, the appearance of Santa Claus - Ellis Carmichael - who distributed presents to everyone.

Presents, along with a large number of raffle prizes, were donated by Ian MacInnes of D & A Munn and Julie and Tommy McQuade of Morham and Brotchie.

The afternoon was

excellently compered by the Rotary Club of Oban's president Douglas Small who thanked everyone who had contributed to the success of the lunch.

In particular, he thanked The Crerar Trust for its continued sponsorship, the wonderful musicians Neil and Tom, Santa, the staff at the Oban Bay who provided excellent service and, not least, the fine folk who attended the lunch.

In addition to assisting with the event, fellow Rotarians turned taxi drivers to take people home.

It was roundly agreed this was yet another superb gathering, with everyone concerned already looking forward to next year,



Santa handed out presents to the happy gathering.



Senior citizens join in with the afternoon's singing.



Rotary president Douglas Small thanks Santa for going along.



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OT

# Workshop offers charity retailers expert advice

Such is the growth in the charity retail market, no sooner have we got one Christmas out of the way than planning starts for another.

Luckily Jayne Cartwright and Vicki Burnett of The Charity Retail Consultancy (CRC) will be in Oban on Tuesday February 11 from 11am to 3pm to host a free workshop and lunch at the Rockfield Centre.

The day will focus on how to sell Christmas cards and offer one-to-one advice on other issues relating to charitable retailing.

Vicki, who lives at Craobh Haven on the Craignish peninsula, said: 'We will be running a seminar on how to plan and deliver a profitable Christmas card offer, including choosing a range, selling via mail order and online, as well as tips around trading generally.'



Jayne and Vicki collect their award at the Charity Retail Conference and awards dinner. From left: Mike Nicol, chief executive officer of 1st Waste Management, award sponsor; Anne Webb, chairwoman of the Charity Retail Association and deputy director of Trading for Oxfam GB; Jayne Cartwright, director and founder of The Charity Retail Consultancy; Vicki Burnett, senior consultant, The Charity Retail Consultancy; and Paul Sinha, TV personality.

'This is a chance for charities of all sizes to learn about how to make the most of their Christmas card operation in 2020.'

Jayne and Vicki are widely regarded as experienced and passionate leaders within the

charity retail sector. They help charity shops and other non-profit-making organisations - including museums and galleries - develop their retail operation and improve their product offer and profitability. The Rockfield workshop is

free of charge and lunch will be provided by vegan caterer Catchacarrot.

'The lunch will provide the perfect opportunity for networking with fellow charity workers,' added Vicki.

'After the seminar, a senior

consultant will answer questions on any aspect of charitable trading. And Elle Publishing - the charity sector's leading card supplier - will be showcasing its new ranges and taking orders.'

In June 2019, CRC was

voted supplier of the Year by members of the Charity Retail Association, the sector membership body for charity retailers.

To book a workshop place, email [vicki@thecharityretail-consultancy.co.uk](mailto:vicki@thecharityretail-consultancy.co.uk)




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## New funeral benefit to help with bereavement costs

Have you had to pay for a funeral that took place in the last six months but are struggling to pay due to being on a low income?

A new benefit launched last September provides help for people on low incomes to meet funeral costs.

Funeral Support Payment will be delivered by Social Security Scotland and will replace the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Funeral Expense Payment for people living in Scotland.

The changes mean around 40 per cent more people will be eligible for financial support at the point of bereavement. People will be able to apply over the phone, by post or online.

You don't have to apply immediately. You can claim up until six months after the day of the funeral.

Social Security Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville said: 'Coping with the death of a loved one is one of the most tragic events any of us can face.



'At that difficult time, it's even harder when there's extra stress finding the money to pay for a funeral. Our new

Funeral Support

Payment has been designed and tested with members of the public and stakeholders, including funeral directors and welfare advisors, to ensure the end product is one we can be proud of.

'The new support will reach far more people struggling with funeral costs and is backed by around £2 million additional funding. The flat rate element of the Funeral Support Payment will be £700 for the majority of applications and we have committed to annually uprating this in line with inflation, something the UK Government have not done since 2003.

'This is a demand-led benefit and forecasts are we will invest more than £6 million in support in the first full year of operation. And as with the Best Start Grant, we will encourage people to

apply and get this financial support.'

To find out more, visit [mygov.scot/funeral-support-payment/](http://mygov.scot/funeral-support-payment/) or call 0800 182 2222 to speak to a trained advisor who can help you make your application.

### Case study

Jamie Rodgers, pictured, owner of Jamie R Rodgers Funeral Directors of Aviemore, knows how difficult it can be for low-income families when a loved one dies. He said: 'People have just experienced a devastating blow and are then put under major pressure to find money they don't have for a funeral. They are desperate to give their loved one the perfect goodbye but simply can't because of financial worries.'

'Social Security Scotland's Funeral Support Payment is really helpful.

'It can be the difference between having a funeral or not and I think everyone deserves a funeral. My advice would be to contact ourselves as your funeral director and we can help you to find out if you are eligible for Funeral Support Payment. You may be surprised.'



Drivers are being urged to prepare their vehicles for winter driving.

## Drivers urged to prepare vehicles for winter weather

As mornings get frostier, rain starts turning to sleet and roads get icier, driving conditions get more dangerous and unpredictable.

With 55 per cent of car-owning Brits not knowing how to use their brakes in wet, icy or snowy weather, Euro Car Parts has compiled five essential preparation tips which you should carry out before you take to the roads.

### Check your car's vitals

It's important to check everything is working or topped up when the temperature drops to avoid getting caught short in poor conditions.

Make sure you have enough petrol, that your windscreen washer fluid is topped up and that all the jets are working.

To stop your washer jets from freezing in ice and snow, fill your windscreen washer reservoir with concentrated washer fluid, making sure it contains anti-freeze.

### Use your car lights correctly

When driving in snow, ensure you have your car lights on correctly - dipped beams in heavy snow and additional fog lights if the snow is falling thickly - to help you see and be seen by other drivers.

### Stock up on supplies

If you have to travel in snowy conditions, stock up your car with extra supplies

in case you break down or get stuck for long periods.

The most important thing is to have an extra set of warm clothing such as a winter jacket, gloves and a blanket. Other useful supplies include:

- a first aid kit
- jump cables
- phone charger
- torch and spare batteries
- de-icer
- basic tool kit
- reflective triangle and hi-vis jacket.

### Keep a sample of carpet in your boot

If your car gets stuck, an old piece of carpet placed under the tyres can give you enough traction to get free. If you don't have old carpet, you can use your car mats.

### Remove snow and ice

Before you set off, clear your vehicle of as much snow and ice as possible, particularly from windows and mirrors. Not only does this allow you to see where you are going, it also means snow won't fall off while you are driving and hit another driver or cyclist.

Chris Barella from Euro Car Parts said: 'Bad weather can mean more cars are on the road and we are often running later than usual which can lead to careless driving.'

'It's important to take extra time to prepare your vehicle and keep your distance from others to avoid any accidents and stay safe this winter.'

## Oban lifeboat responds to midnight emergency

An alert from a vessel in the Sound of Mull resulted in the launch of Oban lifeboat Mora Edith MacDonald shortly after midnight on Monday December 30.

A request from the UK Coastguard at 12.06am saw the Oban RNLI vessel launch following the DSC alert from a vessel in the vicinity of Craignure.



A DSC alert is a means of sending pre-defined digital messages using a vessel's VHF radio and is often used

to call for assistance in an emergency.

Oban lifeboat made best speed towards Craignure and crew members carried out a search of the area while Craignure Coastguard Rescue Team members searched from the shore, where they discovered a workboat tied up to a pontoon in Scallastle Bay. The Coastguard team

established there was no-one on board the vessel and subsequent checks with the operators of the vessel established it had not been in use for several hours.

It was therefore agreed this was a false alarm.

Oban lifeboat returned to Oban where it was made ready for service again by 2.20am.

Column sponsored by Fairer Scotland

## New Funeral Support Payment

Are you, or someone you know, struggling to pay for a funeral? You may be able to get help with some of the costs.

Funeral Support Payment is available if you live in Scotland and get certain benefits or tax credits.

Funeral Support Payment can pay an average of £1,300 and can cover burial and cremation costs. The payment also includes other expenses and some travel costs.

The money can be paid directly to your chosen funeral director, or into your account.

You can apply from when the person dies, and up until six months after the date of the funeral.

This new Scottish Government benefit is delivered by Social Security Scotland, and is an investment in everyone.

This support is there to help when you need it and you are encouraged to find out if you are eligible for Funeral Support Payment.

If eligible, the amount you get will depend on what funds were left by the person who died, and the eligible costs incurred. If the person who died left financial assets we will recover this payment from their estate.

Social Security Scotland was set up by the Scottish Government to deliver a number of benefits and, once fully operational, will deliver benefits for people on low incomes, disabled people, carers, young people entering the workplace and to help people heat their homes.

For more information or to apply for Funeral Support Payment visit [mygov.scot/benefits](https://mygov.scot/benefits) or call 0800 182 2222



# BUSINESS NEWS

## Real Food Cafe serves up tasty results and expansion plans

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Returning a customer's bag containing £12,500 is just one of the year's highlights for Tyndrum's Real Food Cafe, as well as ending 2019 with an increased turnover.

With takings up three per cent, the award-winning roadside diner, with its staff of 20, served more than 280,000 customers including Radio 1 DJ Greg James.

And there are plans to expand this year with the cafe looking at other sites across the country.

**We've got a great product. Scotland is a hotbed of culinary talent.**

Adding to the 58,000 fish and chip portions they dished up in 2019, 3,000 more were gluten-free, helping secure the cafe its A grade as a Coeliac UK Accredited Caterer



Radio 1 DJ Greg James with cafe staff and owner Sarah Heward, left.

for the fifth consecutive year. The cafe, which has menus in different languages including Mandarin, also became a recognised Living Wage employer, one of only four food and beverage employers in the Stirling district to be accredited by the Living Wage Foundation.

And it was also named Best Rural Business at the Women's Enterprise Scotland Awards, Regional Winner of VisitScotland's Best Informal Eating Experience Award and received its ninth Great Taste Award, this time for its cloutie dumpling – the first time this traditional

Scottish dessert had been awarded a rating since 2015.

Cafe owner Sarah Heward was a finalist in the Business Woman of the Year category at the Business Women Scotland Awards and, as the cafe moves into its 15th year, it does so as a finalist in two categories

of the National Federation of Fish Fryers' awards and a VisitScotland Thistle Award.

Serving just under 300,000 customers means the cafe collects its fair share of lost property. As well as returning the £12,500 in a customer's bag, the haul included a set of false teeth and two dogs. Only the false teeth were never reclaimed.

To manage business development and expansion plans for 2020, growth manager Euan McColm has been brought onboard.

He said: 'My role is to take the elements which make the Real Food Cafe so special and preserve them as we look at new opportunities. We've got a great product. Scotland is a hotbed of culinary talent.'

'Having its own, unique taste of the Highlands, the Tyndrum cafe is considering sites across the country, aiming to bring its special brand of charm and warm service, home-baking, and award-winning fish and chips to many more guests across Scotland.'

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## Community board wants action and investment

The independent CalMac Community Board is calling on Scottish ministers to accelerate a fleet and port investment programme for Scotland's west coast and islands ferries network.

At a meeting in April 2019 with the Minister for Energy, Connectivity and Islands Paul Wheelhouse, members expressed concern at the lack of transparency for a long-term plan to address an ageing fleet of vessels operating on Clyde and Hebrides services causing increasing disruption to customers and businesses across remote, rural and island communities.

The community board said that, while the Scottish Government's intervention in acquiring Ferguson Marine Engineering Ltd is to be welcomed, it had learned delivery of vessels 801/802 is delayed further to late 2021 and mid 2022 respectively.

The board added that, as the 'major and minor' fleet ages, service failures are becoming increasingly frequent and on nu-



merous occasions replacement vessels are often not available.

Board members are being asked by their communities if there is a commitment from ministers for significant funding to be made available to rectify these issues.

At a community board meeting in November, members were briefed by Kevin Hobbs, Chief Executive Officer of Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL),

who provided an overview of the current fleet and outlined a comprehensive vessel procurement plan.

Members supported the proposals for a programme of investment from the Scottish Government.

An updated assessment of growth in traffic, increased demand, including tourism, and a strategy for ferry services for 30

years and beyond must accompany future budget provision for vessels and ports.

The board called on Scottish ministers to commit to publishing a fully supported, cross-party ferries plan as soon as possible in 2020.

Recognition by ministers that urgent action is required will go a significant way to reassure remote and rural communities across Scotland's west coast and islands that their concerns will be addressed, despite the significant disappointment of delays to the introduction of two vessels currently under construction.

Community board members, led by chairman Angus Campbell, are encouraging ministers to support CalMac, CMAL and Transport Scotland in their joint task of reversing the decline of the current Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Service network and implement a strategy to increase economic prosperity and population growth in vulnerable island and rural communities.

## Port Ellen distillery plans approved

Innovative plans to bring one of the world's most famous distilleries back into production have been given the green light.

The 'lost' distillery of Port Ellen will be restored after inspirational plans were approved by Argyll and Bute Council planners.

As part of the plans, the historic pagoda-roofed kiln house will be restored and new state-of-the-art production buildings created.

Georgie Crawford, the master distiller leading the Port Ellen project, said: 'We are delighted to have reached this important milestone in our journey to bring Port Ellen back into production.'

'We are grateful to Argyll and Bute Council and to the community which have engaged positively with us during the planning process.'

'We are incredibly excited to begin the next phase of the project and to make our long-cherished dream of restoring Port Ellen distillery a reality.'

A new Port Ellen stillhouse will bring together traditional and innovative approaches to distilling under one roof.

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## The man who paved the way for island travel

by Valerie Forsyth  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

This month we look at Hutcheson's monument.

This granite obelisk stands on the north end of the island of Kerrera overlooking Ardrinive Bay. It can be seen from Oban and the surrounding area and is a monument to David Hutcheson, a steamship owner who paved the way for travel between the Hebrides. D & A Hutcheson was the forerunner to Caledonian MacBrayne, the west coast ferry service operator.

Steamboats have played an important part in the history of the west coast. They not only supplied the islands with necessities, but also brought tourism. They opened up the coast and one of the places to benefit was Oban.

In the 18th century, Oban was little more than a hamlet with an inn but by the time the Caledonian Canal was completed in 1822, it was a mecca for those wishing to travel the 'Royal Route' by steamer to Inverness.

David Hutcheson was born in 1799 in Inverkeithing, Fife, but the family moved to Port Glasgow. He was related to the owners of the J & G Burns Steamship Company, where he worked his way up from a clerk to a manager and partner, before going into business with his brother Alexander in 1848. Another member of the company was David MacBrayne. Hutcheson and his partners acquired Burns' shipping lines which served the Highlands and the Hebrides. They opened new routes and bought over other businesses, becoming the largest shipping company serving the area. In 1855, they launched Iona, a purpose-built paddle steamer. The company continued to thrive and by the late 1870s had 15 ships.

David Hutcheson retired in 1876 while Alexander retired two years later, leaving MacBrayne as the sole owner. He died in Glasgow in 1881 but was buried at Pennyfuir Cemetery between Dunstaffnage and Oban.

The monument to commemorate David Hutcheson was erected in 1883.

# Poetic telling of a Hig

## Morvern Lines

IAIN THORNBER

ian.thornber@btinternet.com



'A chieftain to the Highlands bound, cries, boatman, do not tarry; and I'll give thee a silver pound to row us o'er the ferry. 'Now who be ye would cross Lochgyle, this dark and stormy water?' 'Oh! I'm the chief of Ulva's isle, and this Lord Ullin's daughter.'

So begins the opening of one of Scotland's best known 19th-century poems. Lord Ullin's Daughter tells the tragic story of a young woman who was drowned when pursued by her father and his men. The poem opens with the daughter and her lover arriving on the shores of Lochgyle in a storm. The lover offers the boatman a silver pound to take them to safety. He tells the boatman he is the chief of Ulva and that if he is caught he will be killed.

The boatman hesitates, then the beautiful daughter pleads with him saying she is ready to face the raging storm but not her angry father. Finally, the boatman agrees.

By the time Lord Ullin and his men arrive, the boat has left the shore. Lord Ullin's anger evaporates when he sees the boat disappearing into the angry sea.

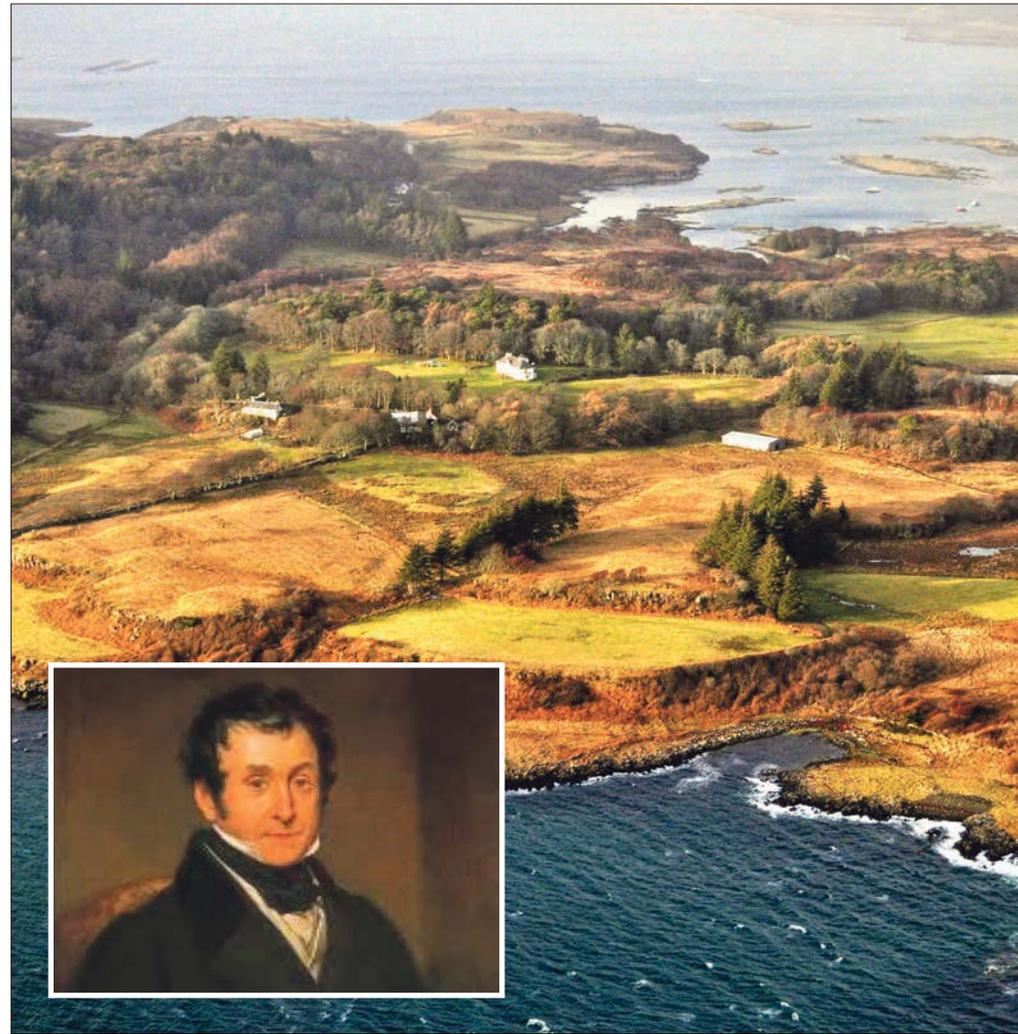
He changes his mind and he calls her to return and that he would accept her lover. But it is too late. They can't hear because of the wind. The little ferry boat capsizes and the three of them are lost.

The author of Lord Ullin's Daughter was Thomas Campbell, 1777-1844, a famous Scottish poet who wrote this when he lived on Mull. For all its popularity, a question mark remained about the principal characters and the places he mentions until a series of letters appeared in this newspaper almost a century after his death.

The Rev D W Mackenzie, the Church of Scotland minister on Ulva for many years, said: 'In my own mind, I have not the slightest doubt Loch na Keal in Mull is the same Lochgyle mentioned in Campbell's poems. I think the difficulty with some people arises from the spelling of Loch na Keal.'

In Gaelic, it is Loch na Ceall. Ceall is pronounced in Gaelic somewhat like gyle. Ceall is the genitive plural of cell - grave. Therefore Loch nan Ceall means the Loch of Graves.

'Some years ago I was told on good authority that Mr Clark, senior, of Ulva, when he bought the island about the year 1835, wrote



to Thomas Campbell asking for further information regarding the incident of the poem and the poet replied that he knew nothing but what had been related in the poem.

'Had Campbell meant Loch Goil or any other loch than Loch na Keal in Mull, surely he would say so in his reply to the proprietor of Ulva.'

'Further, the story current in the district that Lord Ullin's daughter was none else but Laird Allan's daughter, and the poet, taking poetic licence, changed the latter term to the former. Laird Allan MacLean was proprietor of Knock at the head of Loch na Keal and the young chief of Ulva was refused Laird Allan's daughter in marriage, with the result that the young couple resolved to tread the heather through

the high hills on the south side of Loch na Keal and get to Ulva by Gribun.

'Had the lovers chosen to take the near cut to Ulva Ferry on the north side of Loch na Keal, there would have been no drowning casualties as that part of the Sound of Ulva is narrow and safe.'

But then the pursuers would have overtaken them. So the lovers had chosen the three day journey through the hills, probably supported in their venture by the inhabitants of the glens, till they arrived at the fatal Gribun Ferry. Why, the very graves of the young couple, covered over by oblong slabs of stone, are still to be seen on the shores of Loch na Keal at a spot where the bodies were washed ashore.'

From Glasgow, 'Alan Breck' wrote: 'As an



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# Highland tragedy



The isle of Ulva and, inset, poet Thomas Campbell. Main photograph: Iain Thornber

Highland wight'. The loch is therefore spoken of as being situated in the Highlands and, in consequence, the phrase 'to the Highlands bound' can do little more than perhaps indicate to us the general direction of the flight.

'Then the line 'three days we've fled together' would seem to give further support to the shores of Loch na Keal as being the likely locus of the tragedy.

Is it not more likely that at the end of the three day chase, at a pace indicated by the rhythm of the poem, the pursued lovers should find themselves almost on the threshold of safety, rather than on the distant shores of Loch Goil?

Surely it is those most dramatic moments, when the lovers, with but one perilous step to make, are driven to their doom in terror of the fast approaching wrath of the pursuers, that would appeal to the poet's imagination and inspire him to write the poem.

'These are facts derived from an examination of the poem itself. But perhaps what should be the most weighty evidence in this matter is the fact this poem was written while Thomas Campbell was on the island of Mull. He had acquired a thorough knowledge of the surrounding districts and islands and there is every likelihood he himself sailed across Loch na Keal to Ulva.

'Finally, when it is known that at the present day the traditional grave of one of the victims of the tragedy can be pointed out by the shores of the loch in Mull, I think there can be little doubt in any unbiased mind when he wrote the poem the 'dark and stormy water' of which the poet was thinking was Loch na Keal.'

Well-known historian Alasdair Cameron (1896-1973) of Bunalteachan, Sunart, better known under the pen-name of 'North Argyll', whose erudite contributions enriched The Oban Times for almost 50 years, pointed out a similar tragedy had occurred before Campbell set foot on Mull.

It began at Rudha an Fhiarain, from where the eloping maiden and her lover set off through Glen More for Gribun closely pursued by an indignant parent. Here they hired a boat with results similar to those described in the tragic poem.

They were buried near Oskamull on a small promontory which is an islet at high water.

admirer of the works of the poet Thomas Campbell, I have been keenly interested in the discussion concerning the Lochgyle mentioned in his poem Lord Ullin's Daughter. Those who would identify the loch with Loch Goil base their assertions, firstly, on the fact it seems unlikely the poet would speak of anyone wishing to cross Loch na Keal as a chieftain 'to the Highlands bound'.

'Here they are assuming that the poet indicates by the opening line that the loch lies outside the Highlands. But he does no such thing. On the contrary, we gather from the pursued chief's breathless words that if they were found 'in the glen, his blood will stain the heather'.

The boatman was also referred to as a 'hardy

## DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



We published this photograph last week of the Muckairn Church nativity play, sent in by reader John Hay from Taynuilt, but with no names. Another reader, Mary Scott, wrote to say: 'The photograph is of the play produced by Mrs Galbraith, the minister's wife, on December 17 1989. After the performance, I was presented with a certificate for long service to the Sunday school from the Moderator. The cast of the play is: reader, David Hay; father, Erick Kennedy; mother, Sarah Baird; children, Kirstin MacFarlane, Stephen Offord, Susan Duffield, Jean Marie Kennedy and Rachel Wilson; Isaiah, Duncan MacFarlane; Micah, John Cameron; citizens, Lisa Young; Caroline Gowan and Angela Offord; Gabriel, Robert Wilson; Mary, Laura Gillies; Joseph, John Young; Elisabeth, Rhoda Kennedy; kings, Ewan Harrison, Stuart Scott and Lindsay Scott; and shepherds, Martin Hay, Elisabeth MacDougall, Fiona MacPhail and Alistair Young.



This photograph from 1997 features singers Riona Whyte and Fiona Jappy of Coisir Ghaidlig an Eilein Mhuilich.

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## LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)  
or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

## People's generosity of nature simply keeps on giving

The season of goodwill may be officially over but the generosity of spirit shown by people across the Argyll area – and the extreme lengths they will go to – seems to know no bounds.

Among the reports in this week's Oban Times is the story of the town's high school pupils who raised an astonishing £4,200 for Cancer Research by organising their own Race for Life.

Then there is firefighter Craig MacDougall, who underwent an operation to donate stem cells to the Anthony Nolan charity.

And there is Max Holloway, who has been taking the plunge without a wetsuit twice a day in Britain's coldest waters to help to train Lewis Pugh for a swim in an Antarctic lake.

Stories such as these are remarkable and we salute you all.

## Playpark campaign ends with success

Lyndsay Elliott, chairperson of Friends of Oban Community Playpark, is understandably delighted that the playpark has reopened at long last.

She was quick to praise Argyll and Bute Council after the low-key removal of fencing that had kept children out for almost two years, after it failed a safety inspection back in March 2018.

The reopening, however, is the result of a dogged and doughty campaign headed by Lyndsay herself, during which she kept significant pressure on and maintained a high profile for the cause.

Lyndsay thanked the council for its 'gold standard in playpark flooring'. We trust that Oban's youngsters will make the most of the playpark now that it is back in business.

## Appeal for help to find friends' address

In the late 1970s, we lived in Oban on what was then the new Soroba estate. Joyce and Charlie Millar were our neighbours and our strength and help. As a young couple with two children and no work, they accepted us strangers and treated us as a family.

We moved from Oban after a couple of years and Joyce and Charlie moved to run Beechgrove Guest House on Croft Road in Oban.

We kept in touch and, while on a short trip to Norfolk, they visited me this year in Hethersett and left their new address, as they retired from the guest house. However, I lost the address so please, if you can, help me to get in touch with them again. They are very well known in Oban, so I am sure somebody will know their address.

**Anna Harris, 14 Karen Close,  
Hethersett, Norwich NR9 3DG.**

## Lismore Christmas tree festival thanks

I would like to thank all those who contributed to the success of the island's very first Christmas tree festival – it would not have been the stunning success it was without your imagination and flair.

For those who enjoyed taking part in the the people's vote, the results were: first The Heritage Centre with their St Moluag tree, second the primary school with their Tree of Friendship, third Hazel MacCormick with her Sheep tree. Joint fourth were the Badminton Club and Sadie Gilchrist's Nativity Tree. Thanks to all and see you next year.

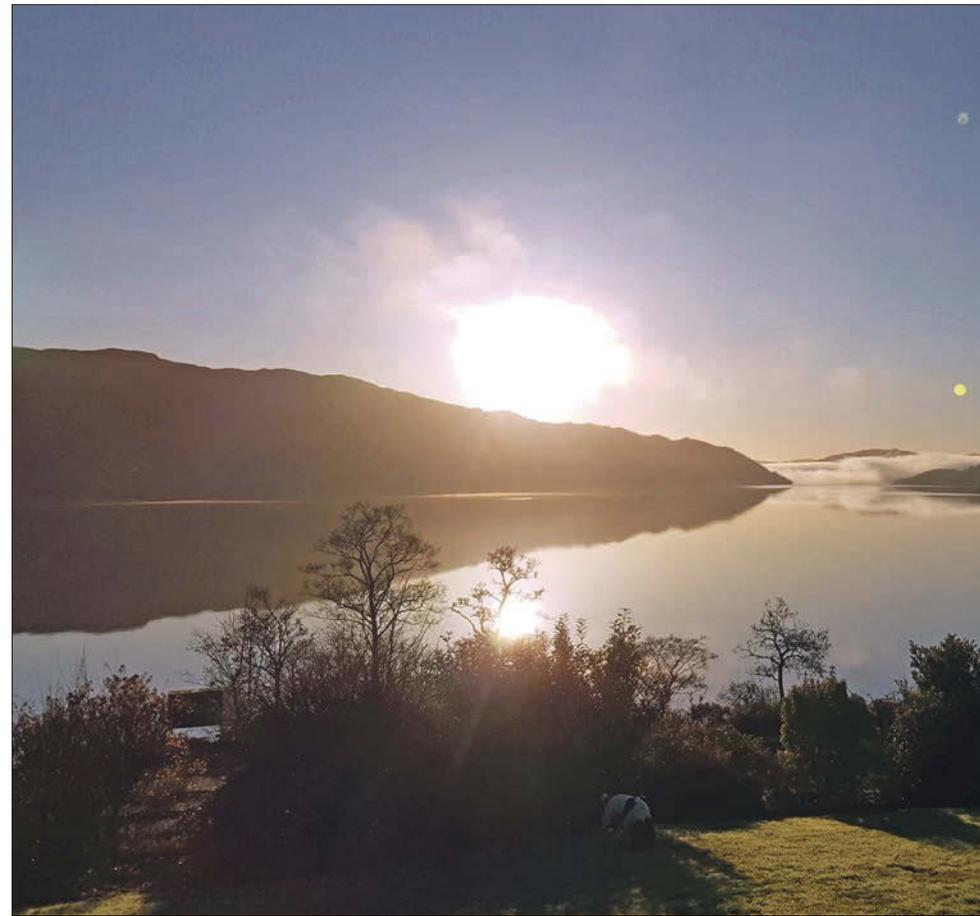
**Rosemary Barry, Lismore.**

## New helicopter to boost life-saving charity's work

2020 is set to herald a major advancement in the provision of emergency pre-hospital care in Scotland. This spring, Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA) will launch a second life-saving air ambulance helicopter, flying expert clinical care to the scene of serious illness and injury and airlifting patients onwards to definitive hospital care.

The new helicopter – callsign Helimed 79 – will operate from a new base at Aberdeen International Airport, providing an identical

## YOUR PICTURES



We know our readers love to take photographs so we are happy to showcase these each week. If you have a photograph you would like to see published here, send it to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

obantimes.co.uk, post it to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB. Alternatively, hand it in to our offices in Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, or to our office in High Street,

service to the charity's existing helicopter, Helimed 76, based at Perth Airport.

Working in tandem with Scotland's two government-funded helicopter air ambulances (based at Glasgow and Inverness), SCAA's two helicopter air ambulances will play a critical role in the country's 999 response network, flying help and hope to communities in every part of the country.

Since the charity's first service launched in 2013, SCAA has touched the lives of thousands of patients. This amazing service has only been made possible thanks to the generosity of people all across Scotland who have taken the tireless work of fundraising for the life-saving charity to their hearts.

People have walked, run, abseiled, dressed up, dressed down, baked, cycled, climbed,

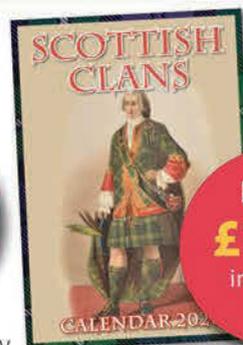
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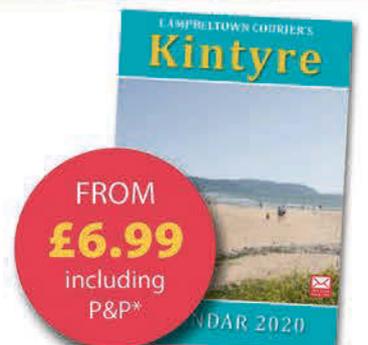
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Fort William. This week's stunning photograph was taken New Year's eve at about 11am by Hayden Gregory from Kilchrenan and shows Loch Awe on a still but cold day.

life-saving resources. Thank you to everyone who is already supporting SCAA and those who will get behind us in the future and help fuel the life-saving flights that could impact on your family, your friends, your colleagues or your community.

**John Bullough, chairman,  
Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance  
(SCAA).**

## Rugby legend calls runners to join the resolution

Rugby legend, TV pundit and stroke survivor Gareth Thomas is calling on people to sign up for the Edinburgh Resolution Run in aid of the Stroke Association at Glasgow Green, Glasgow, on Sunday March 15. Participants can choose their distance from 5k or 10k, helping to raise vital funds to help the Stroke Association provide specialist support and fund critical research.

Gareth himself had a stroke aged 28, and was ordered to rest for six months in order to recover. He says: 'I had a stroke and know all too well that recovery is as individual as each survivor. That's why the Stroke Association is encouraging people to join its Resolution Run and raise funds to help rebuild more lives after stroke.'

Kirsty Scott, fundraising manager at the Stroke Association in Scotland, said: 'Stroke recovery is a marathon, not a sprint. Life after stroke is different for us all, but there is one way we can stand together. The Resolution Run is the perfect opportunity to mark a milestone in your own stroke recovery, show your support for a friend or family member affected by stroke, or in memory of a loved one. It's more than a run, it's a resolution to help rebuild lives after stroke across Scotland.'

To join the resolution, visit [www.resolutionrun.org.uk](http://www.resolutionrun.org.uk), email [resolution@stroke.org](mailto:resolution@stroke.org), uk or call 0300 330 0740.

**Angie Macleod, communications manager  
Scotland at the Stroke Association.**

## Forgotten handbag

I would sincerely like to thank the lady who found my handbag in the trolley at Lidl in Oban on Saturday and handed it in to the store. I was completely panic-stricken when I realised what I had done. Also thank you to the gentlemen at Lidl who had tried their best to get in contact with me. There are still good and honest people about. A very grateful Jean.

**Name and address supplied.**

# Beachd Ailein

**ALLAN CAMPBELL**

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



Tha cuimhne agam mar a bhiodh daoine ag ràdh gun robh a' bhliadhna "a' fàs sean mar-thà" ma bha iad a' coinneachadh airson a' chiad turus mun ire seo de bhliadhna ùr! Còrr air seachdain a-staigh dhan bhliadhna agus beatha làitheil a' mhòr-chuid air ais chun an àbhaist is daoine air ais ag obair ach 's dòcha le beagan amas air adhartas neo leasachadh air choreigin nan suidheachadh pearsanta. Chuala mi Neach-gairm Chomhairle nan Eilean Siar ag ràdh gur e fear de na h-adhartasan a dh'ìarradh e fhèin ann an 2020 gun d' rachadh an càball dealain eadar na h-Eileanan Siar agus tìr-mòr a leagail gus gum biodh dòigh aig dealan bho thuathan-gaoithe nan eilean a bhith dhan ghriod nàiseanta. 'S fhada bho thòisich an iomairt airson a' cheangail seo agus cha b' iongnadh ged a bhiodh eileanaich a' fàs gu math leamh leis gach cnap-starra a th' air tighinn nan rathad, ach mo bheannachd orra airson cumail a' stri agus bu mhath gu dearbh gum bu seo a' bhliadhna a bhuannaicheas iad.

Mar a bhiodh dùil fhuaire obair Bòrd-leasachaidh na

Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean agus Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean moladh agus càineadh thar nam bliadhnaichean agus tha mòran fhathast a tha den aon bheachd 's a bha a' chiad Chathraiche air a' Bhòrd-leasachaidh, Sir Raibeart Grieve, nuair a thuirte esan còrr air leth-cheud bliadhna air ais gur ann air an ire gun d' rachadh aige air sluaigh a ghleidheadh anns na sgìrean croitearachd a rachadh èifeachdas a' Bhùird a mheasadh. Thar nam bliadhnaichean tha gach buidheann air aithris air na chaidh de chosnaidhean a chruthachadh agus a ghleidheadh, ach ged a chaidh gnìomhachasan a stèidheachadh a mhair chan eil tionnsgalan air nochdadh anns na h-Eileanan neo air an iomall a leigeas le sgìrean fàs gun a bhith an eisimeil taic phoblaich. 'S fhada bho thòisich mi fhìn air argamaid gur e gnìomhachas cumhachd na gaoithe 's na mara sàr chothrom air leithid seo de chosnadh air na h-iomail, agus gum faodadh e an t-amas aig Grieve a choileanadh cuideachd! Nan robh càball a' ruith bho thuath gu deas tron Chuan Sgìth gu ruige Hunterston saoil nach fhosgladh sin cothroman

cosnaidh agus misneachd dha iomadh coimhearsnachd air an iomall. Gun teagamh bhiodh leithid de cheangal daor a stèidheachadh ach nan cruthaicheadh e cosnaidhean a ghleidheadh sluaigh ann an coimhearsnachdan bhiodh e a' freagairt dùbhlhan leasachaidh eaconamach an iomail na b' èifeachdaiche na dad a thachair thuige seo.

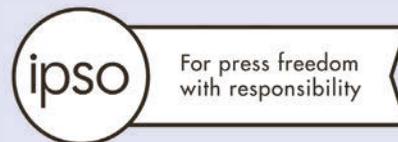
Tha mi 'n dòchas gum faigh na h-Eileanan Siar na ceanglaichean a leigeas leis an sgìre fàs agus soirbheachadh, agus gun tig cothroman den aon seòrsa dha sgìrean eile air na h-iomail.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar hopes that 2020 will bring a successful conclusion to its long-running campaign for a sub-sea cable to enable green energy to be exported from the Western Isles to the national grid. The potential economic benefit to the community makes a seriously strong case!

**Ailean Caimbeul  
(Allan Campbell)**

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

**Allan Campbell is president of An Comunn Gàidhealach and a member of Bòrd na Gàidhlig.**



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

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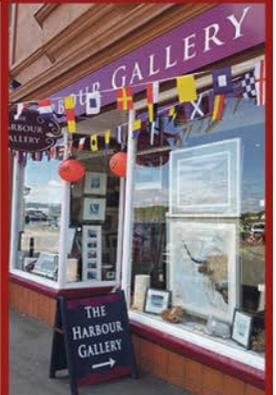
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# DISTRICT NEWS

## Oban Tinsel Tea raises vital funds



Sue, Susan, Aidan and Alan have a go at Jingle Bells at the Tinsel Tea.

The Christmas pies were flying off the plates, the ukuleles came out and the alcohol-free mulled wine flowed steadily at Alzheimer Scotland's recent Tinsel Tea at the Oban Dementia Resource Centre.

The centre, on High Street, is a hub for all things dementia and the Tinsel Tea is Alzheimer Scotland's festive way of bringing everyone together.

Alzheimer Scotland's resource centre is where its dementia adviser Sue Pagan provides information and support for anyone concerned about the condition.

There are lots of things going on,

from reminiscing over a cuppa, to swimming at Atlantis and a ukulele learners' session.

Sue said: 'Knowing there is somewhere you can go where people understand the difficulties of living with dementia is an important asset to the town. Learning that you have dementia can be a shock and difficult to take in, even though people can live well with dementia for many years. We are here to help people stay connected to the community and help to plan for the future but, even more importantly, we can provide vital emotional support.'

Sue added: 'Unfortunately, there is occasionally understandable confusion in the town between the Alzheimer Scotland's Oban Dementia Resource Centre and another fundraising group which goes under a similar name.'

There are more than 90,000 people living with dementia in Scotland and it is estimated 20,000 people will be diagnosed with the condition every year. If you have any questions about dementia, or about support available in your area, call Alzheimer Scotland's 24-hour freephone helpline on 0808 808 3000.

Six members of Ross of Mull Coastguard have been awarded medals marking 150 years of service and good conduct. The medals and certificates were presented at an event in the Keel Row in Fionnphort, which included a buffet. A special presentation of a quach and a bottle of Tamdhu was made to Alastair Mackie as he stepped down from the role of deputy station officer. Medals and certificates were presented by senior coastal operations officer Alec Wallace to: Stephen MacCallum, CRO (Retired); John Noddings, CRO (Retired); Alastair Mackie, deputy station officer (Retired); Calum Morrison, station officer (Retired); Brendan Renfrey, CRO; and Sandy Brunton, CRO.



## Argyll and the islands projects receive cash

Nine projects in the Highlands and Islands will share a £5 million European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) award to promote the outstanding scenery, wildlife and culture of the region, Scottish Tourism and Culture Secretary Fiona Hyslop, pictured, announced on December 28.

The funding has been awarded through the Natural Cultural and Heritage Fund, led by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH).

The fund invests in projects in the Highlands and Islands which improve the experience of visitors exploring the region's nature and culture.

Ms Hyslop said: 'Tourism is a major part of the Highland and Islands' economies and it is essential its social and economic benefits are shared as widely as possible. That's why I'm pleased to announce the successful applicants for grants from the Natural Cultural and Heritage Fund to improve their experience for visitors.'

'This fund will create jobs and help projects in remote areas to enhance their offer to the millions of people who visit the region every year.'

Thanks to support from the European Regional Development Fund, the wonderful landscapes, nature and culture of the Highlands and Islands will welcome new visitors in a way that is sustainable and creates long-term benefits for local communities.'

Projects to receive funding include: West Highland College UHI - The Coast that Shaped the World, £350,371.

This project will develop a website, app and programme of digital exhibitions along the west coast of Scotland. Stories of coastal

communities will convey how maritime cultural, and natural, heritage helped to shape the world. Local stories will be mapped and gathered, creating a website and app to inspire potential visitors.

Lews Castle College UHI, UVAP-Uibhist Virtual Archaeology Project (£271,000) - This project will create a series of augmented reality experiences and mixed-media exhibitions for seven archaeological sites along the Hebridean Way walking route.



NW Mull Community Woodland Company, Storas Ulbha, £813,000. Ulva Cultural Heritage Project - Ulva House - will

be conserved and refurbished as a visitor centre. A research project with the University of the Highlands and Islands will investigate the story of the people of Ulva and the wider impact they have had on the world. The project will also develop a website, restore Ulva House Garden with volunteers and create a self-catering flat.

Kilmartin Museum Company Ltd, Kilmartin Museum extension and development, £700,000. This project will renovate Kilmartin Museum into a fit-for-purpose visitor attraction and learning centre by remodelling the existing buildings and adding an extension. Improved visitor facilities will include a re-modelled shop, an overflow car park and outdoor and digital interpretation.

Funding for the Natural and Cultural Heritage Fund comes from the Scottish Government's European Regional Development Fund programme, with match funding from other sources bringing overall investment to more than £7 million.

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## At random

**MARTIN LAING**

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



### Off the rails

My wife travelled by train from Glasgow to Oban on Hogmanay.

It was not the most auspicious closing of the old year but was, perhaps, a chilling reminder of the many problems that beset ScotRail.

The national carrier has not had its problems to seek of late, the operating company Abellio recently being stripped of its contract.

January 31 was, you may remember, a cold day and, not for the first time, there was no heating on the train.

Not only was there no buffet carriage - of course not - there was not even a tea trolley service so there was no way to have a hot drink.

This is no quick hop between stations but a journey of around three hours.

It is outrageous, frankly, that in mid-winter passengers have to tolerate freezing conditions without any heating or catering.

Rail travellers are made to pay top dollar to use trains and this level of disservice is simply not good enough.

### Explosive start to 2020

I was out and about on New Year's Eve and thoroughly enjoyed myself.

My aforementioned wife and I imbibed a little wine in the splendid surroundings of the Perle Hotel, where a talented group of musicians entertained the busy bar with traditional music.

Just before the bells, we all trooped outside and watched from the bay as fireworks exploded over Oban's McCaig's Tower.

It was a fantastic display that was applauded enthusiastically by the thousands of people watching from the town centre.

Over the preceding couple of days, I had met and talked with a number of tourists from around the UK who had made the effort to get here for Hogmanay.

They would not have been disappointed as they were well rewarded for their efforts.

Well done to everyone responsible for organising the celebratory events around town.

### What do you think?

Write to me at [mlaing@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:mlaing@obantimes.co.uk) or The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB, or call 01631 568021.

# Festive party fun at Dalavich



**Dawnfresh donated £500 to this year's Christmas party in Dalavich.**

Festive fun and games were enjoyed at Dalavich Village Hall thanks to community fundraising and fishfarming company Dawnfresh.

Children from Kilchrenan, Inverinan and Dalavich went along to the party on Saturday December 7 to enjoy crafts, games and a buffet. Santa also went along to give out presents.

Dawnfresh's contribution of £500 was used to buy prizes for games and craft materials

so the children could paint pottery and make their own tree decorations.

Alison Hutchins, farming director at Dawnfresh, said: 'At Dawnfresh, we consider ourselves to be a real part of the communities that we live and work in so we were thrilled to be able to contribute to a really lovely Christmas project for children in the community.'

'Most of our team either live locally or grew up in rural communities and enjoy being in-

involved in initiatives like the Christmas party, which brings unforgettable festive memories to youngsters.'

Georgia Todd, organiser of the Christmas party, said: 'Every year, we organise this party so that children and the wider community can gather and celebrate. Having companies like Dawnfresh contributing funds is imperative.'

'Without their contribution, it is unlikely events like this would be possible.'

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# OUTDOORS

## Report provides template for seaweed farming

Argyll and Bute has aspirations to become the centre of seaweed farming excellence.

A report, commissioned by Argyll and Bute Council, has compiled a template for setting up and running a seaweed farming business from conception to selling products to consumers.

Produced by the Scottish Association for Marine Science in Oban and funded

by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, the study highlights a major new opportunity for economic growth in Argyll and Bute.

The council's Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee heard recently the cultivation of seaweed is a major global industry worth \$4.5 billion, but one that is still emerging in Scotland.



Potential Given Argyll and Bute's abundant natural resources and strategic position in the west of Scotland, there is the potential for the area to become the hub for seaweed farming in Scotland, if not Europe.

The report brings together information from academics, communities and businesses pointing the way to creating sustainable forms of seaweed farming.

It covers how Scottish waters support seaweed species that can be used for human food, alginate production and animal feed, amongst other products.

The process of setting up a seaweed farm is detailed and different designs of cultivation structures are presented in the report.

Case studies, including community-led developments, are featured.

# Light shines from a break in the weather

## Notes from a wild island

STEPHANIE COPE

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I flicked the windscreen wipers on. At each swish, a teal seascape briefly appeared from the muddle of raindrops.

It had been an early start and Radio 2 was lurching into a third, eyeball-popping rendition of Feliz Navidad. Even as my fingernails cut grimly into the leather of the steering wheel, I was humming it under my breath.

I opened the car door and took refuge in the white noise of the wind.

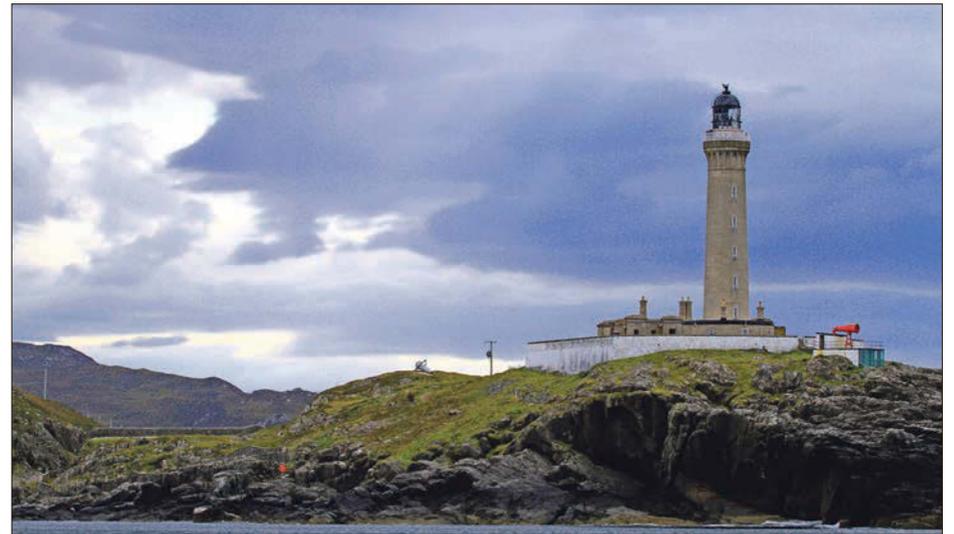
To my right, 35m up, a light blinked. Daybreak had been stalled by rain clouds and now the granite tower blushed pink in the reddish cast of dawn. We stood quietly together, looking out to sea.

Whaleback islands broke the horizon. Above each, sheets of rain lingered like strange exhalations. I turned to my companion, taking in the proud collar of carved arches, the clipped smile of white railings, the cornea of tessellated triangles. Like any good shepherd, its attention was fastened on its distant flock.

Life is hard in the Hebrides. For me, it is a land of extremes, in which the pendulum swings between periods of extraordinary opportunity and cavernous uncertainty. Perhaps you know the feeling: pulling your winter clothes tighter about you, blowing hot breath onto your hands and noting with chagrin that the lovely scenery has not yet offered to pay your electricity bill. You can't eat beauty, after all.

Pushing my fists deeper into my pockets, I questioned the wisdom of doggedly trying to pursue a career in such a seasonal place. I was wearing my interview coat and it wasn't particularly warm. After four months without a job, the prospect of having to move away again loomed large - like the silently blinking column beside me.

The lighthouse on Ardnamurchan was



Ardnamurchan Lighthouse occupies the most westerly point on the UK mainland.

designed by Alan Stevenson. It is famed for its attractive decorative flourishes which follow the Egyptian style. Egypt might seem an unlikely architectural muse for a Scotsman, but the Pharos of Alexandria, completed in 283 BCE, was the shining exemplar of lighthouses and an acclaimed wonder of the ancient world.

At around 117m in height, this imposing structure guided ships safely into Alexandria's harbour for 1,600 years - until it was largely reduced to rubble by an earthquake in the 1300s. Lighthouses therefore occupy a unique and ancient outcrop in human consciousness. The sweeping buttresses of modern towers are shorthand for a physical solitude that few will ever experience. Yet, perversely, we all inhabit our own lighthouse; fingers pressed to the glass and watching, as life's waves transmogrify from glittering ripples into thundering leviathans.

We have no choice but to brace ourselves against such onslaughts, hoping our foundations will hold and the weather will soon

temper. It is ironic buildings so synonymous with isolation, so redolent with loneliness, also characterise human compassion: when we're all at sea, the kindness of others can keep us from the rocks. That's how it is in remote communities.

The common annual passage from the exhausting industry of summer, to the lean make-do of winter, encourages people to shine a light for their neighbours. Having basked in that friendly glow, I felt loath to leave it, despite the challenges of remaining here.

My spell of rough weather finally broke when I was offered the job. I'll be spending a lot of time with the lighthouse so I'm pleased we made our proper introduction alone, on that blustery December morning.

Entering this new decade, I'm tasked with helping to ensure the site's future remains as elegant, as intriguing and as relevant to west coast communities as its past.

So, Prospero año y Felicidad, and hope you'll come and visit.



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## This week's walks

# Nature in Argyll helping to combat climate change

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

Nature-based solutions to help combat climate change are a big part of Scottish Natural Heritage's (SNH) work in Argyll and Bute.

The region has a good track record as it has the lowest current rate of carbon dioxide emissions per head of population in the UK. SNH staff, who are part of west coast community planning partnerships, have been helping partners understand how to make the most of natural habitats which have the greatest capacity to absorb and lock up carbon emissions.

Argyll and Bute has large areas of peatland and a huge area of woodland which is actively locking in carbon. The seas surrounding the islands of Argyll also absorb carbon dioxide, thanks to the action of marine algae.

In 2019, there was interest in the Sea Eagle Management Scheme, including areas which sea eagles have recently moved into.

The scheme is designed to support crofters and farmers to mitigate the impacts sea eagles can have on sheep flock. SNH and its partners have been developing new approaches on trial farms and plan to roll out some of the techniques that may reduce impacts on sheep flocks. For updates on the scheme see [www.nature.scot](http://www.nature.scot)

Now in its eleventh year, the Snapberry project uses photography to connect students with the astonishing natural landscape of Taynish nature reserve. It is a collaboration between SNH and Lochgilphead High School, with



Lochgilphead High School pupils participate in the SNH Snapberry project. Photograph: Scottish Natural Heritage.

digital imagery allowing participants to express what they see and feel about their environment.

Through the years, the groups have been made up of mixed ability groups.

However, 2019 was the first year the entire group of pupils who took part in the Snapberry Project had additional support needs.

Organisers have seen remarkable responses from these pupils in previous years, when they get out of the classroom and into nature. One year, a boy whose responses were fairly limited in school, interacted with his peers in a way never before seen by teachers.

Some pupils have also discovered a natural talent for photography they never knew they had.

As part of a parliamentary event

celebrating national nature reserves, the Snapberry Project was chosen to highlight the work done at Taynish and how SNH connects people, especially young people, with nature.

Some of the young people who took part in the project in 2019 were invited, along with two of their teachers and a parent helper, to attend the event.

This was no mean feat when their additional needs are considered, however, although challenging at times, the pupils enjoyed their visit. They met two senior MSPs, Mike Russell, a long-time supporter of Snapberry, and Brian Whittle.

They also enjoyed a tour of the chamber where they were allowed to sit in the First Minister's chair.

### LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

The walk leader should be contacted beforehand for meet-up and start times. Car sharing usually possible and people can try before they buy. Further information at [www.lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk](http://www.lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk)  
**Sunday January 12, Oban to Gallanach.**

A pleasant walk through Oban and the nearby countryside and coast.

Start at Longsdale car park in Oban NM862307, near the leisure centre. Walk through the town and up to the viewpoint on Pulpit Hill.

Take the track up to the mast at NM850290 then head SW along Druim Mòr to the high point at 137m. Visit the fort site at Dùn Uabairtich, 88m, then take the path down to the dive centre and follow the road to Gallanachbeg and Gallanachmore.

Visit the site of Dun an Fheurain, NM824265 with a good view to the Firth of Lorn. Head back along the public road as far as the Kerrera Ferry Slip and take the footpath that leads above Ardbhan Craigs to Pulpit Hill. Return to the leisure centre.

Grade: L. Distance: 12 km  
Height to climb: 250 m  
Map(s): LR49, EX359

Meet at: Longsdale car park, Oban, NM862307. Start of walk at 10am. Leader: Ronnie Forbes 01866 822611.

### Thursday January 16, Stob Coire Sgriodain and Chno Dearg, Fersit.

Start at the end of the public road in Fersit at NN350783. After walking across the bridge and through Fersit take a line S up past Sron na Garbh-bheinne and along the ridge to the top of Stob Coire Sgriodain.

Return via the same route or descend to the S and then SE and E to a bealach at 923m and then NE to the broad summit of Chno Dearg at 1046m. The return would then be NNW to Fersit.

Grade: S  
Distance: 14km  
Height to climb: 900m  
Map(s): LR41, EX393. Meet at: Fort William Woollen Mill 0830. Start of walk 9.15am. Leader: Ian Moir 07973836498.

### NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

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

### Saturday January 11, Ben Challum, Tyndrum.

This expansive lump of a hill looks bland and grassy from Strath Fillan but its S top conceals an interesting craggy summit ridge and aspect overlooking the head of Glen Lochy.

Start from the lay-by on the SW side of the A82 at NN356280, opposite the turning for Kirkton Farm.

Cross the road and follow the track to the farm, joining the West Highland Way (WHW). Turn left in front of the farm buildings to reach the crossroads between the priory ruins and an old graveyard. Leave the WHW and head N on the track uphill to cross the railway at a level crossing, NN361287.

Turn NE and follow the edge of the forested area, over a stile into the plantation then over another stile to emerge on to the open hillside. Continue NE up to the S top at 997m alt. A line of fence posts may be followed for much of the way. Descend steeply W at first to gain the true crest of the ridge at the head of a narrow defile. Follow the ridge down N to the col and continue N up to the summit of Beinn Chaluim, 1025m. Return by outward route.

■ A longer but more interesting return route descends the NW ridge of Beinn chaluim to Bealach Ghlas Leathaid. Continue NW into Coreheyman, much of which is now occupied by a fenced plantation. Follow the fence around the N side of the plantation to reach a path leading to the head of a track at NN368332. Head S down the track, under the railway bridge, to reach the WHW at Auchtertyre. Turn SE and follow the WHW to Kirkton Farm and rejoin the outward route back to the start.

11km, 900m ascent  
14km, 920m ascent  
Suggested and co-ordinated by Jane Ollershaw.



T: 01631 565747

Ruari MacLennan

T: 07799 137 482

Alan MacGregor

T: 07549 877 472

Unit 11 Crannog Lane,  
Oban, PA34 4HB

# Happy New Year,

## Now is the time to shine and be the best you that you can be – and you can do it with all this help!

*It is a long way to Hogmanay 2020 – so do not give up at the first hurdle – there is so much help and advice at hand!*

The new year is just a few days old; your vacuum cleaner is still picking up the last of the pine needles, tinsel and glitter.

How are those New Year resolutions doing?

A quick reminder to yourself on December 31 about your ambitions, be they health, finances, career, interests or ambitions, is always a good idea and helps set the tone for the coming year.

But chances are that by now they

might be fraying a bit round the edges. Like the great American author Mark Twain said: 'New Year's Day – now is the accepted time to make your regular annual good resolutions. Next week you can begin paving hell with them as usual.'

The first New Year's resolution to make is: don't give up, just keep on that path that leads to the best version of you that you can be.

Remember that nobody is perfect – you are bound to slip up but the secret is in the name, New Year's resolution. Just resolve that in 2020 you will do your best and not beat yourself up about the occasional failure, but celebrate the successes and never give up.

You will be amazed how good you will feel at 11.55pm on Thursday December 31, 2020, when you look back at all you have achieved.

## Get on a learning curve

*You know that saying 'You can never be too rich or too slim'? How about adding you can never be too smart?*

You might have just left school, it might be that the last time you were in education the school disco featured the Bay City Rollers, but one thing is for sure – you can always learn something new.

After we finish full-time education, most of our learning involves a new skill or updating an existing employment qualification.

How about this year your resolutions include learning something just for the sheer joy of it?

We all own computers and cameras which are more sophisticated than ever before, so why not learn to make the most of them?



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# Happy New You!



## You have a whole year to:

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- Drink less
- Learn more
- Get fit
- Get the savings fat
- New job or promotion at work
- Resign and start your own business
- More care of yourself
- Less worrying about stuff
- Study
- Volunteer
- Quit smoking

We also live in one of the most remarkable places in the UK where the history, landscape and culture all combine to inform each other and create a rich heritage.

When was the last time you visited a museum or historic building in the West Highlands? You know where they are, and you know that people travel from all over the world to visit them.

Chances are you last went there on a school trip. So why not go and discover them again and take your children along?

Which brings us to the Gaelic. When you live here, you cannot help but absorb some of the language and culture, be it simply a piobaireachd played by the pipe band on games day or the bilingual road signs.

The language, its scholarship and culture deserves deeper discovery; make this the year you resolve to begin your journey.



The University of the Highlands and Islands and its network of colleges and learning centres have courses available across the region.

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**Mind and body boost for 2020**

*Who doesn't want to feel and look better?*

Our mental and physical health are intertwined; exercise will help you feel better about yourself, beat stress and sleep better which in turn will help you to lose weight and feel great and give confidence to achieve all your goals.

There is all kinds of help and advice available; slimming organisations, counselling, and fitness via sports centres and swimming pools and gyms.

Atlantis Community Leisure in Oban is one of the best places to go to in Scotland to get fit; it has a wide range of courses, coaches and tutors.

The way this venture has grown and developed over the past two decades is a credit to everyone involved and something all of Oban, Lorn and wider Argyll and Bute should be proud about.

It is run as a social enterprise and is a registered charity; any profits made are re-invested into the business to make continuing improvements in the centre and



to train staff. Negativity is vicious circle but remember that positivity is spiralling success.

One of the best ways to give yourself a boost is to invest in a little bit of pampering, be it a beauty treatment, spa or new haircut – and don't forget gentlemen, that also applies to you!

**Is 2020 the year of the new job?**

*And the boss could be you!*

If the alarm clock goes off and you get a feeling of dread in the pit of your stomach, then make this the year you do something about it.

Resolve to make this the year you re-evaluate your employment potential and value in the work place.

Let's face it – we have all had times in our lives when we settle for something less than we deserve; it could be that the thought of change is terrifying.

The idea of a longer commute or the implications of childcare are daunting but think again and don't be put off – and remember that one of the biggest and best moves you make is putting yourself in your own hands.

Resolve to start the first steps towards becoming self-employed in 2020.

And one of your biggest allies will be Business Gateway.

The organisation is there every step of the way with locally-based staff giving

one-to-one advice, right from your first germ of an idea all the way along to an advanced business development programme as well as half-day workshops that teach the basics and networking, plus subject-driven events.

Business Gateway has a wealth of online resources, which include free market research and market reports. It also has links to other organisations that can help and a remarkable range of online tutorials.



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# Oban's Slimming World members lost 602 stone in 2019

&

# Fort William Slimming World members lost 785 stone in 2019

**As soon as a member walks through the doors of any Slimming World group, be they fathers, mothers, husbands, wives, children or friends, they can all be assured of a warm welcome from their consultant and fellow members - a group of really friendly people all at various stages of their weight loss journey.**

Before they decide whether to join, their Consultant will explain Slimming World's programme and they'll be invited to observe a group session - and join in if they wish. If they decide to join, they'll be weighed and enrolled by the Consultant at the end of the group.

Our group support system combines individual attention and group participation in a carefully structured forum. Group discussions range from practical sharing of tips and ideas to a deeper understanding of each individual's danger zones and slimming pitfalls. On a practical level, there is a strong emphasis on sharing favourite recipe ideas and discussing local stores' and special offers on healthy foods. There is also a focus on basic cooking skills

rather than reliance on convenience foods, and general cooking tips are shared. Our advice and literature take cost, cultural preferences, cooking ability and time constraints into consideration.

For those in need of a deeper level of support, our Consultants have a number of methods and tools to help members become aware of individual obstacles and barriers to change and through carefully facilitated discussion, develop personal strategies to overcome them. All sessions last for around 1hr 30mins, with additional support provided between groups in the form of a series of 'lifelines':

- Telephone, email and text support from the Consultant and other group members
- Free online support from the Slimming World member website
- Slimming World magazine and recipe books



## Individual dietary needs

Food Optimising caters for members with special dietary requirements or conditions affected by diet, including diabetes, Coeliac disease, lactose intolerance and IBS.

Consultants and members have access to a variety of health fact sheets to help incorporate their dietary needs into Food Optimising, for example, highlighting gluten and dairy free products.

## What's your favourite Slimming World recipe?



## Free2GO - 11 to 15 year olds

It's no secret that young people are eating less healthily, have a less active lifestyle and are suffering from weight-related problems like diabetes at a much earlier age.

To help young people in the very best way it can, Slimming World has launched Free2Go - a specially devised healthy eating plan, which focuses on the power of Free Food and Healthy Extras and encourages the step-by-step reduction of less healthy foods like burgers, chocolate and confectionary.

## MEET THE TEAM



**Gillian MacCorquodale**  
Consultant

Hi, I'm Gillian, I joined SW as a member in 2006 and lost 3 stone. I have been a consultant now for 9 years and absolutely love my job. SW Oban has over 300 members, many of whom who have achieved their targets and many more well on the way. We look forward to welcoming you into group and helping you achieve your goals.

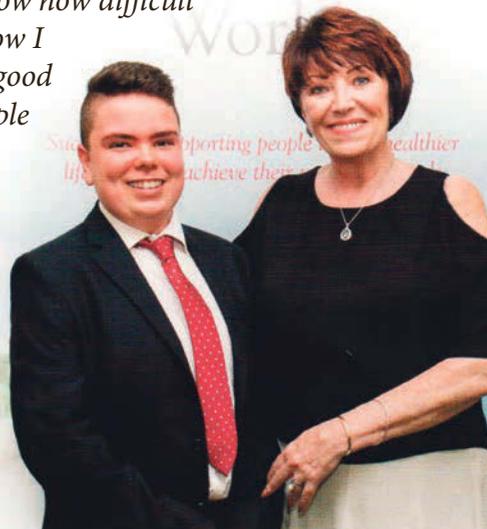
## Case Study

Thomas Munnely joined Slimming World with his mum, Anne, and following the Free2Go healthy eating plan for 11-15year olds. Since losing 3st, his life has changed dramatically.

*"As a child who has struggled with my weight I know how difficult being overweight at a young age can be. I hated how I looked in pictures and finding clothes that looked good was really hard. It's definitely easier for young people to make unhealthy choices rather than healthy ones. I was lucky enough to find a programme that helped me understand about healthy eating and getting more active. Now I help my mum plan the cooking too. My life has changed massively and I can now look forward to a healthy future"*



Thomas before



### OBAN

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

### FORT WILLIAM

Salvation Army Hall,  
Belford Rd  
Mondays 9.30am & 11.30am  
Thursdays 3pm, 5pm & 7pm  
Tel: Gillian 07796 040 803

### LOCHGILPHEAD

Lochgilphead  
Baptist Church  
Union Street/ Argyll Street  
Mondays 5.30pm & 7.30pm  
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# LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

## Mull musicians light up wintry Celtic Connections

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Artists from Mull are set to light up Europe's largest winter music festival when they take to the Celtic Connections stage later this month.

Alasdair C Whyte, Hannah Fisher and Sorren Maclean will join musicians from across the world taking part in more than 300 events in venues throughout Glasgow from Thursday January 16 to Sunday February 2.

The 18 days of entertainment will brighten up the dark, wet January nights with a mixture of concerts that include a host of one-off musical collaborations alongside talks, workshops, film screenings, theatre produc-



tions, ceilidhs, exhibitions, free events and late-night sessions, says Donald Shaw, creative producer of Celtic Connections.

This year's programme promises a dazzling array

of traditional folk, roots, Americana, jazz, soul and world music – and Alasdair, Hannah and Sorren will be right at the heart of it.

One half of Gaelictronica duo WHYTE, Alasdair C

Whyte will perform tracks from the highly-praised new release Tairm, as part of Gaels Le Chèile @ Ceòl 's Craic at the CCA.

Hannah Fisher and Sorren Maclean will perform songs

Home-grown talent, such as the three Mull musicians, are at the heart of Celtic Connections again this year.

from their back catalogue as well as debuting new music from their forthcoming album at The Mackintosh Church on Thursday January 30.

Mr Shaw said: 'Celtic Connections will once again put on a diverse and expansive programme of events, welcoming musicians and visitors from near and far to Glasgow for this iconic winter festival.'

'Home-grown talent continues to be at the heart of Celtic

Connections and we're looking forward to welcoming Alasdair, Hannah and Sorren from Mull to entertain the crowds on this international stage.'

Renowned as a musical cure for the wintertime blues, Celtic Connections 2020 will be the 27th incarnation of a festival that began in 1994, when it offered 66 events at one venue. Since then it has grown more adventurous, experimental and diverse each year and now offers thousands of events in locations across Glasgow, added Mr Shaw.

### YOURSTORY

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# WHAT'S ON

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## THURSDAY 9TH JANUARY

**Oban Men's Shed**  
Salvation Army Hall  
9:00am – 12:00pm

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

**Recovery Cafe**  
New Hope Kitchen  
12.30pm

**Creative Writing Group**  
New Hope Kitchen  
2.30pm-4pm

**Slimming World Fort William**  
Salvation Army Hall  
3:00pm, 5:00pm & 7:00pm  
Tel; Gillian 07796 040803

**Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans**  
FREE JUKEBOX EVERY THURSDAY

## FRIDAY 10TH JANUARY

**Hope Kitchen Music Group**  
Salvation Army Hall  
1pm-4pm

**Parsley's Cat Cafe**  
New Hope Kitchen  
2pm

**Event - Legends Of American Country Show**  
Corran Halls  
7.15pm

**Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans**  
Tweed  
Open till 2:00am

**Oban Accordion & Fiddle Club Hot Supper Dance**  
The Royal Hotel. 7.30pm

**SATURDAY 11TH JANUARY Parkrun**  
Ganavan Sands  
9.30am

**Community Cafe**  
Salvation Army Hall  
12noon-2pm

**Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans**  
Calum Macphail  
Open till 2:00am

## SUNDAY 12TH JANUARY

**Morning Service - Refreshments follow**  
Salvation Army Hall  
11:00am - 12:00pm

**Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans**  
QUIZ NIGHT at 9:30pm

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

## MONDAY 13TH JANUARY

**Oban Men's Shed**  
Salvation Army Hall  
9:00am – 12:00pm

**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, Lochgilthead**  
Union Street/Argyll Street  
5:30pm & 7:30pm  
Tel; Rhona 07880 878906

**TUESDAY 14TH JANUARY Hill Walk**  
Corrour  
All day

**Oban Men's Shed**  
Salvation Army Hall  
9:00am - 12:00pm

**Carers Coffee Morning**  
North Argyll Carers Centre  
10:30am - 12:00pm

**Martyn's Monday Club Ladies**  
New Hope Kitchen. 7pm-9pm

**WEDNESDAY 15TH JANUARY Oban Men's Shed**  
Salvation Army Hall  
9:00am - 12:00pm

**Slimming World, Oban**  
Glencruitten Church Hall  
9:30am, 11:30am, 5:30pm & 7:30pm  
Tel; Gillian 07796 040803

**Open Day**  
Greenshoots Garden  
10.30am-3.30pm

**Hope Kitchen Beach clean**  
(meet opposite the View)  
10.30am

**Knitting Group**  
New Hope Kitchen. 2pm



Guest artists were the Archie MacAllister Trio, with Archie MacAllister on fiddle, brother Alex on accordion and Alastair Murray on drums.

## Music club draws in a good crowd at Inveraray

Inveraray Box and Fiddle Club swung into action at their monthly gathering in December when they welcomed a good crowd to the Inveraray Inn.

Supporting players included stalwarts Fyne Folk, with Sally Hall, Alex John MacLeod and Jake MacKay on fiddles and Agnes Liddell on keyboard; also playing were young Calum MacDonald on accor-

dion; the Dalriada Ceilidh Sound; Margaret Kemp on 'moothie', accompanied by Jimmy MacDonald on keyboard; Jake on 'moothie' with Agnes on keyboard – and all their selections were much enjoyed.

Guest artists were the Archie MacAllister Trio, with Archie on fiddle, brother Alex on accordion and Alastair Murray on drums – the Three 'A's.

They delighted the audience with a great west coast sound in both spots, including a couple of superb fiddle solos from Archie.

All too soon it was time for the final set of jigs but not before chairman Niall Iain MacLean thanked the 'local' players and the guest artists for a great night and wished everyone the compliments of the season.

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



## WINTER OPENING HOURS 2020

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# Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



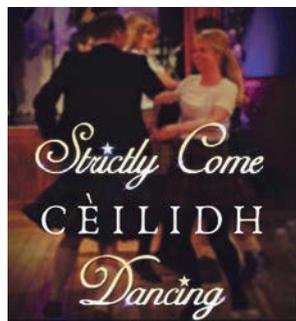
## Dancing shoes at the ready ...

Those of you who have not yet bought tickets for Donnie Maroot's Strictly Come Cèilidh Dancing event will perhaps be persuaded by the offer of a free drink on the door.

Yes, half the population have committed themselves to 'dry January' but Donnie assures me that there will be plenty of dry options – such as dry white wine, dry gin and dry martini!

I understand many of the competitors have been engaging in fitness classes and dance lessons in order to prime themselves for the event.

The stakes are incredibly high as 10 Highland 'celebrities' face up for this prestigious prize adjudicated by three esteemed judges: Rachel McLagan (the only professional dancer in the whole production), Darren MacLean and yours truly. Competitors on the evening will be Mánran's Ewen Henderson, Skerryvore's Martin Gillespie, Sian's Ceitlin LR Smith, Trail West's Seonaidh MacIntyre, Alba Choir's Joy Dunlop, Iain Beggs and Mairi MacLennan from BBC Alba series Bannan, Shona Masson (presenter on BBC Alba), Helen MacInnes (whose sister, Alana, was due to dance but only recently dropped her poor sister in



it) and Lorne MacDougall – possibly the biggest celebrity of all of us having featured in Doctor Who, Brave, Still Game, Whisky Galore, and Strictly Come Dancing... the actual Strictly Come Dancing as opposed to this cèilidh version!

The most important thing is that this event is fundraising for a very good cause, so will hopefully attract a big audience. The evening begins at 7.30pm in the Glasgow University Union. Tickets are £25 and are available by contacting Donald on donniemaroot@hotmail.co.uk

## What's on at Celtic Connections

There are far too many Celtic Connections performances to list but here is a selection from the first weekend of the festival that I felt would interest Oban Times readers...

Thursday January 16: opening night with the GRIT Orchestra performing The Declaration in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall at 7.30pm.

Friday January 17: Duncan Chisholm in the City Halls Recital Room at 5pm.

Friday January 17: Breabach @ 15 with Seamus Egan Project in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall at 7.30pm

Friday January 17: Dileab Air a' Chuan in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, New Auditorium, at 7.30pm

Saturday January 18: Coastal Connections Festival in a Day in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall at noon.

Saturday January 18: The GRIT Orchestra – Martyn Bennett's Grit and Bothy Culture in The Barrowland Ballroom at 7.30pm.

Saturday January 18: Blazin' Fiddles and special guest Emily Smith and support in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall at 8pm.

Saturday January 18: Celtic Connections Cèilidh with the Glenfinnan Cèilidh Band in the Maryhill Community Central Halls at 8pm.

Sunday January 19: New Voices – Pàdruig Morrison in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, Strathclyde Suite, at 1pm.

Sunday January 19: Bruce MacGregor – The Highlander's Revenge and Other Tall Tales in the City Halls Recital Room at 5pm.

Sunday January 19: A Celebration of Women in Piping in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, Strathclyde Suite, at 8pm.

## Voting open for Gaelic film competition

There were a record-breaking number of entries for this year's Gaelic Short Film Competition, FilmG, and they are all available now to watch online.

A massive 103 entries were submitted, including 23 films to the open category, 75 films made by young people aged five to 18, and five scripts.

The competition is now well-established in schools and with Gaelic speakers and film-makers across the country.

Voting for The People's Choice Award is open until the end of January.

Shortlists chosen by a panel of media professionals will be announced in January and their winners will be unveiled at the awards ceremony on February 14.

Each year, FilmG encourages aspiring film-makers to show off their talent and creativity. This year film-makers were tasked with making films re-

lating to the theme Treòraich, which means guide or lead.

Eilidh Rankin, FilmG project manager, said: 'It's been a joy to go through this year's entries. We are delighted to see numbers growing year on year – a sign that the competition is increasing in popularity.'

'It's also really exciting to see such a breadth of topics and genres being covered, and the overall quality of the films is so high.'

'It's great to see familiar faces returning to our screens, as well as new talent coming to the fore.'

Project funders MG ALBA were also delighted at the standard of entries, and communication manager, Murdo MacSween, said: 'It's great that FilmG continues to grow and it's really inspiring to see funny, dramatic, fascinating content made in Gaelic with such enthusiasm!'

'FilmG is a fantastic route to

get noticed and lay a marker for the future and, as an industry, it's encouraging to see so many come through FilmG to a career in Gaelic media.'

In the Highlands and Islands, comedy was popular this year. Kilmuir Drama Club in north Skye adapted a stage play for screen in Bùth nan Èisg (The Fish Market); advanced Higher S2 pupils at Stornoway's Nicolson Institute made a film called Holiday Inn-tineach which sees holidaymakers arrive at Lewis's answer to Fawlty Towers; some of the high schools have taken a supernatural or historical slant on the theme, including Ardnamurchan High School, where fluent speakers made a sci-fi film Reòite! (Frozen); and fluent speakers at Castlebay High School (Isle of Barra) made a film Tìr a' Gheallaidh (Land of Promise).

Visit [www.filmg.co.uk](http://www.filmg.co.uk) to see this year's entries.

# OBAN CINEMA PHOENIX WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

WWW.OBANPHOENIX.COM | 01631 562905  
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK | SCOTTISH CHARITY NO. SC042407



COMING SOON: JOJO RABBIT | 1917 | JUMANJI: THE NEXT LEVEL

### FRIDAY 10TH JANUARY

Little Women | U 12:00/19:00  
Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker | 12A 16:15  
Spies In Disguise | PG 16:30  
Cats | U 19:15

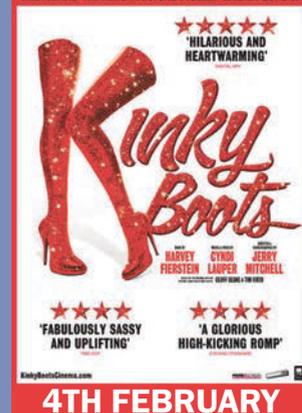
### SATURDAY 11TH JANUARY

Spies In Disguise | PG 10:30 ★/12:45  
Frozen 2 | U 11:30 ★  
Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker | 12A 13:45/19:15  
Little Women | U 15:15/17:45  
Cats | U 16:45  
To Tokyo | 15 + Director Q&A 20:15

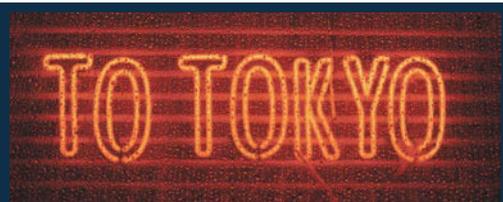
### SUNDAY 12TH JANUARY

Spies In Disguise | PG 12:00/15:45  
Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker | 12A 12:45/17:00  
Cats | U 14:30/18:00  
Little Women | U 20:15  
To Tokyo | 15 20:30

THE AWARD WINNING MUSICAL FILMED LIVE IN LONDON



4TH FEBRUARY



**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 13TH JANUARY

Cats | U 12:00/19:15  
Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker | 12A 16:15  
Spies In Disguise | PG 16:30  
Little Women | U 19:00

### TUESDAY 14TH JANUARY

Spies In Disguise | PG 12:00/16:30  
Cats | U 16:15  
Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker | 12A 18:45  
Little Women | U 19:00

### WEDNESDAY 15TH JANUARY

Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker | 12A 12:00 ★/18:45  
Cats | U 16:15  
Spies In Disguise | PG 16:30  
Little Women | U 19:00

### THURSDAY 16TH JANUARY

Knives Out | 12A 14:30 ★  
Spies In Disguise | PG 17:00  
Cats | U 17:15  
Little Women | U 19:30  
Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker | 12A 19:45

### WANT TO SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CINEMA EVEN MORE?

WE HAVE MANY VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE PLEASE COME IN AND SEE US FOR AN APPLICATION PACKAGE  
A SIMPLE AND POWERFUL WAY TO HELP YOUR LOCAL CINEMA IS TO SIMPLY SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT WHAT'S ON!  
A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE VOLUNTEERS WHO DONATE THEIR TIME EVERY WEEK!

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**AUTISM FRIENDLY SCREENING** ★ MIRA STARTS SCREENING FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM & OTHER  
**PARENT & BABY** ★ A CHANCE FOR NEW PARENTS TO SEE THE LATEST FILMS WITH EARLY TOP TOY TRUCKS, CLOTHES, SITTER, VOLUNTEER AND LIGHTS LEFT ON  
**SILVER SCREEN** ★ EVERY THURSDAY AFTERNOON £3 FOR THOSE 60 & OVER

Please be advised, all films and showtimes are subject to change/availability with little or no notice. Booking is always recommended to avoid disappointment. Please check [www.bbfc.co.uk](http://www.bbfc.co.uk) for more information about film certificates.

# M'ALBA

## MY ALBA

### DIARDAOIN 9 Am Faoilleach

#### THURSDAY 9 January

17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
19:00 Fuine (rpt)  
19:30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)  
19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
20:00 An Là – News  
20:30 Sgoil nan Sagairt (rpt)  
21:00 Sulaisgeir: an t-Sealg (Sulaisgeir: The Hunt)(rpt)  
22:00 Mach a Seo! (rpt)  
22:30 ÙR/NEW: QE2  
23:15 Dhan Uisge (River Garry)(rpt)  
23:25 Belladrum - Cridhe Tartan (Highlights) (rpt)  
23:30 Fonn Fonn Fonn (rpt)

### DIHAOINE 10 Am Faoilleach

#### FRIDAY 10th January

17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
18:35 Machair (rpt)  
19:00 An Là – News  
19:25 Froachy Bay (rpt)  
19:30 Cearcall (rpt)  
20:00 Oran na Mna (rpt)  
20:30 An Lot (rpt)  
21:00 Peter Manuel – Deireadh an Uilc(rpt)  
22:00 An Klondike (rpt)  
22:55 Belladrum - Cridhe Tartan (Highlights) (rpt)  
23:00 Doolin (rpt)

### DISATHAIRNE 11 Am Faoilleach

#### SATURDAY 11th January

16:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
17:45 An Là – News  
18:00 Seachd Inaccessible Pinnacle (rpt)  
19:30 Cearcall (rpt)  
20:00 Machair (rpt)  
20:25 Froachy Bay (rpt)  
20:30 Wild Atlantic Way, with Anne London

(rpt)

21:00 Doolin (rpt)  
21:50 Ceol bho Perthshire Amber (rpt)  
22:00 QE2 (rpt)  
22:45 Belladrum – Cridhe Tartan (Highlights) (rpt)  
23:00 Petre Manuel – Deireadh an Uilc(rpt)  
00:00 Na Worlds 2019 (rpt)

### DIDÒMHNAICH 12 Am Faoilleach

#### SUNDAY 12 January

16:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
18:15 An Là – News  
18:30 Seachd La – News Review  
19:30 ÙR/NEW: Alleluia!  
20:00 Sgoil nan Sagairt (rpt)  
21:00 Farpaisean Chon-Chaorach (rpt)  
22:00 Doolin (rpt)  
22:50 Ceol bho Perthshire Amber (rpt)  
23:50 Dhan Uisge (River Garry) (rpt)

### DILUAIN 13 Am Faoilleach

#### MONDAY 13 January

17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
19:00 Vets : Gach Creutair Beo (rpt)  
19:30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)  
19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
20:00 An Là – News  
20:30 ÙR/NEW: An Lot  
21:00 Trusadh – Toradh na Mara (Aquaculture)(rpt)  
22:00 Port (rpt)  
22:30 DIY le Donnie (rpt)  
23:15 Belladrum – Cridhe Tartan (Highlights) (rpt)  
23:30 Mach a Seo! (rpt)

### DIMÀIRT 14 Am Faoilleach

#### TUESDAY 14 January

17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming

19:00 Fuine (rpt)  
19:30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)  
19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
20:00 An Là – News  
20:30 Dreach Ur (rpt)  
21:00 Farpaisean Chon-Chaorach (rpt)  
22:00 Trusadh – Toradh na Mara (Aquaculture) (rpt)  
23:00 Oran na Mna (rpt)  
23:30 Alleluia ! (rpt)

### DICIADAIN 15 Am Faoilleach

#### WEDNESDAY 15 January

17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
19:00 Vets : Gach Creutair Beo (rpt)  
19:30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)  
19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
20:00 An Là – News  
20:30 ÙR/NEW: Wild Atlantic Way, with Anne London  
21:00 DIY le Donnie (rpt)  
21:45 Ceol bho Perthshire Amber (rpt)  
22:00 Fonn Fonn Fonn (rpt)  
22:30 Port (rpt)  
23:00 Sulaisgeir: an t-Sealg (rpt)

### DIARDAOIN 16 Am Faoilleach

#### THURSDAY 16 January

17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
19:00 Fuine (rpt)  
19:30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)  
19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
20:00 An Là – News  
20:30 Sgoil nan Sagairt (rpt)  
21:00 Sulaisgeir: an t-Sealg (Sulaisgeir: The Hunt)(rpt)  
22:00 ÙR/NEW: Mach a Seo!  
22:30 ÙR/NEW: QE2  
23:15 Dhan Uisge (Sanna)(rpt)  
23:25 Belladrum - Cridhe Tartan (Highlights) (rpt)  
23:30 Fonn Fonn Fonn (rpt)

**BBC ALBA**

**BBC.CO.UK/ALBA | BBC.CO.UK/IPLAYER**

Co-bhanntachd eadar MG ALBA agus am BBC | A partnership between BBC and MG ALBA



Kilmallie Singers entertained a large audience in Duncansburgh Macintosh Church with a beautiful rendering of Christmas carols and other festive songs.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

# Kilmallie singers take audience on Christmas journey through song

For those of us who regularly attend the Kilmallie Singers' Christmas carol concert, Saturday December 21, 2019, will go down as one of the most memorable, writes Robert Robertson.

I was grateful to manage along for the first time in a number of years because ever since I first attended as a wee boy, the run up to Christmas doesn't quite feel the same for me without the Kilmallie Singers concert in the Duncansburgh MacIntosh.

Between the first notes of O Come All Ye Faithful and the last chord of Hark the Herald, the choir took us on a Christmas carol journey which had everything: from rousing congregational numbers; to quiet, reflective moments; and from talented vocal and instrumental soloists; to children from the audience singing along and playing percussion with huge smiles on their faces.

The first soloist was Heather Hook who played Nocturno, F Strauss, on the French horn with the choir conductor (Catherine Cameron) temporarily abandoning her podium to accompany expertly on piano. A short while later, Fiona MacCormick sang O Holy Night backed by the

choir. John Hutchison then got into character (and the pulpit) to recite Another Messiah as an introduction to two Handel pieces in reference to a performance coming later in 2020.

A real highlight for me was a three-lady ensemble from the choir – Jackie Wright, Ishbel Murray and Moira Stoddart – singing Do You Hear What I Hear? with incredibly tight

## 'A real highlight for me was a three lady ensemble from choir'

vocal harmony – something that made me very nervous at the time because I had to get up from the audience for my own solo performance almost immediately afterwards!

While mentioning all the soloists, a special mention must go to Jennifer Skene who has accompanied the choir on piano (both in concert and at rehearsals) for many years now and always does a flawless job. The excellent organist for the evening was Kerr Jamieson.

A very poignant moment was the choir's performance of Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas, arranged

by their founder and former conductor, the late Heather Moore. It is a beautiful arrangement and Katherine's short dedication to Heather before they sang was very fitting indeed. Christmas is so often a time for reflection and memories and this certainly made me think back to my own first performance at the concert as an 11-year-old boy-soprano singing The Snowman. Mrs Moore, who had trained me for it, brought me up onto her conductor's podium in order that she could press the button on my Christmas tie that made it play Jingle Bells to the audience. The church howled with laughter and a nervous little boy was able to relax and sing his song.

Fast forward 15 years and (on the evidence of this concert) the Kilmallie Singers are going from strength to strength. On Saturday April 25 this year, they will perform Handel's Messiah at their annual Easter concert. Make sure to get your tickets for that one.

Congratulations to everyone involved with the choir and particularly Catherine Cameron for putting on a carol concert that set us all up just perfectly for Christmas.

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# Best of Highland larder puts hotel on foodie map

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A hotel at the heart of the Highlands is reinventing itself as a destination for 2020.

Award-winning Argyll chef David Hetherington, pictured right, is a man on a mouth-watering mission to stamp the Bridge of Orchy Hotel well and truly on the foodie map, serving up best produce straight from the local larder.



As if being neighbours with Glen Coe and nestled just strides away from the famous West Highland Way hiking trail is not enough to satisfy the most demanding of appetites, the luxury four-star hotel's kitchen is cooking up a name for itself as a foodie haven under the reign of Arrochar laddie David.

Melt-in-the mouth Great Glen venison, Schiehallion beer battered haddock with hand-cut chips, braised hispi cabbage with celariac puree are just some of his dishes tantalising taste-buds since his arrival last year.

Known for his boldly-flavoured dishes, David – who has been on BBC's Masterchef, The Professionals – is busy collaborating with great small producers and farmers, such as Oban's Duntarrin Farm at Lerags and Darach Croft on the Ardnamurchan Peninsula, to inspire new recipes for his seasonal menus giving a real taste of Highland flavours.

'I want to put this hotel in people's mouths, enjoying

our food and talking about it,' said David, who was crowned Provenance Chef of the Year in 2018 by the Scottish Food Awards and in 2017 led The Finnieston to win Glasgow Restaurant of the Year.

'It's an exciting time for dining at the Bridge of Orchy Hotel with David at the helm. His wealth of experience and passion for working with local producers is second to none,' says general manager Szilard Nemeth, caretaking the hotel for its dotting family owners.

After all that feasting there is the choice of 32 rooms for guests to rest their heads, 21 of them are well-equipped contemporary timber lodges in a cuddle-like complex overlooking the dramatic Glen Orchy landscape.

Sitting pretty along the A82, a route recently named as the Ultimate British Road Trip, the hotel itself has long been a mecca for outdoor enthusiasts, but thanks to David foodies are now among the droves heading its way, lured

by the promise of a culinary adventure.

Special events coming up soon are a three-course Burns Ceilidh Night Supper on Saturday January 25 for £25 and a four-course Harviestoun beer tasting dinner on Saturday February 8 priced at £195 for dinner, bed and breakfast for two.

For romantics, oysters from Cumbrae will be on the menu over this Valentine's weekend with a single malt whisky tasting dinner on February 29.

Just one hour by car from Oban, the hotel is within easy reach. As part of our stay we spent a cosy night in one of the lodges overlooking the tumbling river, tucked into a delicious taster menu washed down with real ale in front of the hikers' bar's roaring stove. We loved it – and next day's breakfast that fuelled us up for the journey home via breathtaking Glen Coe!

Tempted to taste it yourself? Go to [bridgeoforchy.co.uk](http://bridgeoforchy.co.uk) or call 01838 400208.

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



**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

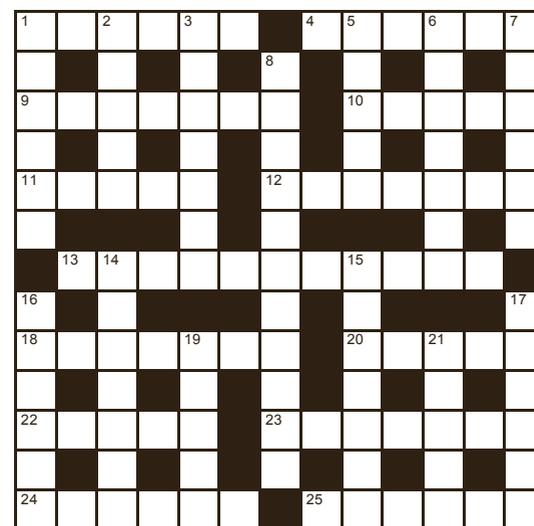
Andy & Sarah, 11am-3pm: Molly's Mix, 3pm-7pm: Drive time with Stephen, 7pm-9pm: Christine's Collection, 9pm-10pm: Anne's Ceilidh, 10pm-12am: Margo till Midnight

**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

## Crossword



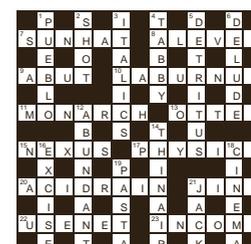
**Across**

- 1 Scribble (6)
- 4 In time, one will save nine (6)
- 9 Continue (5,2)
- 10 Chinese characters (5)
- 11 World-weariness (5)
- 12 Using living organisms to make products (7)
- 13 Dream unlikely to be fulfilled (7,4)
- 18 Glances (7)
- 20 African antelope (5)
- 22 Above a captain (5)
- 23 Win (7)
- 24 Sanctuary (6)
- 25 An addition (6)

**Down**

- 1 Football (6)
- 2 Another showing on tv (5)
- 3 Railroad docket (7)
- 5 Japanese city (5)
- 6 Become nervous (5,2)
- 7 Extent upwards (6)
- 8 Inconspicuous (11)
- 14 Cause delight (7)
- 15 Small wheeled platform on rails (7)
- 16 Mountain laurel type (6)
- 17 Vocal organ (6)
- 19 A horn (5)
- 21 Standoffish (5)

**LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION**



## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Oban Accordion & Fiddle Club  
**Hot Supper Dance**  
with Charlie Kirkpatrick's  
Scottish Dance Band  
Friday 10th January 2020  
7.30pm till late  
The Royal Hotel. Tickets: £15  
Includes 2 course supper  
For tickets contact 01631  
562077 or 07979520792

Comunn Gàidhealach an Òbain  
**Old New Year Cèilidh**  
Saturday 11th January 2020  
Masonic Hall, Albany Street, Oban  
7:30pm Admission: £6.00  
Featuring:  
**CÒISIR GHÀIDHLIG AN ÒBAIN**  
and solo performances  
from choir members  
Bean an Taighe: Sileas Sinclair  
Raffle and light supper

**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**

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**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**

**The Annual QUIZ NIGHT**  
in aid of OBAN PIPE BAND  
will be held on  
FRIDAY 17TH JANUARY 2020 at 7:30pm  
in the  
MASONIC LODGE, ALBANY STREET  
Admission: £3.00 per person  
(teams can vary from 2 to 6 in number)

**Ballet West Scotland**  
*Swan Lake*

**Corran Halls**  
Saturday 25th January, 2.30 & 7.30pm  
Tickets £15  
Reserved Seating  
01631 567 333  
[www.balletwest.co.uk](http://www.balletwest.co.uk)

Ballet West, Ichraochan House, Taynull, Argyll, PA35 1HP, Scotland  
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closer to home

# 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

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f t @

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*

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- *Pension withdrawal*

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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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registrar@dollaracademy.org.uk or phone 01259 742511.

[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)

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# EID system for cattle is to be showcased in roadshow

A national consultation programme that showcases a state-of-the-art system of electronic identification of cattle in Scotland goes back on the road next week.

A second round of roadshows by ScotEID will explain the new scanning system to track and monitor Scotland's cattle herd in real time, reducing paperwork not only for farmers and crofters but for markets and abattoirs.

The latest phase continues until mid-March with 15 meetings taking place in regions across Scotland, and farmers and industry representatives are encouraged to learn more after the first phase of meetings were well attended and resulted in useful feedback being made.

Scot EID's Anna Robertson said: 'We look forward to meeting more stakeholders during our roadshow programme which continues until March. Please come along and join the discussion and find out more about future-proofing the recording process through electronic data transfer.'

'It's been great to have so



Scot EID continues its national consultation on the pioneering cattle traceability system.

many people coming along to find out more about technology that will shape the future of recording cattle movements in the industry for decades to come, bringing many benefits with it.

'Farmers appreciate that this advance in technology will reduce paperwork, reduce handling of animals which brings health and safety benefits and will pro-

tect the coveted Scotch Beef brand status.

'We're finding sectoral and regional differences. Where there is a small number of cattle or small pedigree breeds, the farmer might want to continue to read tags manually on their farm or smallholding, and that's fine.

'In Orkney and Shetland, owing to cattle transportation by boat, we are already

working on testing readers on the pier for the onward movement of cattle.

'Some dairy farms operate low frequency in parlour systems, and that throws up points for further consideration. We're keen to hear views and comments to help deliver the best possible system to farmers.'

To attend any upcoming meeting, contact the ScotEID

team on 01466 794323 to allow for catering and seating arrangements.

ScotEID manages the database for recording animal movements in Scotland and has designed and developed the new recording system.

It will incorporate births, deaths and movements of cattle, replacing the British Cattle Movement Service's Cattle Tracing System for Scottish cattle keepers and provide an online line service and with the introduction of bovine EID and an Online Herd Register.

The new system embeds data experience from research and development and current data management by ScotEID, with the use of UHF technology bringing a number of new benefits.

The ScotEID database will bring together all farm livestock movement records within a central source and will lead to the removal of paper passports.

It will be straightforward to use, will improve the speed and accuracy of traceability and reduce manual handling of cattle.

## Dates to note

- January 15 – Carfraemill Hotel, noon and 7pm
- January 16 – Somerton House, Lockerbie, noon
- January 22 – The Green Hotel, Kinross, 7pm
- January 23 – Finavon Hotel, Finavon, noon
- January 23 – The Red House Hotel, Coupar Angus, 7pm
- February 4 – Lanark Mart, noon
- February 10 – Columba Hotel, Oban, 7pm
- February 11 – Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William, noon
- February 24 – Cabarfeidh Hotel, Stornoway, 7pm
- February 25 – The Portree Hotel, Skye, 7pm
- February 26 – Dark Island Hotel, Benbecula, 7pm.
- March 4 – Argyll Arms, Campbeltown, noon
- March 5 – The Machrie Hotel, Islay, 11am
- March 11 – Auchrannie Resort, Arran, 7pm
- March 12 – The Glenburn Hotel, Bute, 7pm

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# Argyll and Isles AGM focuses on the younger generation

A discussion panel at the forthcoming NFU Scotland Argyll and the Islands regional AGM will focus on the views of the next generation of farmers and crofters.

The AGM will take place tomorrow (Friday January 10), starting at 11am in Tarbert Bowling Club. The morning session will see the regional AGM and the presentation of the Argyll and the Islands Stalwart Award.

The highlight of the afternoon will be a panel session chaired by the region's Next Generation Committee representative, Ian Dickson, from Scalpsie Farm on Bute.

The top line-up of panel members includes: Jenny Baillie, regional manager, Scottish Association of Young Farmers Clubs (SAYFC); Jenny Brunton, policy manager, NFU Scotland; Ian Davidson, national adviser, Scottish Land Matching Service; Colin Ferguson, chairman, NFU Scotland Next Generation Committee; John McCulloch, chairman, SAYFC West Rural and Agri Affairs Committee.



NFUS Argyll and the Isles regional board chairman John Dickson.

Regional board chairman John Dickson said: 'As an industry, we need to focus on how we support the next generation of farmers and crofters to get them into the sector.'

'At NFUS, our challenge is how we encourage the next generation to also get involved in the union.'

'This panel will be an

opportunity for members to hear views on the future for the next generation of farmers and crofters, in what are going to be challenging times ahead. And I would encourage those who are coming along to bring a young person with you – maybe a son, daughter, nephew, niece who is involved in your family business.

'We want to ensure that young people have a bright future in the sector, and we want them to become involved in agri affairs, policy lobbying and NFU Scotland.'

'To help get the next generation involved, NFUS farming or crofting membership now entitles family members to also be signed up at no extra cost.'

## Farming is key to climate change solution

The coming decade is seen as make or break in finding effective answers to climate change. The subject is prominent at global, national and regional level, writes Charlie Adam.

At one extreme, the debate has been hijacked by single interest groups who see this as an opportunity to further their cause, with social and other media providing an easy platform from which to mislead an ill-informed but worried public.

At the other extreme, as reflected in the disappointing outcome of the recent UN COP 25 meeting in Madrid, major world powers have shown marked reluctance to commit to any serious effort to address the problem.

COP 26 in Glasgow this year presents a huge opportunity to showcase the positive environmental credentials of Scottish farming and our further efforts to improve, as well as a shop window for our produce at home and abroad.

There is, however, a need for much more commitment from the big players on the world stage. Measures which reduce or end responsible agricultural



NFUS vice-president Charlie Adam.

production in Scotland only for that activity to then take place elsewhere to a lower standard, deliver nothing for climate change mitigation and may harm us both economically and health-wise if produce from these countries finds its way onto our supermarket shelves. This is out of line with Scotland's Good Food Nation ambitions.

Equally, there is no point in planting trees on farmland to mitigate climate change if, as a result, we import more, lower standard, environmentally unfriendly food from abroad.

It is important to consider wider implications when deciding if an individual action will really benefit the planet

and, while it is important to take a lead, others must play the game too or we become the 'fall guy'. Global problems require global solutions.

The import of sub-standard food produced in a manner illegal in the UK must not be permitted in any post-Brexit trade deals. Failure to hold this line will undermine industry efforts to farm sustainably and responsibly and let down farmers and crofters who are bearing the costs of doing so.

If we really believe these things matter, we cannot compromise on food safety or environmental responsibility. NFUS will be lobbying hard on these matters starting this week in Westminster.

Farming practices in some parts of the world, such as shown in the recent BBC programme on global beef production, justify the view that agriculture is responsible for environmental damage but not in Scotland where we do things differently.

Such broadcasts infuriate us but, in this case, they demonstrate bad practice elsewhere and present us with an opportunity to promote our

high welfare, locally produced and environmentally friendly produce as an alternative.

It is better that this promotion is done by us and others who know what they are talking about rather than by media subject to institutional and individual bias. Every one of us can play a part in this.

While we already set a high standard, we can do more, and if done well this can not only deliver for the environment but also for our bottom line.

It is essential we adequately fund and make full use of our world-renowned research institutions and experts, without unjustified constraints on investigating potentially useful technologies if we are to produce more from less, especially if previously used methods are now deemed unacceptable.

With the right political decisions and appropriate financial support, Scottish farmers and crofters are well placed to lead the world in productive and environmentally friendly farming methods to the benefit of the people, the planet and farming businesses.

NFUS is determined to fight to make that happen.

## Around the markets

Stirling – Caledonian Marts Ltd on January 3 sold 54 bulls and OTM cattle, 1461 prime hoggets, ewes and tups.

All bulls were over 16 months selling to 202ppkg for a Limousin from A Orr, Lomond Muir, Wester Balgeddie, Kinross and to £1353 for the same beast. Beef OTM cattle averaged 131ppkg selling to 166ppkg for a Hereford from Goldenlea Farmers, Gryffewraes and to £1240 for a Charolais from McMurrich Partnership, Ballater Drive.

Dairy cattle averaged 111ppkg selling to 167ppkg for a Friesian from R and W Waugh, Summerhouse and to £950 from the same home.

Other leading prices;

Beef OTMs per kg  
162p Invergarry 161p and 158p Gryffewraes 154p Carriston 147p and 143p Turdees

Beef OTMs per head  
£1170 Kerculloch £1160 Gryffewraes £1150

Carriston £1130 and £1070 Gryffewraes £1040 Braco Castle £1030 Turdees

Dairy cows per kg  
140p and 135p Summerhouse 109p Summerhouse 107p Kirkton of Beath

Dairy cows per head  
£920 and £780

Summerhouse £730 Kirkton of Beath and Summerhouse £700 Kirkton of Beath

All classes of hoggets a good steady trade throughout with 1319 levelling out at 201.5ppkg (-3.2p on the week or +11p on the year).

Top price of the day went to Doune Farms, West Lundie for a 53kg ¾ Beltex at £110.

Top price per kg went to R A Campbell and Son, Meikle Seggie for a pen of Beltex X at 42.6kg at 230ppkg.

Leading prices  
Prime lambs per head  
Texel X £108 South Flanders Charollais £108 South Flanders

Beltex £107 West Lundie Texel £107 Ditch

Continental £106 Plean Cottage  
Suffolk X Cheviot £105.50

Ditch  
Suffolk X £105 Bankhead

Mule £89 Ditch  
BF £78.50 Glenturret Estates

Prime lambs Per Kg:-  
Beltex 226p (Four Times)  
Meikle Seggie

Beltex X 225p Easter Dullatur

Texel 222p Drumheldric  
Texel X 219p Carriston  
Continental 219p Bankhead  
Continental 219p

Drumheldric  
Suffolk 216p Leslie Park

Mule 191p Coulshill and Middlepart  
BF 193p Ditch  
Also forward were 192 cast ewes and tups.

A smaller show of ewes met a sound trade, where more could have been sold to sellers advantage.

Heavy ewes averaged £102.92 selling to £136 for a tremendous Texel Ewe from C Smith, South Flanders, Kippen.

Light ewes averaged £70.10 selling to £71 for Cheviots from D D McEwan, Arnprior, Stirling.

Cast rams sold to £105 for a Texel from W and R S Adam, Harelaw, Barrhead.

Other leading ewe prices  
Texel £112, £110, £109 and £108 (Twice) South Flanders £93 Harelaw and Bankhead (Smith) £91 Dalvey

Continental £88 Rotmell and Pairney £86 Easter Dullatur

Mule £85 South Flanders and Harelaw £80

Springbank  
BF £57 Pairney

Stirling – United Auctions Stirling on Thursday

January 2 sold 4034 prime sheep comprising of 3416 prime lambs selling to an average of 200.98ppk & 618 ewes and rams.

Old season lambs  
(3416) – Coilavoulin (BTex) £116.00; Isle Cottage (Tex) £109.00; Pittenkerrie (Suf) £106.00; Priestfield (Chev) £101.00; Smithy Hillock (Cross) £100.00; Greystone (Zwa) £97.50; Sauchrie

Mains & Henderston Farms (Mule) £94.00; Kilmundie & Chamberwells (BF) £90.50;

Knock-O-Ronald (BFL) £86.00.

Old season lambs  
(3416) – Coilavoulin (BTex) 269.00ppk; Isle Cottage (Tex) 237.00ppk; Kinloch (Cross) 221.00ppk; Easter Buckleyvie (Suf) 213.00ppk; Pittenkerrie (Chev) 209.00ppk; Knock-O-Ronald (BF) 200.00ppk; Easte Buckleyvie (Mule) 198.00ppk.

Ewes (618) – Easter Garden (Tex) £148.00; Catcune (Suf) £130.00; Pittenkerrie (Cross) £118.00; Kinclaven (BTex) £115.00; Stacks (BFL) £108.00; Priestfield (HB) £108.00; Stacks (Mule) £95.00; Pittenkerrie (Cha) £94.00; Coulshill (Chev) £80.00; The Glen (BF) £79.00.

Tups – Redheugh (Cross) £117.00; Chalmerstone (Suf) £114.00; Isle Cottage (BTex) £110.00; Easter Happlew (BFL) £101.00; Ardacheranmor (Tex) £100.00.

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**Now £11799**

- 2019 (69) Peugeot 2008 Allure Premium BlueHDI. Choice, 10 miles, sat nav, grip control, rear camera. Was £17499. Now £16999
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- 2016 (66) Peugeot 5008 Active BlueHDI 120. Grey, 13000 miles, 7 seats, parking sensors, bluetooth. Was £11999. Now £11499
- 2016 (16) Peugeot 308 GT Line BlueHDI 120. Blue, 16000 miles, GT styling, rear camera, alloys. Was £11499. Now £10999
- 2019 (19) Peugeot 108 Allure PureTech 5 Door. Red, 7000 miles, rear camera, alloys, DAB radio/USB. Was £9999. Now £8999
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**COME AND SEE THE ALL NEW RENAULT CLIO AT WD SEMPLE**

The All-New Renault Clio has been named Car of the Year at the annual Carbuyer Best Car Awards ceremony. In a double success for the All-New Clio it also took top honours in the Small Car Category.

Reflecting on All-New Clio's success Carbuyer's editor-at-large and head of motoring video, James Batchelor said: "The latest Renault Clio is the embodiment of what Carbuyer - and many UK motorists - look for in a car. It's modern, laden with the latest tech and has an interior that punches above its weight, with style and space you wouldn't expect. The Clio's fun nature,

efficiency and forward-thinking powertrains also help in making it the Carbuyer Car of the Year for 2020."

Vincent Tourette, Managing Director for Renault UK commented: "We're absolutely delighted to accept this prestigious award for All-New Clio. Thirty years in the making, All-New Clio represents an exciting step change in the small car sector, particularly in its interior layout, which delivers unrivalled technology, quality and style. Yet All-New Clio also retains the eye-catching exterior styling that has made it the bestselling car in its class

in Europe since 2013. With the forthcoming addition of the E-TECH hybrid version, 2020 promises to see the Clio success story continue."

Revolutionary on the inside and evolutionary on the outside All-New Clio sets new standards for quality, technology and practicality. One of the many highlights is the interior, which features the option of larger 9.3-inch EASY LINK infotainment screen and a ten-inch TFT instrument cluster - features normally reserved for larger and more expensive cars. From the outset the designers wanted to give the All-New Clio a true

premium feel, with soft touch plastics, satin finish metal trim and new, more enveloping seats all helping push the car upmarket. With careful attention paid to ergonomics, the All-New Clio is the most comfortable and refined version yet.

Technology and safety are also at the heart of All-New Clio. All versions get features such as Active Emergency Braking System with pedestrian detection, Lane Keep Assist and Lane Departure Warning, while an advanced Level Two autonomous driver aid is available in the form of the Traffic and Motorway Assist Pack.

- All-New Renault Clio named Car of the Year at the 2020 Carbuyer Best Car Awards
- All-New Clio also took top honours in the Best Small Car category
- Judges praised All-New Clio's technology, high quality interior and grown-up driving experience
- Third gong for All-New Clio since deliveries began in October
- With revolutionary interior and evolutionary exterior, All-New Clio sets new small car standards
- Introduces Level Two autonomous driver assistance systems to its sector
- Clio celebrates thirty years of success, and has been Europe's best-selling supermini since 2013
- All-New Clio is the twenty third Renault to be awarded a five-star NCAP safety rating
- Range of efficient petrol and diesel engines, with petrol-electric hybrid option in 2020

REG	MODEL	COLOUR	MILEAGE	PRICE	REG	MODEL	COLOUR	MILEAGE	PRICE
69	Dacia Logan Stepway Comfort Dci	Blue	26 miles	£12,500	15	Renault Scenic X Mod Dci Nav	White	43,000	£7,300
69	Renault Captur Tce90 Iconic	Blue/Black	1,900	£12,500	15	Dacia Duster Lau Prime Dci 4x2	Blue	34,000	£8,250
68	Renault Kadjar 1.3 Tce DYN S-Nav	Red	9,700	£15,250	64	Renault Twingo Dyn Tce	White	30,000	£5,150
67	Renault Twingo SCE DYN	White	10,500	£6,950	62	Renault Scenic Dyn Dci	Red	67,000	£4,650
66	Renault 208 GT Line Hdi	Red	14,000	£9,150	62	BMW SPH 1.6 1 Series	Black	49,000	£7,250
66	Dacia Dunster Prestige Dci 4x4	Blue	36,000	£10,250	62	Ford Focus Tdi Zetec	Silver	86,000	£3,950
66	Fiat Punto Pop Plus, Petrol	White	8,500	£6,450	59	Subaru Forester 4WD XL	Silver	84,000	£4,850
66	Dacia Sandero Dci AMB	Silver	16,000	£6,500	57	Landrover Freelander HSE TD	Blue	93,000	£5,650
66	Renault Kajar DYN Dci S-Nav	Black	32,000	£10,550	<b>Vans</b>				
16	Renault Clio Dci Nav Iconic	Gren	25,000	£7,950	16	Mercedes Vito LWB Crew Van	White	70,000	£9,500+VAT
16	Renault Corsa Design 1.4 Petrol	Red	36,000	£6,500	63	Renault Traffic LWB Dci Van	White	70,000	£6,600+VAT
16	Renault Clio Dyn Dci Auto	Silver	17,600	£7,950	62	Peugeot Bipper Hdi Van	Grey	70,000	£3,250+VAT

LOWER PRICED CARS - RENAULT CLIO, RENAULT SCENIC, FORD FIESTA, VAUXHALL CORSA, KIA CEED, TOYOTA AYGO, HONDA CIVIC, PEUGEOT 108

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# S & S SERVICES

ISUZU

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## 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 customer's 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 outgrown 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 third 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.



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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



*Our mission is for The Highland Cinema to become the creative centre of Lochaber. Providing a fun, vibrant and entertaining hub for local people and visitors to the West Highlands. The aim is to offer an excellent cinema and exceptional café, in beautiful surroundings full of Highland hospitality.*

## GENERAL MANAGER

Do you have the leadership skills, and experience of successfully building a team in the F&B industry? Have you worked in a customer facing role and are used to delivering an exceptional customer service? We are looking for an inspirational person to grow and lead this high-profile business; have you the vision to take The Highland Cinema and make it into a thriving success story?

## TECHNICAL & MARKETING MANAGER

You may have a love of film, you must have a passion for communication, and a flair for marketing together with a robust background in technical support. This incredible opportunity should excite you! You need to be articulate, organised, and able to use your own initiative while also working as part of this dynamic new team.

## FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER

This is an exceptional opportunity for you to build a team from the beginning for this stunning new Fort William Bar and Café. We need you to have experience of purchasing and managing budgets and have basic computer literacy. But more than this, we are looking for a person to build an enthusiastic team passionate about customer service.

## KITCHEN MANAGER

if you are a versatile cook, have management experience in developing and running a busy kitchen and have a passion for creating menus from locally sourced produce, then we need to speak with you! This is an exciting opportunity to build a small kitchen team of like-minded people, passionate about food and providing a positive and enthusiastic customer experience.

## DEPUTY MANAGER

Do you have considerable management experience in a supportive role, but also keen to take on responsibility? We need the right person to help in the smooth day to day operating of the cinema and the café. A love for the F&B industry, relishing working within a busy café and cinema; and someone who enjoys working with people are essential requirements.

## ADMIN & FINANCE MANAGER

You will need to have demonstrable computer literacy including a familiarity with data-base packages and book-keeping software, and love to work in an organised and professional manner. You will often be our customers and suppliers first contact with The Highland Cinema and require excellent inter-personal skills and exude confidence.

More details can be found on our website [www.highlandcinema.co.uk](http://www.highlandcinema.co.uk)

**Friday 31st January 2020.** To apply for bar, waiting, kitchen, or ushering positions, please look out for advertisements in early March

## COUPLE FOR ESTATE MAINTENANCE AND HOUSEKEEPER DUTIES

Aberchalder & Glengarry Estates Ltd require a couple to assume responsibility for the general day to day maintenance and repair work of the fabric of the estate. Preference will be given to applicants with experience in skills such a decorating, joinery and plumbing or fencing and forestry. An essential part of this post will be the housekeeping and changeover duties of 'Holiday Let' properties at week-ends as required.

Successful candidates must be able to work on their own initiative to a high standard and have good communication skills to deal with client's requirements.

A rent free, 3 bedroom modern bungalow could be made available with occupants responsible for utility bills. An attractive salary will be offered commensurate with experience.

This is a full time post.

**Apply in writing to: Aberchalder & Glengarry Estates Ltd, Aberchalder Lodge, Invergarry, PH 354 HN**

Career opportunities



## 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 is a full time/permanent position 8am-5.30pm (Mon-Fri).

**Please send CV to [jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk](mailto:jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk) or call 01546 602989 for further information.**



## Glen Orientation Officers and Guided Experience Leaders

**£8.72 and £9 per hour respectively**  
Closing date: 8am, 13/01/2020. Interviews will take place week commencing 20/01/2020.

**For further information and to apply, please visit our website: [www.kilmartin.org/home/get-involved/vacancies/](http://www.kilmartin.org/home/get-involved/vacancies/).**

## 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](mailto:info@northargyllhouse.org)**

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## RELIABILITY OPERATORS



We have 2 vacancies in the above department. The successful candidates will be key to improving the plant, performance and conditions with continuous problem solving on all items of plant.

Aggregate Industries is a leading manufacturer and supplier of concrete products to the construction industry and part of the global Holcim Group. As a Production operative you will report into and support your supervisor in the control and day to day smooth running of the plant and its assets.

### Responsibilities:

- Operation of mobile plant safely and efficiently carrying out daily safety checks.
- Maintenance and problem solving of fixed plant including, Secondary, Wash, Press plant and Shiploader.
- Dispatching and controlling the quality of product.
- Maintaining a high standard of housekeeping, keeping areas clean, tidy and hazard free
- Dealing with all daily issues professionally and liaising with site management on a regular basis
- To carry out the daily inspections; complete the forms and where a problem exists notify the management immediately
- Be responsible for plant assets that are entrusted to you i.e. materials, plant buildings and equipment and stores used therein and efficient employment of them.
- To contribute the effective and efficient operation of all plant operations from the primary stockpile onwards.
- To react promptly and effectively to site breakdowns by liaising with maintenance and assisting where needed.
- To inspect, carry out and ensure that plant routines are regularly adhered to and that the cleanliness of the plant mechanism, plant area, adjacent buildings, and equipment are at all times properly and regularly inspected, cleaned in accordance with site instructions.
- To carry out other reasonable tasks within the scope of your operation and abilities as and when required.

### Personal Specification:

- A highly motivated individual with drive and enthusiasm.
- Ability to work as part of a 24 hour, 7 day a week operation as required.
- We are looking for a highly motivated Reliability Operative with drive and enthusiasm to work as part of a team.
- Excellent communication and team working skills
- Good organisational skills
- Ability to work to deadlines
- Previous experience within a similar industry.

Please submit your CV and covering letter to Paul Kersley, Engineering Manager (Mechanical) e.mail: [paul.kersley@aggregate.com](mailto:paul.kersley@aggregate.com)

**Closing date for applications: Monday 13th January 2020.**

Glensanda Quarry Operations Rhugh Garbh Depot Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll Scotland PA37 1SE United Kingdom

Telephone +44 (0)1631 568140

[www.aggregate.com](http://www.aggregate.com)

# IN ASSOCIATION WITH HIJOBS

Visit [hijobs.net](http://hijobs.net)

# PUBLIC NOTICES

## Rectification of First Registration of a Croft

A rectification has been made to the croft 1 Stronaba, Kilmonivaig 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 September 3, 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 C6265

## CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD

### DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED

J Cutlack  
3 Fanmore, Kilninian & Kilmore  
101019  
0.111 ha  
Reason – Proposed new development  
Condition – With fencing and use conditions

R Campbell  
10 Cornaigbeg, Tiree  
101015  
0.20ha  
Reason – Proposed new development  
Condition – With fencing  
  
Full details at [www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk)

## Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

## MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 LOCH FEOCHAN

Notice is hereby given that P Kenyon has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of new mooring at:

Cost	>£2500	
Location	Latitude	Longitude
LOCH FEOCHAN	56° 21.406 N	005° 29.526 W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Oban Library Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email to: [MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot](mailto:MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot), quoting reference: 07151 and P Kenyon.

### Fair Processing Notice

The Scottish Government's Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) determine applications for marine licences under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. During the consultation process any person having an interest in the outcome of the application may make representation to MS-LOT. The representation may contain personal information, for example a name or address. This representation will only be used for the purpose of determining an application and will be stored securely in the Scottish Government's official corporate record. Representations will be shared with the applicant and/or agent acting on behalf of the applicant, any people or organisations that we consult in relation to the application and, where necessary, be published online, however personal information will be removed before sharing or publishing.

A full privacy notice can be found at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine/PrivacyNotice>. If you are unable to access this, or you have any queries or concerns about how your personal information will be handled, contact MS-LOT at: [ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot](mailto:ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot) or Marine Scotland - Licensing Operations Team, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB.

### Lodge St. Modan No 985

The Installation Meeting of RWM Elect Br Alan MacLeod and Office Bearers will be held on Saturday 11th January 2020 at 4pm in the Masonic Hall, Taynuilt. Installing Masters Robert Cruickshanks PM 985

Iain Alexander PM 985  
Hamish Emslie PM 985  
Harmony to follow.

The Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday 15th January 2020 at 7.45pm.  
Annual Business Meeting (no degree being worked).

## Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

## Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

### Argyll and Bute Council

#### Councillor Jim Lynch (E.W.4 Oban South and the Isles)

Councillor Lynch will be holding surgeries during the month of JANUARY 2020 as follows:

DATE	VENUE	TIME
Friday 10th January	Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban	2.00pm - 4.00pm
Tuesday 21st January	Soroba Community Centre, 8A Scalpay Terrace, Soroba	6.00pm - 8.00pm

He can be contacted by email – [Jim.Lynch@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:Jim.Lynch@argyll-bute.gov.uk) and by telephone 01631 567893

#### Councillor Sir Jamie McGrigor (E.W.4 Oban South and the Isles)

Councillor Sir McGrigor will be holding a surgery on Friday 24th January 2020 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 10.00am – 12 Noon.

He can be contacted by email – [Jamie.McGrigor@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:Jamie.McGrigor@argyll-bute.gov.uk) and by telephone 01631 567853

#### Councillor Kieron Green (E.W.5 Oban North and Lorn)

Councillor Green will be holding a surgery on Friday 17th January 2020 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 2.00pm – 4.00pm.

He can be contacted by email – [Kieron.Green@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:Kieron.Green@argyll-bute.gov.uk) and by telephone 01631 562 444

#### Councillor Elaine Robertson (E.W.5 Oban North and Lorn)

Councillor Robertson will be holding a surgery on Friday 24th January 2020 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 2.00pm – 4.00pm.

Councillor Robertson can also be contacted by email – [Elaine.Robertson@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:Elaine.Robertson@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

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## ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES

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CENTENARY COINS - in booklet. £25 including P&P, £25.00 Telephone 01475726360  
VINTAGE STUFFED HOBBY FALCON - Museum piece, stuffed Hobby, with prey, on a stand, very old but in fair condition. Collectable. Campbeltown, £15.00 Telephone 01586554537  
7 OBSERVERS BOOKS, OLD" - Set of 7 vintage observers books, wild flowers, dogs, cats, lichens, butterflies, horses, moths. All 7 for fifteen pounds, can deliver. Campbeltown, £15.00 Telephone 01586 554537  
PORSCHE BACKPACK - in black. 100" polyester. Totally unmarked and unused. Half price including P&P, £45.00 Telephone 01475726360

A.R. Brown SIGNED BADGE, EAGLE - Old badge, brooch, signed by A.R. Brown, Eagle, pewter. Campbeltown, £5.00 Telephone 01586554537  
SALMON BADGE, signed A.R. BROWN - Pewter salmon tie pin, hat pin, brooch, badge, signed by A.R. Brown, ex. Condition, can email photo, Campbeltown. £5.00 Telephone 01586554537  
Pewter Falcon badge, A.R. Brown - Flying bird

of prey badge, in pewter, signed by A.R. Brown. for hat, tie, badge, brooch. Can email photo. Campbeltown, £5.00 Telephone 01586554537  
PEREGRINE ON GLOVE BADGE, BOXED - Pewter boxed jewellery, falcon on glove, badge, brooch, signed A.R. Brown, new in box, Kit Heath jewellery, lovely gift, can email photo. Campbeltown, £10.00 Telephone 01586554537

## BOOKS

THE BARN OWL, POYSER - Bunn, Warburton and Wilson monograph, excellent condition, with dust cover. Stunning book. Part of collection of Poysers. (Gos/Spar/Gyr/etc) Campbeltown, £10.00 Telephone 01586554537  
HAMLYN TREES - Hamptons guide to Trees of Britain and Europe, by Humphries/Press and Sutton. 1000 colour pics. Part of hubby's collection of books, £3.00 Telephone 01586554537

DK HANDBOOK OF TREES - By Allen J. Coombes, Part of hubby's collection of books on wildlife, birds, orchids, gardening etc. Ex. condition. Campbeltown, £3.00 Telephone 01586554537

Collins Guide to Trees - By G. Aas and A. Reidmiller, Good Condition, Campbeltown, £3.00 Telephone 01586554537  
WILDLIFE BOOKS - 1) Field guide to Wildlife of B. Isles Tomsett, 2) Collins complete British Wildlife, photos Sterry, 3) R.H.S Wildlife gardening for all. C/ town, £5.00 Telephone 01586554537

5 POCKET GUIDES, NATURE - Wild flowers, butterflies, coastal birds, and 2 birdwatchers pocket guides, set for five pounds, with dust jackets. All near new. Campbeltown, £5.00 Telephone 01586554537  
2 PLANT MANUALS, R.H.S - Quality RHS plant guides, Propagation and Pruning, Ex. Condition, set for five pounds. Campbeltown, £5.00 Telephone 01586554537

## BUILDING / DIY

REPLACEMENT CHIMNEY POTS - for older houses, ornate Victorian/Edwardian pots in various sizes and colour, £40.00 Telephone 01631564578

## CARS AND CAR PARTS

UNDER £250  
BMW E46 3 SERIES COUPE SILL - Genuine BMW part and unused. ono, £80.00 Telephone 01631564578

## DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

DYSON BALL UPRIGHT CLEANER - Small, good working condition with instructions. Reasonable offers. Telephone 01546 602563, Telephone 01546602563

AEG DOUBLE OVEN - Electric, brushed steel finish. Good working order. 8 years old. Can deliver, £80 ono Telephone 01631730323

LEC FRIDGE FREEZER - 10.5 cubic feet. Can deliver, £90 ono, Telephone 01631730323

BOSCH FRIDGE FREEZER - 12.5 cubic feet, good condition, can deliver. £80 ono Telephone 01631730323

## DOMESTIC PETS

HUNTAWAY X BORDER COLLIE PUPS - for sale. Ready to go now. From excellent working parents that can both be seen working. Inveraray. Call S McKillop, £250.00 Telephone 07876225665

EQUESTRIAN BLACK DRESSAGE SADDLE - Reactor panel Avant Garde 16.5 inch, wide fit black dressage saddle, £1,500 Telephone 07834806335

## FURNITURE

Pine headboard - to fit Double Bed, £20 Telephone 01852200256  
Pine Bedroom Chest of

Drawers - 3 large + 2 small drawers. H80cm, W84cm, D39cm, £45. Telephone 01852200256

Pine Bedroom Cabinet - 3 drawers. H66cm, W58cm, D44cm, £35 Telephone 01852200256

2 x Pine Bedside Cabinets - 2 drawers H44cm, W45cm, D35cm. £15 each, £30 Telephone 01852200256

DESK - Mahogany with Queen Anne legs, 3 drawers. W x 31" (79cm) D x 17" (43cm) H x 39" (100cm). Telephone 07900862835 (Ardrihaig), £15.00 Telephone 07900862835

Pine headboard - Double bed size., £20.00 Telephone 01852200256

## GARDEN

VINTAGE STEEL GARDEN ROLLER - Small vintage steel garden roller. Excellent painted conditions. Suit smaller garden or makes a nice feature, £90 Telephone 01631564578

VINTAGE CART WHEELS - and smaller implement wheels. Colourful garden display items, £30 Telephone 01631564578

VINTAGE CHIMNEY POTS - in various sizes and styles, make lovely garden planters. Prices from £40, Telephone 01631564578

## HOBBIES AND CRAFTS

PEARLISED PAPER & CARD - white, blue and pink colours in stock, available in A3/A4/A5 sizes, from 13p per sheet. Contact Krisp Print, £0.13 Telephone 01586554975

## HOME ENTERTAINMENT

SHARP MUSIC SYSTEM - CD Player, tape recorder, radio. Two speakers. Remote controlled. Good working conditions. Reasonable offers. Telephone 01546 602563, Telephone 01546602563

## HOME FURNISHINGS

Framed W. Heaton Cooper Print - Early Morning Grasmere 60cm x 48cm. Website price £120 selling for £45, Telephone 07770732498

VINTAGE MAHOGANY - turned wood standard lamp 1.3 metres with peach shade vgc, £60 Telephone 01852300025

VINTAGE STYLE WROUGHT IRON - table lamp 50cm high with peach shade, £35 Telephone 01852300025

## HUNTING AND

## FISHING EQUIPMENT

SCOPE & BINOCULARS" - Gray & Co, Inverness spotting scope. No 1517. As new £950

Zeiss 8 x 56B binoculars £500 Swarovski EL 8.5 x 42WB, as new £950, Telephone 07790886646

## MARINE EQUIPMENT

RAY MARINE CHARTPLOTTER - 5inch GPS chart plotter, never used, still in box. ono, £300.00 Telephone 07709086934

## MISCELLANEOUS

LARGE WATER BARREL - Large, neglected old whisky barrel, strong but in sorry state, been used as water barrel in garden, years old. (Can email photo) Campbeltown, £10 Telephone 01586554537

## OUTDOOR SPORTING

EQUIPMENT  
Ice Axe - Unused Charlet Moser 800mm Ice Axe, £40 Telephone 01852200256

## PRINTING AND

STATIONERY  
THANK YOU CARDS - new baby or wedding, with a photo of your new arrival or big day. Truly individual, a treasured keepsake. Call Krisp Print, Telephone 01586554975

PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL - market your business effectively with professionally designed leaflets, posters and flyers from Krisp Print, Telephone 01586554975

## CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS

YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited. Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.  
1 Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.  
2 The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.  
3 The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.  
4 An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertisers' order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person.  
5 Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement.  
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## ENGAGEMENTS

**FRASER - STEPHEN** - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement on Boxing Day of Michael John, son of Catriona, Knipoch Place, Oban to Mhairi Nicola, daughter of Nick and Jackie, Mintlaw, Aberdeenshire.

## DEATHS

**BEATON** - Joseph (Joe) beloved husband of the late Eileen, passed away unexpectedly on December 29, 2019. Sadly missed by his sons, Colin & Joseph, their wives, his grandchildren, his brothers and sister, Sheena and all his extended family. Funeral mass will be at St Columba's Cathedral on Friday, January 10, at 10am. Thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donation's if desired for Mary's Meals. May he Rest in Peace.

**BUTTERFIELD** - Peacefully in the care of Raigmore hospital Inverness, Paul aged 52 years. A celebration of Paul's life will be held in the Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church Fort William at 1pm on Tuesday, January 14, 2020. Family flowers only please, donations if desired are welcome for ICU Raigmore Hospital and The Riding for the Disabled Association may be given at the Church. For any further enquiries please contact John McLellan Funeral Directors, Fort William.

**CAMPBELL** - Malcolm. Peacefully in Fairview Nursing Home, Bannockburn on Friday, January 3, 2020. Malcolm, late of Ledcharrie Farm, Luib, Glen Dochart. Beloved husband of Cheryl, much loved dad and loving grandad to his family. Funeral Service will be held on Wednesday, January 15, 2020 in Killin Parish Church at 11am, thereafter to Killin Cemetery. To which all family and friends are warmly invited. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Alzheimer's Scotland.

**CORMACK** (Fort William) - Peacefully in the loving care of Invernevis House, Fort William, Jean Cormack, on Sunday, December 29, 2019, aged 88 years. Funeral service will take place on Friday, January 10, 2020 at 12 noon in Kilmallie Parish Church, Corpach, thereafter to Glen Nevis Cemetery. Family flowers only please, donations are welcomed for Invernevis Care Home Resident's Fund. Any enquiries, please contact John McLellan Funeral Directors, Fort William.

**FLETCHER** - Peacefully, on January 3, 2020, at Mid Argyll Hospital, Lochgilphead, after a short illness, borne bravely, Duncan McColl Fletcher, in his 83rd year, of 16 St Clair Way, Ardrishaig, and formerly of Mo Dhachaidh, Tarbert Road, Ardrishaig, beloved husband of Elaine, much loved father of Mairi, Steven and the late Fiona, dearly loved papa of Hannah, Naomi, Innes, Freya, Isaac and Eli, and a dear brother, uncle and cousin to all the family. Funeral service will be held in Ardrishaig Parish Church, on Wednesday, January 15, 2020, at 1.00pm. Family flowers only please. Donations to Glenarary Ward, Mid Argyll Hospital. All friends are respectfully invited to attend.

**MACKINNON** - Lachlan, peacefully at home: Dunfoot, Balephetrish, Isle of Tiree on Saturday December 28, aged 94. Dear husband of Rena

(MacPhail), much loved dad of Margaret and Iain, adored papa of Kirsteen and devoted brother to Catriona. Sadly missed. "Gus am bris an là agus an teich na sgàilean."

**McDONALD** - Suddenly but peacefully, at home "Airdeny", Glenlonan, Taynuilt, on Thursday, January 2, 2020, in his 78th year, John (Lovat), devoted husband of Sheila, dad and friend to Cameron, much respected father-in-law to Nicola, grandad to Scott, Rachael and Anna, much loved by Steven and Gemma and great-grandad to Imogen, Connie and Innes, friend and work colleague to so many. A celebration of his life will take place at the Royal Hotel, Oban, on Saturday, January 11, 2020 at 12 noon

**McDONALD** - Peacefully at home at Achnacroish, Lismore on January 6 in her 100th year Margery Lucy McDonald widow of the late Dr Hector McDonald of Baligrundle, Lismore. Will be sadly missed. Funeral arrangements to follow.

**POPHAM** - Rick passed away at his home in Walkerburn on December 29, 2019. A celebration of our dear friend's life will take place at 12noon on Friday, January 17, at The Borders Crematorium, Melrose, TD6 9HA, and afterwards at the Henry Ballantyne Club, Caberston Road, Walkerburn.

**RICHMOND** - Suddenly, after an illness bravely borne, with her family by her side, at Tullich Croft, Soroba, Oban, on January 6, 2020, Johan Richmond in her 60th year, of 19 Croft Park, Tarbert. Beloved daughter of James (Jimmy) and Mary (McGlynn) Richmond. A cherished cousin, niece and very dear friend to many. Funeral service will be held at Tarbert Parish Church on Tuesday January 14, 2020, at 12noon, thereafter to Carrick Cemetery. Family flowers only. Donations to Tarbert Nursing Aid. All friends are respectfully invited to attend.

**THOMPSON** - Colin Mckim 1945-2019. Much loved husband, father and grandfather, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family on December 30, 2019 and will be sadly missed by all. The family would like to extend a special thank you to Anne and the nursing staff, for their support and care in his final months.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**BLACK** - Carol and family would like to thank everyone most sincerely for the cards, sympathy and comfort shown during their recent sad loss. Grateful thanks must go to Bowman Court staff, Craignure, community nurses and Mull and Iona Hospital for the great care given to Sheena, also support from Salen Surgery. A big thank you to the Rev. Louis Bezuidenhout for his kindness, support and uplifting service. Thanks also to Jim Auld for the compassion shown during the funeral arrangements. To all those who attended the service and for your generous donations, a sum of £700 was collected for Bowman Court and Macmillan Nurses. We would also like to express sincere thanks to Neil and family at the Lodge on the Loch Hotel for the beautiful spread provided after the funeral.

**MACGILLIVRAY** - The family of the late Margaret (Maggie Moss), wish to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their support and sympathy in their recent sad loss. For all the cards, letters, floral tributes and telephone calls. Special thanks to all staff at the Pines Medical Centre and Dal Mhor Care Home and everyone who offered their services. Manson and MacBeath for funeral arrangements. Heartfelt gratitude to Rev Fiona Ogg

for her comforting service. Our appreciation to everyone who paid their last respects at the church and graveside and donated generously to the collection. The sum of £635 has been donated to Dal Mhor Care Home. Moss, Acharacle.

**MACKAY** - The family of the late Malcolm MacKay would like to thank friends, neighbours and family for their support and messages during their recent loss. Special thanks to the staff at Mid Argyll Community Hospital and the Lorn and Islands District General Hospital for the care and kindness shown to Malcolm during his short illness. Further thanks to Ross MacPherson, Calum MacPhail and Ethel McCallum for their beautiful music in the church, to Margaret Sinclair for her service, Roddy and Fiona from Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors for their professional services and Donald and Kris Clark and the staff of the George Hotel, Inveraray for their hospitality. Sincere thanks to all those who paid their respects at the church and the graveside and donated generously to the retiral collection which raised over £1,200 for Macmillan Nurses.

**SCOTT** - Grace and family would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for cards, flowers, messages of sympathy and support shown to them on their recent sad loss. To all staff at the Lorn and Islands Hospital who cared for Wilson over the last few months. Rev Dugald Cameron and Donald Mackinnon for a comforting service. Ian at D&A Munn for professional funeral arrangements. Soroba House Hotel for excellent buffet. Our very sincere thanks to the many who came to pay their last respects at the

church and graveside. Retiral collection raised £1,200 for Erskine Hospital Residents Fund.

## MEMORIAMs

**BRIGHTMORE** - In loving memory of my dear father, Eric who died January 8, 2009 and my dear mother Mary, who died January 21, 2000. Loved and remembered every day.

- Catherine, John, Clair and John, Corpach.

**HEAP** - In loving memory of a beloved husband, dad, father-in-law and grandad Robert (Bob), who died January 12, 2018.

Those special memories of you Will always bring a smile If only we could have you back For just a little while

Then we could sit and talk again

Just like we used to do You always meant so very much

And always will do too The fact that you're no longer here

Will always cause us pain But you're forever in our hearts Until we meet again.

- Your loving wife Isabel and sons Robert and Joe xxx

The day you left and gained your wings

Our hearts just broke in two We wish you could have stayed with us

But Heaven needed you You left us lots of memories And we love you dearly still

No matter how much time goes by

You know we always will. You were a very special man With kindness in your heart

And the love we had together Grows stronger now we're apart

We know we cannot bring you back

Although we wish it every day But a piece of us went with you

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- Lorraine, Louis, Sophie and Morgan xxxx

Also remembering a dear son and brother Edward (Eddie) who died April 4, 1979, aged 18 years and our lovely dog Buster who left a paw print on our hearts xx

**HOUGHTON** - In loving memory of my dear parents Muriel and Davie and brother Michael.

Loved and missed every day.  
- Linda and family.

**JOHNSTON** - In loving memory of Bridget who died January 11 2018.

Special memories.

-Your loving family x

**MACDONALD** - Treasured memories of Eileen, dearly loved mum of Phillip, precious daughter of Margaret and sister of Colin and Karen, taken from us on January 6, 2008. Also remembering loved ones gone before.

To us you were so special  
What more is there to say  
We only wish with all our hearts

That you were here today.  
Sorely missed.

- The family, 14 Corran Brae, Oban.

**MACDONALD** - In loving memory of my dearest niece Eileen Susan, died January 6, 2008, age 41 years.

A daily thought  
A silent tear

A constant wish that you were here

Cherished memories.

- Auntie Eileen and cousin Rhea.

**MACIVER** - Treasured memories of dear Duncan, who died January 12, 2007. Remembered with love.

- Chrissie and Rob, Colin and Jocelyn, Lindsay and Kevin and Families.

**MACLEOD** - In loving memory of our dearly loved son Douglas who was accidentally drowned at Largs Marina on January 13, 2007.

The call was sudden

The shock severe

To lose a son we loved so dear  
As thoughts drift back

As they often do

We cherish the memories we have of you.

- Mum, Dad and brother Gordon.

**MACMILLAN** - In fond and loving memory of our dear son, Mark, who died January 14, 1991 aged 15 years.

Deep in our hearts you will always stay

Loved and remembered every day

Love you always.

- Dad, Mum and family, Ballachulish.xx

**MACMILLAN** - Mark.

Miss you always.

Love you.

- Jane xxx

**MORRISON** - In loving memory of Johnny, who passed away on January 3, 2008. Sadly missed by us all.

- Catherine, John, Karen, Alan and families.

Forever in my thoughts.

- Mum.

**PALMER** - Roberta (Gaga), January 14, 2018.

You brought me into this world

My hand was on your heart as you left it

Nothing will ever fill the gap you left in mine.

- Mary x.

**ROBERTSON** - In loving memory of my dear husband George and our dearest dad, who passed away on January 6, 2011.

Not just today but every day  
In silence we remember.

- Margaret, sons George and Lorne and daughter-in-law Helen. xx



Oban lifeboat Mora Edith MacDonald was called out twice in the first week.

## Busy start to 2020 for Oban lifeboat volunteers

Oban RNLB lifeboat Mora Edith MacDonald has had a busy start to 2020 having been launched twice to two separate incidents in the first week of the new year, making it a hectic period for the volunteers.

The first call came at 7.26pm on Friday January 3 following reports of a red flare sighting in Loch Melfort.

Oban lifeboat made best speed towards the location, along with Oban's Coastguard team and the Coastguard's Search and Rescue Helicopter.

Arriving on scene by 8.30pm, Oban lifeboat conducted a shoreline search of the area. With a thorough search conducted by all parties and nothing found, the search was stood down.

Oban lifeboat returned to station where she was refuelled and made ready for service again by 10.45pm.

Then, shortly before 10am on the morning of Saturday January 4, the volunteer crew were called on again.

A yacht had parted from its mooring in Connel bay and had run aground.

The lifeboat launched on service at 10.15am with a crew of seven.

While it had been established that there were no persons on board the vessel, given the nature of the tides in the area, near the Falls of Lora, the decision was made to refloat and secure the vessel.

The lifeboat launched their daughter craft, the 'XP boat', to pass a tow line across to the vessel. It soon came clear of the shore and was taken in an alongside tow to a nearby mooring where it was safely secured.

Oban lifeboat returned to station where she was made ready for service again by 12.30pm.

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Newly hung upon the Church Centre office wall is my official Heart of Midlothian FC 2020 calendar.

Each month features various players all kitted out in maroon and white. My guess is that few of them will be sporting these colours come the end of January.

Our season has been terrible thus far. Hearts languish at the bottom of the Premiership. My calendar does not bode well for happy memories to be made.

It is fair to say that well beyond the world of fitba, there is a lot of trepidation in the air. We are facing uncertain times at all levels and perhaps lack the leadership and direction to meet these global challenges.

In churches in January, the Prologue to John's Gospel is often read. In a very different way from the other accounts of the birth of Christ it tells of the significance of 'God with us'.

To quote John's Gospel: 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God ... what has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.'

The Gospel reminds us that wherever there is God there is light. If we head towards that which is of the light; goodness, compassion, justice, truth, love then God is there. Our prayer should be that in all the efforts that must be made in 2020 to recover the balance in our environment by tackling climate change we each affirm the light.

My Jambos calendar may soon be irrelevant; the truth of God coming alongside will provide us with the energy to face the year, eyes open and ready to do what is right. Why? For we go ahead into a new year in the certainty of God's presence.

Rev Dugald Cameron,  
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# Lovat beat Beaully to retain

Lovat won the Lovat Cup for the fifth successive year, beating Beaully 3-1 at Balgait on Thursday January 2.

This was the first match in charge for new Lovat co-managers Alan MacRae and Jamie Matheson who had Drew Howie back at wing centre following his return from travelling abroad for a year.

There was also a start for Bailey MacKay in midfield with Marc MacLachlan, Chris Johnson and Lewis Bryson making up the bench. Duncan Davidson and Martin Mainland were missing.

Beaully, who last won the trophy in 2015, have former boss Roger Cormack, stalwart Jamie MacLennan and first team regular Sean Stewart looking after the side this season and they named an 18-player squad for the 1pm throw-up.

The usual good crowd from throughout the shinty community gathered for the game. There was a minute's silence ahead of throw-up following the death of Beaully stalwart and former president and Camanachd Association patron Willie MacDonald.

Greg Matheson, so influential in this fixture in recent years, lined-up in the Lovat attack after missing the 2019 encounter with a knee injury. He wasted no time making his mark as he gave his side the lead in the opening minute. Fraser Heath won a long ball forward from full centre Callum Cruden and played it inside to Lewis Tawse whose reverse ball went into the 'D'. Beaully keeper MacKay Murray came off his line to clear from the right of the 'D', under pressure from Greg Matheson, but Lewis Tawse regained possession, touching the ball forward to Matheson who blasted home from a tight angle on the left.

Beaully had a chance on eight minutes when Callum Flynn got away from Danny Kelly. Flynn knocked the ball forward, then got to it before keeper Stuart MacDonald, who raced from his line. But Flynn's shot from the left flew across goal.

Lovat doubled their lead on 10 minutes. Lorne MacKay's short free-hit from a central position found

Lewis Tawse with his back to goal. Tawse took a touch inside before turning and hammering the ball into the net to make it 2-0.

Greg Matheson saw a strike come back off the post on 40 minutes and, with a couple of first half minutes remaining, Beaully's Jack MacDonald was foiled when Stuart MacDonald made a great save with his stick from MacDonald's well-struck shot.

Greg Matheson hit the post for a second time on 55 minutes and Lorne MacKay struck the outside of the stanchion from the re-bound.

Beaully rallied though and never let their heads drop.

With rain now falling and the pitch cutting up, 69 minutes were played before Greg Matheson got his second and Lovat's third. A fine ball down the left from Graeme MacMillan allowed Fraser Heath to spin away from Angus Renwick. Heath cut in to the front of the 'D' but couldn't get a shot away.

Matheson ran across goal from the right, taking a touch on the run, before firing a shot, on his back-hand, low across the keeper into the corner of the net from the left of the 'D'.

Greg Matheson was denied a hat-trick on 77 minutes when he had the ball in the net but his effort didn't count as one of his team-mates was offside. Beaully pulled a goal back with 10 minutes remaining. Jack MacDonald played a bouncing ball wide to David Fraser on the right who caught out the Lovat rear-guard as he volleyed a superb shot over keeper Stuart MacDonald's right shoulder to make the final score 3-1.

Lovat captain Callum Cruden was presented with the Lovat Cup by Lord Lovat Simon Fraser and the celebrations carried over to the club's annual dance the same evening.

Calum Girvan was the match referee, assisted by goal judges Finlay Ross and Tina Marshall.

## Kingussie 2020 come out on top

The Kingussie 2020 squad lifted the Bob Sinclair Memorial Trophy with



The victorious Lovat squad after beating Beaully 3-1 to lift the Lovat Cup. Photographs: Neil Paterson

a 3-1 victory over the Kingussie All-Stars at Market Stance on New Year's Day.

Goals from James Falconer for the 2020 side and Louis Munro for the All-Stars saw the score level at 1-1 at half-time. Savio Genini and Ryan MacWilliam netted after the break to give the Kingussie 2020 squad a 3-1 victory.

When referee Davie Anderson blew for time, the Bob Sinclair Memorial Trophy was presented to Kingussie 2020 captain Rory MacKeachan by Kingussie stalwart Donnie Grant who also presented James Hutchison and Fraser Munro with their 2019 Mowi Premiership medals after the pair missed the final league game of the season at Kyles Athletic.

## Neil Carmichael is Oban Celtic Player of the Year

Neil Carmichael has been named 2019 Oban Celtic senior player of the year.

Speaking following a well-attended prizegiving event, Oban Celtic assistant manager Les Kinvig said: "Neil is a leader on and off the pitch and he would run through a brick wall for Oban Celtic. He always gives his all and has a great attitude, second to none. He showed that when he came back into the side early to help out following injury.

"Neil's also a role model for our younger players and we miss him when he's not in the team."

Oban Celtic second team keeper Rebecca McPhee was the junior player of the year. Les Kinvig also commented on the important part she had played for the side that finished third in Mowi South Division 2 last season. "Rebecca came into the side early in the season and saved the team on many occasions. She has been a consistent player over the year and her performances at Bute and Aberdour in particular kept us

in these games.

"Rebecca doesn't shy away from any challenge and is not intimidated by anything. Her commitment is never in doubt and she often rearranges her work so she can train and play."

The senior players' player of year and went to Ross MacMillan, with the junior players' player of year going to Jigme Jones.

The Oban Celtic youths were recognised for their contributions this season with Jamie Anderson collecting the U17 player of the year prize and Duncan MacEwan picking up the U14 player of the year award.

Top scorer accolades went to Ross MacMillan for the seniors and Scott Burnett for the juniors.

First team manager Dougie MacIntyre and his assistant Les Kinvig presented the prizes on the night.

Oban Celtic's pre-season training starts in mid-January. Les Kinvig said: "It will be great to have Craig MacMillan back, whilst Lennon Campbell and Peter Currie weren't with us at the same stage last season so it will be beneficial to have them go through pre-season."

Les also paid tribute to the club's second team, adding: "Having a second team was a huge help for the Oban Celtic first team last season. It not only gives our young players regular game time and a chance to shine but also means they have match practice when they are called up for the seniors."

Oban Celtic have already arranged a pre-season friendly against Mowi Premiership side Kyles Athletic at Dunoon on Saturday February 15 and are currently putting together the remainder of their pre-season programme.

## Oban Camanachd and Lochside Rovers pre-season plans

Oban Camanachd and Lochside Rovers' pre-season plans are almost

complete and they will be hoping for good weather so the matches can go ahead during the weeks in the lead up to the new shinty season.

Oban Camanachd welcome Inveraray to Mossfield for their first pre-season friendly on Saturday February 1.

A week later, the Oban side hope to host Ballachulish, although this game is still to be confirmed.

Glasgow Mid Argyll's first and second teams visit Oban on Saturday February 15. The senior sides will meet at Mossfield, whilst Lochside Rovers will play the GMA seconds at Ganavan.

Oban Camanachd welcome Newtonmore to Mossfield on Saturday February 22 whilst Lochside meet the Newtonmore reserves at Ganavan the same day.

Oban Camanachd and Lochside Rovers have yet to secure friendly matches for Saturday February 29 and have put out an open invitation to potential opponents for a fixture. They will play a mixed game if opponents can't be found.

The new shinty season starts on Saturday March 7.

## Oban Camanachd training

Oban Camanachd and Lochside Rovers started their pre-season training at Oban High School on Wednesday January 8.

Wednesday sessions run from 8pm till 9pm, whilst personal trainer Jemma Campbell will put the squad through their paces on Monday evenings, beginning on January 13.

Oban Camanachd and Lochside Rovers are on the lookout for more players who are welcome to attend these sessions.

## Kilmallie training under way

Kilmallie's weekly training for



Lovat's Craig Mainland and Beaully's Euan MacCormick during the Lovat Cup match.

# Lovat Cup

the new shinty season started at Lochaber High School's between 8pm and 9pm on Tuesday January 7. Training continues at the all-weather pitch at Lochaber High School from 7pm to 8.30pm tonight (Thursday January 9).

It's another big season for the club as they retained their Mowji Premiership status last term.

## Lochaber training starts

Lochaber Camanachd Club began senior training on Wednesday January 8.

The Wednesday sessions take place at the club's Spean Bridge pitch at 7pm. Friday night training sessions start at the Nevis Centre on Friday January 10 at 7.30pm.

Lochaber Ladies started their preparations at Lochaber High School's astro pitch on Monday January 6 at 6.30pm. There are also Wednesday sessions at Spean Hall at 7pm. Players of all abilities are welcome.

New players for any of the club's team will be made welcome.

## Orsten Gardner is new Newtonmore boss

Orsten Gardner is the new Newtonmore first team manager.

Gardner's appointment at the Camanachd Cup and MacTavish Cup holders was confirmed at Newtonmore's annual general meeting.

Orsten Gardner takes over from Paul John MacKintosh whose recent tenure yielded five Camanachd Cups, five league titles, two Macaulay Cups and four MacTavish Cups.

Speaking after the appointment,

former Newtonmore second team manager Orsten Gardner said: 'I'm told last year was a disaster for Newtonmore as we only won two trophies compared to Kingussie's amazing season when they also won two trophies. So our plans for the season ahead are to build on last year as a club whilst also hopefully avoiding as many injuries and, of course, winning more trophies.'

Cammy MacDonald and Glen Tonkin are coming in to help Orsten, whilst Tony Robinson, Grant Munro and Stephen MacLean remain part of the backroom team.

When asked about his squad for next season, Orsten added: '@I'm not sure exactly which players are staying or playing again. I won't know for sure until pre-season training begins and I see who turns up. It's a clean slate for everyone so I'm hoping they all take the chance.'

There will also be the opportunity for players from the league-winning second team to stake a place.

'Obviously the boys I've managed over the last two years with the seconds are all in my mind and I strongly believe Calum Stewart can take the league by storm if fit. Young Struan Ross is coming in after playing for Strathspey so it will be interesting to see how he develops and if he challenges for a place.'

Newtonmore will train three times during pre-season and already have five friendly matches arranged.

They travel to play Glenurquhart on Saturday February 1 and are also on the road a week later as they head for Beaully.

Further trips to Caberfeidh on Saturday February 15 and Oban Camanachd a week after follow before Fort William visit the Eilan on Saturday February 29 for the home club's open day.

Continued on page 52



Beaully keeper Mackay Murray saves from Lovat's Lorne MacKay.



# SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

## WIN A GUARANTEED £2K



THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT  
£4150

IF NO ONE WINS THE JACKPOT FROM THIS GAME WE WILL GIVE THE CLOSEST ENTRY A GUARANTEED £2000 FROM THE JACKPOT FUND

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph below. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

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**  
Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 2pm Monday 13th January 2020. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline.  
You may hand it into any of our offices - The Oban Times, Lochavullin, Oban; The Lochaber Times, High Street, Fort William; The Campbelltown Courier, Main Street, Campbelltown 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

decision rests with the Company.  
In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company. The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Winners agree to have their photograph taken for publicity purposes. Winners' names and home towns will appear in the newspaper. Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition. Entry data will be deleted/destroyed within 30 days of the competition entry deadline and in a manner appropriate to GDPR regulations. Entrant's details will not be used for any other activity.



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tape your  
£1 coin here  
(only if posting)



Lovat's Graeme MacMillan is chased down by Beauly's Euan MacCormick. Photograph: Neil Paterson.

### Continued from page 51

Peter Ross takes over from Orsten Gardner as Newtonmore second team manager in Mowi North Division 1 after being involved with Strathspey Camanachd. He is tasked with keeping bleeding the club's younger players.

## Kenny Ross makes top 50 Scottish sporting stars

Newtonmore keeper Kenny Ross has been included in BBC Scotland's top 50 greatest Scottish sporting stars of the last decade.

Kenny Ross came in at number 50 with the following testimony: 'Shinty is shoved to the margins as far as national sports coverage is concerned, but there are great stories to be told and Kenny Ross is one of the best.'

'A former Scotland international, a Scotland assistant manager, a player who made his reputation as a midfielder with Lochcarron before switching to keeping goal for Newtonmore, Ross has won everything there is to win. In the last decade, when his best days were supposed to be behind him, he's won Camanachd Cups, MacTavish Cups, Premiership titles and player of the year awards.'

'Ross will turn 50 in 2020. What we see in him is a man who adores his sport, who plays for the sheer love of it. You have to have talent to last as long as he has, but talent without passion wouldn't be enough. He's perhaps the lowest-key member of our Top 50, but he deserves his place all the same.'

Members of the public nominated their top sporting Scots of the decade and 25 sports were represented as a panel ranked them from

50-1 with advice sought from experts where necessary.

Kenny Ross was shinty's only representative.

Former Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson came third; Scotland and Liverpool defender Andy Robertson was second, with tennis icon Andy Murray top of the pile.

## Willie MacDonald, Beauly

One of shinty's best known and popular personalities, Willie MacDonald from Beauly, died peacefully at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, surrounded by his family on Monday December 23 after a spell of ill health.

Willie MacDonald first became involved with Beauly Shinty Club in the early 1970s and went on to serve the club in a number of roles including president for six years until 2007. He was made a life member of the club in 2015.

Willie MacDonald was likeable and enthusiastic and will have been a contact point for many clubs as he sold the Beauly shinty balls on behalf of the club.

He also made a wider contribution to the game and was a long-serving member of the Camanachd Association's Disciplinary Committee.

He was made a patron of the association to mark his services to shinty.

Better known by the nickname 'Black Will', Willie MacDonald was just four weeks short of his 94th birthday. He is survived by his wife Isabell, children Alice, Ian, David and Alan, seven grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

There was a large shinty turnout when Willie MacDonald's funeral took place in the Free Church, Muir of Ord on Tuesday January 7.

# Renfrew Town come to town



After a four-week festive lay-off, Oban Saints return to action this Saturday afternoon with a crunch Scottish Amateur Cup fifth round tie against Renfrew Town.

The winners will progress to the last 16 of the national cup competition.

Saturday's opponents rejoined the Glasgow and District Saturday Morning League for the start of this season after a four-year absence and appear to have re-grouped well following their sabbatical.

### Sixth place

2014-15 Premier Division Champions Renfrew Town currently occupy sixth place in Glasgow and District Saturday Morning League Division One, nine points behind leaders Bellahouston, but with five games in hand.

Renfrew kicked off their league campaign with a thumping 12-1 victory over the fantastically named AC Milanda and have collected maximum points in four of their other five Division One fixtures.

Town's only reverse of the league campaign so far came in Paisley at the hands of close neighbours and fellow title hopefuls Moorpark Athletic.

The Renfrew men have suf-



Oban Saints will be hoping to progress to the last 16 of the Scottish Amateur Cup with a win over Renfrew Town on Saturday. Match preview and photographs: Derek Black.

fered only one other defeat in their first five months back in competitive action which saw them exit the Glasgow and District Saturday Morning League Vince McGlinchy Trophy at the quarter final stage after losing out to Premier Division Cleland.

The Scottish Amateur Cup campaign began for Renfrew Town with a 3-1 home win over Law Community of the Strathclyde Evangelical Churches Premier Division.

Next up was the first in a run of four away ties which matched Renfrew against local rivals Erskine. It was the Renfrew men who emerged victorious defeating Greater Glasgow Premier Amateur Football League Division One



Craig MacEwan heads the first of his two goals against Vale of Earn in round two.

high flyers by two goals to nil.

Round three took Renfrew to Dundee to face Dundee Saturday Morning First Division promotion chasers Charlie Accies. The recently-formed Accies gave the newly-reformed Townies their stiffest test yet and were unlucky to lose out by the odd goal in three.

After taking the lead and hitting the woodwork twice, the Dundee men conceded twice from set pieces which saw Renfrew Town through to the fourth round and another trip east.

### No match

Despite enjoying home advantage, Ormiston from the lower reaches of the Lothian and Edinburgh Amateur Football Association were no match for their west coast opponents and Renfrew ran out 3-1 victors, setting up this Saturday's encounter with Oban Saints.

Saints progressed to this stage of the competition with a bye in the first round.

Round two saw the Oban side paired with Perthshire outfit Vale of Earn and it took two games and penalties kicks for Saints to march in to round three. The first game in Oban finished 4-4 with the replay in Crieff ending in a 3-3 draw, with Saints winning

the penalty shoot-out 4-3.

There was no such drama in the third round tie at a damp Garscube Sports Complex where Saints recorded a comfortable 4-1 win.

Saints made the gruelling 410 mile round trip to the chilly North East for round four and a re-match with last season's conquerors Rothie Rovers, but the D & K Lafferty sponsored Oban side progressed to the fifth round with a hard-fought 3-0 win.

Unlike almost every other cup competition in amateur football, the Scottish Amateur Cup still includes replays therefore a re-match will follow at Renfrew's King George V pitches in seven days if the two sides cannot be separated after 90 minutes. Despite the winter solstice having passed several weeks ago, daylight still remains in short supply therefore kick-off has been moved to the earlier time of 1pm.

Recent heavy rain may also force a switch of venue from the grass at Glencruitten to the all-weather 3G surface at Oban High School.

A decision on this will be delayed until later in the week.

In charge of proceedings will be experienced whistler Mr Gerry Reid.



Donald Campbell makes it 2-1 to Saints in the third round tie away to Westerlands.



Cammy Hill scores the third goal against Rothie Rovers in round four.

# Robert MacIntyre reveals his goals for next season

by David McPhee  
dmcph@obantimes.co.uk



*In part two of our interview with Robert MacIntyre, the golfing sensation outlines his goals for the coming year and takes a look back at his 2019 highlights.*

When Robert MacIntyre steps back onto the golf course on January 16, he will have one thing on his mind - securing a place in the top 50 players in the world.

The 23-year-old man from Glencruitten has set himself only one goal heading into his second season on the European Tour - making the top 50, which would allow him to play in the Masters.

'I have only really set out one goal and I am shooting for the stars just now,' Bob told The Oban Times when he was back for Christmas.

'That is simply top 50 in the world. The position I am in, I am trying to play all the big events, whether it is European Tour, PGA Tour, play the biggest events in the world to boost the world rankings.'

'If I can play Augusta [where the Masters will be held] and I walk away at the end of the year and I can't play another round of golf, I can walk away

having done everything I wanted to do in golf.'

With only one European season to his name, the 2019 Rookie of the Year has already accomplished a lot.

Last season, he played 30 events, making 25 cuts, with seven top 10 finishes. He is currently ranked 64th in the world.

'It has been better than I ever thought it would be in my first season,' he said. 'I set goals out and I knocked them out. The season overall, I could not have dreamed of being in the position I am now. I secured my card after the British Masters, which gave me freedom. I wasn't worried about trying to have playing rights for next year. It was just about trying to win golf tournaments, trying to get as high up in the world rankings as I could. It has been unbelievable.'

As season highlights go, being crowned Rookie of the Year was 'definitely up there', Bob said, but it was not the only accomplishment to make the cut.

'I will never forget the putt that I holed on the 18 at The Open and the roar that went up, not just from my family, but from the crowd around the 18th,' he said. 'It was one



Bob sitting on the famous Swilken Bridge at the Old Course, St Andrews during the Dunhill Links Championship Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.

## GOLF

of those putts you dream of. I have stood and watched opens, but it wasn't until I played them I thought 'wow, you are competing at the top level of golf.'

Bob came home at the end of the season in December to recuperate, however, he was unable to practice. He had to rest a bruised hand, which he been suffering with for a few weeks.

'It is about getting myself fit enough to go out and compete at the top level. I felt like the last five weeks I struggled because I can't play certain shots because of my hand.'

'I have had it since The Open. I felt it when I hit a pitch shot, but it really came to light in Sweden. That's when I got it checked out and it turned out it was a bruised bone. So it is about trying to get myself fit. I don't want to be worrying about hitting a certain shot and thinking my hand is going to be sore here. I need to be able to compete at the top level.'

When he was home, Bob might have had to take time off from golf, but he could not give up sport entirely.

'I will still be playing my indoor football,' he added.



Bob had a fantastic experience at the Open Championship at Royal Portrush, finishing in joint sixth place behind some of the world's top golfers - Shane Lowry, Tommy Fleetwood, Tony Finau, Bruce Koepka and Lee Westwood. Photograph: Bounce Sports.



Bob played with Rory McIlroy and Ricky Fowler in the Scottish Open held at the Renaissance Club, North Berwick in July. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.

OT

**BOWLING**

**Bowling in the New Year**



Oban bowlers welcomed in the new decade with their traditional bounce game on New Year's Day. Twenty four hardy sportsmen and women attended the gathering at Dalriach Road for a mixed fun match before retiring to the clubhouse for refreshments.

**GOLF**



Ian Wylie; Brien Dickie; Soydan Nihat, winner; Gordon McColl; John Taylor, second; Mark McDougall, third; and Bill Clark.

**Soydan wins 'Sair Heid' Trophy at Seil Golf Club**

Seventeen fairly sober players turned up at Seil Golf Club for the 'Sair Heid' Trophy at noon on New Year's Day.

Conditions were dry but windy and a great day was had by everyone. Results: 1 Soydan Nihat, 21; 2 John Taylor, 20; 3 Mark McDougall, 20; longest drive, Mark McDougall; nearest the pin at the fourth, Gordon McColl; at the eighth, George Hannah.

**FOOTBALL**

**Adult fixtures**

Fixtures: Saturday January 11 - Scottish Amateur Cup, fifth round - Oban Saints v Renfrew Town, kick-off 1pm; Greater Glasgow Premier League, Division Three - Oban Saints v Kirkfield United, kick-off 3pm; Scottish Amateur League, Jimmy Marshall Cup, first round - Clarendon v Dunoon; Glenburn Athletic v Lochgilphead Red Star; Neilston v Tarbert; St Convals v Campbeltown Pupils

**OBAN SAINTS YOUTHS**

**Youth fixtures**

Oban Saints Youth teams are back in action this Sunday, January 12, with the following fixtures: Under 13s v Cambuslang; Knightswood v Under 14s; Under 15s v Carmunnock and Under 17s v Cambuslang.

**Martial arts winter**

**Shukokai Karate**

Winter grading tests for the Shukokai clubs had the following results:

8th kyu: Zak Gilbank and Kate Macleod.

5th kyu: Harry McColl, Jack Wilson, Millie Mitchel, Issac Charlton and Finlay Henderson.

4th kyu: Tereza Konikowa, Ellis McKenna and Matthew MacDougal.

3rd kyu: Fracessa Warnock, Iain McEwan and Daniel May.

2nd kyu: Josh Mitchel, Elaine Mitchel and Michael Carol.

1st kyu: Daisy Mather.

3rd Dan: Andy Buchanan. Daisy Mather won the Nicky Conolly Shield for best student of 2019.

Anyone looking for more information on these clubs can get details from Kenny Gray on 07884 183905 or kenni.gray@btinternet.com



Andy Buchanan.



Daisy Mather.



Oban Kyokushinkai Karate Club members with their certificates. Back, left to right: Valeria Montalescot, Darryl McLaughlin and Sebastien Jubeau. Front, left to right: Stanislaw Kupczak, Florence Hill and Erik Turnewitsch.



Kara Blair, student of the year.

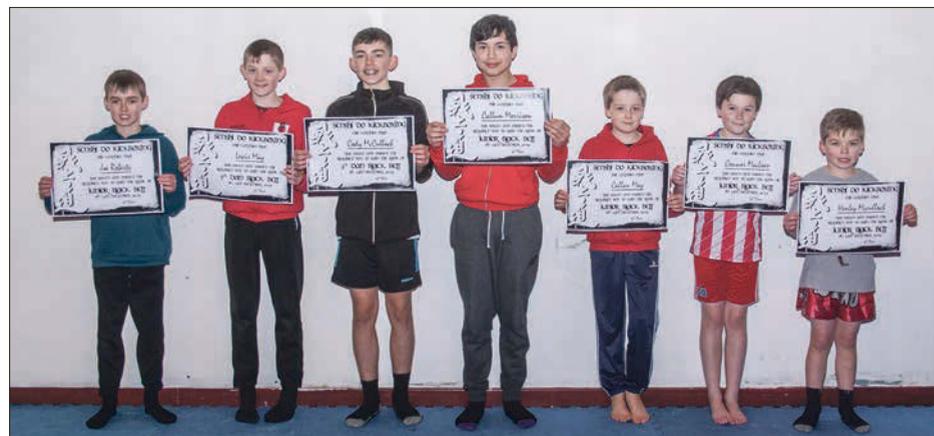


Charlie McLaughlin, 1st dan.

**Kyokushu**



Lochgilphead Kyokushinkai Karate Club members with their certificates. Back, left to right: Wallace Simpson; Chloe Burnett; Catriona Johnstone; Kay Neville; Fergus Bennett; Eve Salmon; Milly Quarton; Campbell Shaw; L and Ethan Lekalake. Front, left to right: Finn McClymont; Neve B Hampton; Joseph Brown; Kirby Chen; Sophie MacCallum; Mirrin B and Ruby Dunlop.



Members of Senshi Do Kick Boxing Club with their certificates.

**Kickboxing**

Senshi Do Kick Boxing held a black belt grading on Saturday December 14, which comprised of nearly three hours of hard training followed by 20 one minute fights for junior black belt and 30 one minute fights for 1st Dan Black Belt.

Gaining their junior black belts were Callan May; Joe Roberts; Callum Morrison; Connor MacLean and Henley McCulloch.

Attempting and passing 1st

# grading

Martial arts

IAIN RODGER  
editor@obantimes.co.uk



Members of the Shukokai clubs who took part in the grading.

# Shinkai Karate



Certificates: Back, left to right: Jamie Day; Beth Gregory; Leon Quarton; Wayne Lee Bowden; Kara Blair; Magnus Bowden; James Snelgrove

**GETINTOUCH**

email us at editor@obantimes.co.uk  
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The Oban and Lochgilphead clubs had their gradings over the weekend of December 14 and 15 with the following results:

10th Kyu (Red belt): Louise Pendreigh; Neve Bowden; Kirby Chen; Magnus Hampton and Joseph Brown.

9th Kyu (Red belt with Blue stripe): Chloe Burnett; Calum MacNeill; Violet Turnbull; Kara Blair; Aiden Law and Poppy Quarton.

8th Kyu (Blue belt): Andi MacFarlane; Catriona Johnstone; Siri Dawton; Kay Neville; Emma Skrzypowska; Erik Turnewitsch; Fergus Bennett and Jamie Day.

7th Kyu (Blue belt with Yellow stripe): Sophie MacCallum; Milly Quarton; Ruby Dunlop; Beth Gregory; Stanislaw Kupczak; Sebastien Jubeau; Valeria Montalescot and Darryl McLaughlin.

5th Kyu (Yellow belt with Green stripe): Mirrin Bowden; Leon Quarton and James Snelgrove.

4th Kyu (Green belt): Eve Salmon and Florence Hill.

3rd Kyu (Green belt with Brown stripe): Campbell Shaw; Morven McVey; Mina Ritchie; Ella MacKay and Wayne Lee.

1st dan (Black belt): Charlie McLaughlin.

The Caledonia Kyokushin Student of the year went to Kara Blair from the Lochgilphead dojo.

For details about the Kyokushinkai Karate classes contact Iain on 07584 166542 or email iain@ikku.co.uk

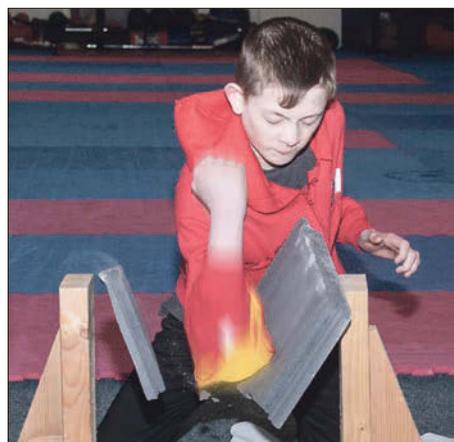
The club can also be found and messaged on Facebook under Caledonia Kyokushin.

Dan Black Belt were Cody McCulloch and Lewis May.

Coach Wullie Rodger said: 'Everyone worked really hard and did themselves and the club proud.'

Wednesday sessions restarted on January 8. Juniors are from 4.30pm until 6pm and Seniors from 6pm until 7.30pm. Sunday Juniors continue from 11am until 1pm. Beginners are always welcome.

Find the club on Facebook Senshi Do Kickboxing or email shihanwill@gmail.com



Lewis May.



Callum Morrison.



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## WEATHER

**Thursday**  
Light rain showers and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures  
3°C to 6°C.

**Friday**  
Light rain and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures  
7°C to 8°C.

**Weekend Outlook**  
**Saturday**  
Heavy rain and a moderate breeze  
**Sunday**  
Hail showers and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures  
6°C to 10°C.



## TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday January 9, 2020** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

	04.32	3.6	10.50	1.4
<b>Thur</b>	17.05	3.8	23.03	1.1
<b>Fri</b>	05.12	3.8	11.35	1.2
<b>Sat</b>	17.43	3.9	23.44	0.9
	05.51	3.9	12.19	1.0
	18.21	3.9	** ** *	**
<b>Sun</b>	00.26	0.7	06.30	4.0
	13.03	0.9	18.58	3.9
<b>Mon</b>	01.10	0.6	07.10	4.0
	13.48	0.9	19.38	3.8
<b>Tues</b>	01.54	0.6	07.53	4.0
	14.34	1.0	20.21	3.7
<b>Wed</b>	00.41	0.7	08.38	3.9
	15.23	1.1	21.07	3.5

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**

Martial arts winter grading

Soydan wins 'Sair Heid' Trophy at Seil Golf Club



Oban Lorne Ladies. Photographs: Stephen Lawson.



Oban Lorne Old Cocks.

## Six of the best for Saints GG

### FOOTBALL

Lovat Arms	0
Oban Saints GG	6
GGPL - Division Three	

Oban Saints' Greater Glasgow League team travelled to John Brown's Pitches, Clydebank, last Saturday to take on bottom of the table Lovat Arms.

And the Saints came home with a comfortable 6-0 win.

A 16-man squad made the trip to the central belt.

Saints opened the scoring in the fourth minute when Daniel Croarkin fired home from 18 yards. They went further ahead in the 24th minute when Martin Bonar was taken down in the box and Dean Smith slotted the ball home from the penalty spot.

Martin Bonar increased his side's lead in the 52nd minute when he got on the end of a bouncing ball in the Lovat goalmouth, then two goals in quick succession from Aaron McKay and Lewis Buchanan made the score 5-0.

Aaron McKay finished off a good afternoon's work for the Oban outfit to make the final score 6-0 and lift the team to top spot in the league.

The boys play third-placed Kirkfield United on the 3G pitch at Oban High School this Saturday, January 11, with a 3pm kick-off.

# All-star line-up enjoy rugby festive fun day

Oban Lorne RFC blew away the festive season cobwebs on Saturday with a brace of fixtures featuring rugby and non rugby characters.

Kicking off the festive fun day was a match up between Oban Ladies and Oban Old Cocks.

SRU president Dee Bradbury played a starring role for the ladies, while

Batman and a six-foot plus Christmas tree stood out in the Cocks squad.

Next up was an OLRFC Bulls v Sharks tie featuring many of the club's up-and-coming young stars and a few 'came and went ones'.

Families, children, players and past players joined in the fun on the field, which was followed by a hog roast.

### RUGBY

This weekend it is back to the serious business of West League Division Two for the men's team who travel to East Ayrshire to play Cumnock.

Oban Lorne 1st XV are currently sixth in the league table, 20 points behind leaders Strathaven, with nine games still to play.



Corrie Louw offloads before he is tackled by SRU president Dee Bradbury.



Kirsty Sinclair is tackled by a giant Christmas tree - Ross Anderson.



Owen McDonald makes a break during the Bulls v Sharks match.



## The Ideal Gift

# Scottish Calendars 2020

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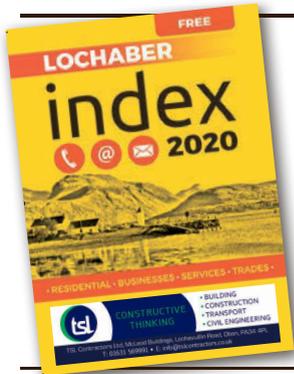
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OUT NOW  
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INDEX

**Glencoe  
Museum  
seeks funding  
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# Foodbank 'overwhelmed' with Christmas donations

by Richard Mason  
rmason@obantimes.co.uk

The generosity of Lochaber residents and businesses has been praised by the area's foodbank which is struggling to find space for the donations it received over the festive season.

Support from schools, nurseries, businesses and individuals mean those in need will not go hungry over the coming weeks. It also meant people supported by the foodbank enjoyed treats over Christmas and New Year.

Volunteers were inundated with essentials but also had crates full of advent calendars, Christmas cakes and other goodies to hand out.

Alex Mcconachie, who runs the foodbank from its base on Fort William's High Street, thanked everyone who thought of others over the festive season.

He said: 'None of this would be possible without the people who donate and those who volunteer their time. We have been absolutely overwhelmed with donations and barely have

space to put everything, but we need this generosity to be kept up as donations usually go down in January and February when the need is greatest.

'The number of people in need is rising. When we started the foodbank we thought we would be doing a few hundred boxes a year, but up to April 2019 we did 1,171 boxes. Since then we have done 939. In

**'These people we support have no other option and about 30 per cent are children.'**

December alone we did 175 boxes. These people we support have no other option and about 30 per cent are children.'

In the foodbank storeroom, volunteers could not sort everything due to the sheer volume of food items taking up every crate.

While every donation is gratefully accepted, some things are more vital than others. Volunteer Sue Grant told the Lochaber Times things

like pasta and baked beans are not as necessary as milk or feminine hygiene products.

'Some people we provide food for do not have the ability to cook meals, so things like pasta are no use to them and we always have lots for those that can. Hygiene products are just as helpful as food because these are the first thing to go from a shopping list when money is tight and a mother has to feed a family.

'We need things that people can eat cold so cooked meats, fish, even beans and sausage in a tin are great.'

Things like tin openers and cutlery are also appreciated, along with other toiletries and nappies. Donations of money allow the foodbank to buy essentials when running low.

Boots the chemist, on High Street, Fort William, encouraged staff to donate toiletries to the foodbank rather than have a 'Secret Santa' and solicitors and estate agents MacPhee and Partners saw a massive outpouring of generosity from clients and staff who filled up tables in their Fort William office with food.

## New year 'gents' brave chilly loch



Three 'Edwardian' gentlemen, from left: Peter Wills, Andreas Glasow and Iain Staines, were among those who took to the chilly waters of Loch Shiel at Glenfinnan for the traditional New Year's Day swim. Turn to page four for more photographs and reports. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

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## Kate Forbes urges residents to stay warm

With freezing weather looming, Lochaber MSP Kate Forbes is urging her constituents to make sure their homes are prepared for the winter, writes Mark Entwistle.

During the recent 'Beast from the East' storm, temperatures of below -10°C and wind speeds of more than 60mph led to the busiest week on record for Scottish Gas, with 104 calls for assistance coming in every second.

This winter, Scottish Gas' team of engineers have worked with Google to launch Boiler Support.

This is a free service available via the Google Assistant app which helps people fix some of the less technical boiler problems at home.

Ms Forbes, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, commented: 'It's really important for homes to be prepared for the winter.'

'I want everyone across the Highlands to understand what help is available to them, and for their family and friends.'

'Being energy efficient and keeping bills under control is also really important, so I'd encourage people to seek advice from their energy supplier and take practical steps to help with their energy use this winter.'

# Delight as Lochaline head receives MBE

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

There was delight in Lochaline with news that local primary school head teacher and lead retained firefighter Keith Wynn Adams had been honoured with the award of an MBE in the Queen's New Year Honours List.

Mr Adams, who receives the MBE for services to education and the community in Lochaline, is the only Lochaber recipient of an award for 2019.

He has been the school's head for the past 16 years out of a teaching career spanning three decades.

His wife, Sue, is the school's only other teacher and it was at the start of 2019 that Lochaline Primary was the first school in Scotland to achieve an evaluation of excellent in a new inspection model.

According to the statement issued by the Cabinet Office along with the announcement of his MBE, Mr Adams was said to have led a thriving school community that is central to the sustainability and growth of the village.

And it continued: 'He



Keith Adams, Lochaline Primary head teacher and firefighter. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

was instrumental in the conception and design of the recently built school community building, which incorporates the local fire station – a first in mainland Scotland – and providing a unique learning environment for children to learn key life skills.

'His vision for the school and children as the heart of the community is demonstrated through the innovative curriculum

and excellent standards of teaching.

'He has developed an innovative curriculum rationale, based firmly on the unique rural context and setting of the school.

'All children have an outstanding knowledge of their local heritage, cultural and natural environment.

'Through his nurturing of local partnerships with renewable energy and forestry industries, children

play a lead role in caring for and protecting their environment, working alongside industry professionals.

'A high proportion of children achieve national levels of attainment much earlier than would normally be expected.'

It is through his expertise as a firefighter that all children in the school also learn first aid and life-saving skills.

Mr Adams's leadership skills were recognised when he was selected to lead aspects of firefighting training at a national level.

Mr Adams, 59, told the Lochaber Times: 'I'm absolutely over the moon, not just for me but for my family and the whole community as it is something extra to help put Lochaline on the map.'

He received the official award notification letter in November and was then sworn to secrecy until the official public announcement on the weekend before New Year.

'Until the letter arrived, I had no idea at all I might be in the running for something like this – it came right out of the blue,' he said.

Mr and Mrs Adams – the

couple have a grown up son and daughter – will travel to St James's Palace in London later this year for him to be presented with the MBE.

The couple moved from their native North Wales after falling in love with the Lochaline and Morvern areas during holidays.

'Our holidays to the area were getting longer and longer, eventually lasting four weeks, so we decided to make a permanent move.'

'It was for various reasons, mainly because of the freedom it offered our children growing up. There were also quite a lot of drugs creeping into North Wales from Liverpool which was worrying and Lochaline offered the chance for us as a family to be somewhere that offered much more freedom and in spectacular countryside.'

Asked what the local reaction had been to news of his award in the few days following the announcement, Mr Adams laughed: 'I've been in hiding a bit since!'

'I only saw one local lady I know who gave me a kiss and congratulations, but then when I was at fire training that night, everyone was very pleased.'

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# Glencoe Museum seeks funding for upgrade

by Richard Mason  
rmason@obantimes.co.uk

The first redevelopment of the Glencoe Folk Museum has begun the planning stage with initial bids for funding sent out and an estimate of close to £1 million sought.

The museum moved to its current premises of two 18th-century crofters' cottages in 1972 after being founded in 1967 and, while the £1m figure is an early estimate of potential costs, there is a lot to do to modernise the museum.

The steady increase in visitor numbers to the area means the museum needs to be more accessible and increase what it can offer visitors.

Brought in to manage the redevelopment, David Rounce wants the new additions to allow them to tell



stories better and keep people there for longer.

He said: 'From our visitor survey, people like the quirky charm of the museum and its buildings, and want to learn more about the Jacobite era, Massacre of Glencoe and daily life in the area.'

'The redevelopment will get rid of the 1970s display sheds and enclose our current

external displays within a new climate-controlled visitor reception and exhibition building. As well as creating an entrance which meets modern accessibility standards, this will include a larger gift shop, increased display space and the museum's first toilet facilities. This will turn the museum into a wet-weather attraction, and

**The museum plans include a new climate-controlled visitor reception and exhibition building, an entrance which meets modern accessibility standards, a larger gift shop and the museum's first toilet facilities.**

increase visitor dwell-time.'

With around 6,000 items in its collection, there is also a need to have better facilities to change exhibits around.

'This would give us greater scope to tell different stories,' said Mr Rounce. 'One year could be Ballachulish slate quarry, the next it could be Kinlochleven aluminium works - so there would always be something new to see for tourists and locals.'

The museum also wants to have a community exhibition gallery for schools and local

groups to create their own displays allowing for a regular rotation of exhibitions.

The lack of parking facilities in the village makes it difficult to attract large groups to the museum without causing a headache for locals.

Making the village more accessible is a priority for chairwoman of the Glencoe and Glen Etive community council, Victoria Sutherland, who wants to create a new car park.

Hoping to take away congestion from other areas, she said: 'Everyone accepts that visitor numbers are increasing to this iconic glen and we need to be able to manage that properly. If they stop in the village, they can still access the glen by hiring bikes, or taking a walk around the local area which has some stunning views, good food and lots to do.'

## Does your local beach deserve recognition?

Environmental charity Keep Scotland Beautiful is encouraging community groups, local authorities and landowners from across the Highlands and Islands to enter the annual Scottish Beach Awards.

The accolade celebrates well managed beaches, including those that are not designated as official bathing waters.

Revamped to celebrate the Year of Coasts and Waters 2020, the Scottish Beach Awards recognise the best beaches across the country and act as a benchmark for local environmental quality all along Scotland's coastline. The awards now provide the opportunity to celebrate sites that are not designated bathing beaches.

Katie Murray, community and place manager at Keep Scotland Beautiful, said: 'I would encourage communities, organisations and local authorities to enter to celebrate their hard work in providing beach users with beautiful beaches.'

To enter visit [www.keep-scotland-beautiful.org/beach](http://www.keep-scotland-beautiful.org/beach)

## New funeral benefit to help with bereavement costs

Have you had to pay for a funeral that took place in the past six months but are struggling to pay due to being on a low income?



'At that difficult time, it's even harder when there's extra stress finding the money to pay for a funeral.'

'Our new Funeral Support Payment has been designed and tested with members of the public and stakeholders, including funeral directors and welfare advisers, to ensure the end product is one we can be proud of.'

'The new support will reach far more people struggling with funeral costs and is backed by around £2 million additional funding. The flat rate element of the Funeral Support Payment will be £700 for the majority of applications and we have committed to annually uprating this in line with inflation, something the UK Government have not done since 2003.'

'This is a demand-led benefit and forecasts are we will invest more than £6 million in support in the first full year of operation. And as with the Best Start Grant, we will encourage people to

apply and get this financial support.'

To find out more, visit [mygov.scot/funeral-support-payment/](http://mygov.scot/funeral-support-payment/) or call 0800 182 2222 to speak to a trained advisor who can help you make your application.

### Case study

Jamie Rodgers, pictured, owner of Jamie R Rodgers Funeral Directors of Aviemore, knows how difficult it can be for low-income families when a loved one dies. He said: 'People have just experienced a devastating blow and are then put under major pressure to find money they don't have for a funeral. They are desperate to give their loved one the perfect goodbye but simply can't because of financial worries.'

'Social Security Scotland's Funeral Support Payment is really helpful.'

'It can be the difference between having a funeral or not and I think everyone deserves a funeral. My advice would be to contact ourselves as your funeral director and we can help you to find out if you are eligible for Funeral Support Payment. You may be surprised.'

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## Norwich man who died in Glencoe hills is named

Keen walker Terry Rooney, from the Norwich area, was identified as the man who died on Buachaille Etive Mor, Glencoe, during the morning of Monday December 23.

Mr Rooney, 65, was a keen walker and outdoor pursuits enthusiast who often travelled to Scotland.

Inquiries to establish the full circumstances of his death are still ongoing, though there are not thought to be any suspicious circumstances.

Sergeant Deborah McCartney, from Fort William Police Station, said: 'Our thoughts and sympathies are with Mr Rooney's family and we would encourage respect for their privacy at this difficult and sad time.'

'Police Scotland would like to thank members of the public and Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team for their assistance.'

# Lochaber swimmers take New Year plunge

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Intrepid souls marked the arrival of a new year and a new decade with chilly dips at various loch locations in Lochaber, including Glenfinnan and Strontian.

Long-time open water swimmer and Fort William resident Morag Hughes confirmed the number of hardy souls entering the waters of Loch Shiel as 65.

'We were absolutely delighted with the record number of swimmers this year – amazing for the size of the village,' she told the Lochaber Times, adding that the water temperature on the day had been a bracing six degrees..

'It was great to see a wide age group taking part and having fun. Thanks to Jane at Glenfinnan House Hotel for the hospitality afterwards



and Alistair for the fire on the shore.

'Four members of The Rebel Swimming Group swam over 250m. They are taking part in a Polar Bear Challenge, swimming November to March in a swimsuit.

'They are raising money for The Wee Harry Potter Bridge Project and £144 was raised today at the dook.'

Three of the Rebel Swimmers taking part on New Year's Day only started open water swimming last year.

Two of them are doing the Jedi Challenge – the most arduous of all the categories in the Polar Bear winter swimming challenges – which involves swimming 250 metres twice a month and completing 3,000 metres' total distance each month. A total of 10 swims in water temperatures as low as five degrees are also required during the overall challenge.

The challenges run until March 31, 2020, and the aim is to complete a set number of swims and distances outdoors in the sea, river, lake or unheated lido over the winter period.

The Polar Bear Challenge is run under the clothing rules of the International Ice Swimming Association

**'It was great to see a wide age group taking part.'**

which means that the only attire allowed is one standard swimsuit (which may not extend over the shoulders or below the knees), a single swim hat, goggles, noseclips and earplugs if required.

Wild swimmers at Strontian also saw 2020 in with a 'loony dook' dip in Loch Sunart at noon on January 1, writes Nic Goddard.

Joining fellow 'dookers' elsewhere on the peninsula, including organised dooks at Salen and Ardgour, a group of around 15 brave swimmers shook off any remnants of New Year's Eve partying to brave the four degrees temperature at Strontian jetty.

To add a sense of ceremony to the proceedings, Strontian resident and wild swimming coach Laura McConnachie

**Swimmers take the New Year's Day plunge at Glenfinnan.**

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

played Scotland the Brave on bagpipes, accompanied by Debra Green on the bodhran drum beating a march, both clad in wetsuits and following the swimmers in once they had put down their instruments.

The swimmers comprised of locals and a couple of visitors to the area, with all enjoying a swim out to a boat moored in the loch and back before some of them took their wetsuits off and went back in for a second dip – several of them leapt off the jetty.

They were observed by a crowd of less intrepid folk and Mollie the dog, who could not be persuaded into the loch completely but was happy to get her paws wet standing on the jetty.

There were swimmers of all ages from teens to retirees with a wide range of swimming ability from competing triathletes to an adventurous beginning swimmer wearing L-plates.

The group retired to the Bothy Bar in Strontian for soup and mulled wine to warm back up with donations to Marie Curie collected by the bar.

The Strontian Splashers meet every Sunday at noon at Strontian jetty for swimming, with all welcome to join in for a dip.

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Swimmers after taking the New Year's Day plunge at Strontian. Photograph: Ady Goddard

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## Fort expats down under grateful for bush fire messages of support

Former residents of Fort William now living in the Australian state of Victoria say they are grateful for all the messages of support they have had from around the world.

Among them are Trudi MacKenzie and husband David, who live in Frankston, the Melbourne suburb in Victoria.

The couple emigrated along with many others from the Fort William area in the 1950s and 1960s.

In fact, Frankston is home to so many Lochaber expats that its nickname is 'Little Fort William'.

The Lochaber Times contacted the MacKenzies this week to check on how they and their neighbours were faring during the current bush fire crisis.

New South Wales and the eastern side of Victoria have been the hardest hit by the fires, many of which have been burning since



September, causing a number of deaths as well as destroying homes, businesses and killing millions of wild animals.

Mrs MacKenzie told us: 'Many thanks for your concern. The fires are fortunately a long way away from us, in the eastern corner of Victoria.'

'There has been a great loss of farms and homes and devastating impact on wildlife. It is amazing the messages of concern from people all over the globe and we appreciate that support.'

# Fundraiser for Fort mum who suffered aneurysm

by Richard Mason  
rmason@obantimes.co.uk

A crowdfunder set up by a brother and sister from Fort William for their mother who suffered a brain aneurysm hit its goal within a day.

Leanne Black, 45, had been suffering from chronic headaches and a small number of seizures in the months leading up to the event.

Late last year, daughter Clara, 21, found Leanne on her bedroom floor unresponsive, immediately phoned an ambulance and paramedics rushed her to the Belford Hospital.

Due to the severity of Leanne's condition, she was airlifted to Edinburgh where they quickly found that she had been suffering a brain aneurysm which



Leanne is now in recovery but has a long road ahead.

led to a severe stroke. She is now in a much more stable condition in the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow.

Son Taylor, 19, set up a GoFundMe appeal, initially to cover travel costs for him and his sister to go see their mum, with a goal of £100.

Donations doubled that goal within a day and the target has been raised to £500 to ensure their mum does not have to worry about money while in recovery.

Taylor Black said: 'We would first of all love to thank everyone who has donated their hard-earned money to this fund for our mum.'

'We are blown away with everyone's kindness and we are truly grateful.'

'We would also really like to thank the emergency services for their quick response to ensure our mum got the best help she possibly could.'

'The doctors are happy with the procedures that have been done.'

'My mum is still being monitored by the nurses through the night as there are still lots of severe com-

plications with what the stroke had caused.'

Although money has often been tight for the family, Taylor said that their mum always made sure that they never missed out on things that made them happy, and this is their way to repay her.

Taylor continued: 'Seeing her go through this extremely hard time has been heartbreaking but we are willing to do anything to help out our amazing mum the best we can.'

'Money has always been a huge cause of stress for mum as it's been tight for a while. The money we raise will ensure mum won't have to stress for a while and it will help with anything she will need down the line.'

You can donate to the GoFundMe by searching 'Support For Leanne Black' online.

## Business inaction leads to Caol car park flood

A lack of proper maintenance and inability to approve work by a community group is being blamed for the flooding in Caol's car park, writes Richard Mason.

It is a problem that has been present for a while, as the drains require clearing and grates repaired and replaced.

However, the two national companies that part-own the land, Co-op and Ladbroke's, have not replied to requests from Caol Regeneration.

With persistent rain, there is no sign of any of the water draining away soon and some locals are avoiding using the area for safety concerns due to missing drains.

Company secretary for Caol Regeneration Linda Campbell said: 'We are ready to go on repairing the drains, having sent out tenders to tradesmen and all the money in place from the council.'

'There are three landowners we need permission from to begin fixing the drains and letters were sent out to all three in July of last year. We received a response from the man who owns the old bar building giving us the go-ahead, but have had nothing from either Co-op or Ladbroke's, despite repeated attempts from different parties to contact them. We have now received a reply from the



The flooded car park around six inches deep in places, is hindering shoppers from using the Co-op and other business in the Caol's Kilmallie Road shopping area.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Co-op and things seem to be moving along on their end.

'First and foremost, this is about the safety of the community. People have already been injured from unknowingly stepping in broken drains and some are avoiding the area altogether.'

The community group wants these businesses to at least contribute to the cost of repairs, while Caol and Mallaig councillor Ben Thompson thinks they should pay the full bill.

He said: 'Caol Regeneration have been doing an absolute power of work to try to get the situation sorted. There is money available for them through the council-administered scheme to improve village centres like Caol's, but

this is supposed to be for the likes of a pedestrian crossing, not fixing things on private land.'

The Caol Regeneration project has money from the council to add a pedestrian crossing, benches and a public noticeboard to the area around the square.

Some of this money has now been diverted to the drain maintenance but locals are suggesting businesses be invoiced for the work once it is complete.

A representative from the Co-op was in contact with the Lochaber Times before publication, but unable to provide a definitive statement before we went to print.

Ladbroke's were unavailable for comment.

## Vehicle Restrictions at Recycling Centres

From 3rd February 2020 the following vehicles will not be permitted entry into Recycling Centres.\*

-  **PICK UPS** 3.5 tonnes or greater ❌
-  **COMMERCIAL VEHICLES** 3.5 tonnes or greater ❌
-  **PLANT VEHICLES** ❌
-  **TIPPERS & FLAT BED TRUCKS** of any weight ❌
-  **MEDIUM/LARGE TRAILERS** medium/large trailers with multiple axles or greater than 2.4 metres (8ft) in length ❌

Information on alternative methods for managing your waste can be found:

online [www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk) or by calling 01349 886603

\*Vehicle Restrictions do not apply at The Highland Council's Waste Transfer Stations. However, charges are applicable.

LT

## WHAT'S ON

■ Crocheting classes run every Wednesday from 5.30pm-7.30pm at Caol Library. The Woolpack will give you the tools to start creating your own projects, experiment with new ideas and ignite creativity with this technique. There is no need to book, but you can get more information from Magda on 07917 554474 or magdalena.kruk@highlife-highland.com

■ There is a pre-Fort William Mountain Festival film night at the Caol Community Centre on January 11. Three films will be shown, starting at 7pm, with two of these involving local climbers Kevin Shield and Dave Mcleod.

■ Lochaber Natural History Society is hosting a talk called The Corncrake in Scotland, given by Chris Bailey of the RSPB, in the Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William, on January 13, at 7.30pm.

■ Lochaber Environmental Group starts its next round of bike repair classes from Wednesday January 15, for four weeks. For more details and to register, email kate@lochaberenviron.org.uk

# Fort's West Highland Museum celebrates its 60,000th visitor

by Iain Ferguson  
fort@obantimes.co.uk

It was not Santa who staff and volunteers at the West Highland Museum welcomed as their own special festive visitor on Christmas Eve but Merseyside pensioner Carole Abel, writes Iain Ferguson.

Eagerly awaited, 75-year-old Mrs Abel did not need to come down the chimney or even have a magic key to enter the museum in Fort William's Cameron Square, but was taken by surprise at the welcome when she was greeted by a round of applause and handshakes as she crossed the threshold as the museum's 60,000th visitor of the year.

Mrs Abel, who was on a Christmas bus tour and staying at a nearby hotel, told the assembly that she was absolutely amazed as nothing



West Highland Museum manager Colleen Barker, right, presents a small memento to Carole Abel, who was the 60,000th visitor of 2019.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, Alba.photos

like this had ever happened to her before.

She said: 'This has taken me completely by surprise, but I am absolutely delighted at being such a welcome guest. I have been to Fort William before on bus tours, but this

is my first visit to the museum – and I will come again.'

West Highland Museum manager Colleen Barker commented: 'We have been anxiously counting our visitors all week, wondering when we might reach the

target and I am so pleased that Mrs Abel was the lucky person. Coming so close to Christmas, it is like an early present for us.'

Visitor numbers have been rising steadily at the museum every year, but 2019 saw the

footfall increase by almost 4,000, from the 56,111 recorded last year, many from all parts of the world.

The museum is noted for its extensive Jacobite display, added to earlier this year by the purchase of a snuff box with a concealed picture of Bonnie Prince Charlie and the loan of the Drambuie collection of Jacobite glassware.

It also boasts an extensive range of artefacts tracing the history of Fort William and the surrounding area, from original birching table to fossils and the unique Commando exhibition on the wartime association of the military with the area.

Entry is by donation and the museum is staffed mainly by volunteers who are always happy to guide visitors to items specific interest, as well as running educational workshop for schoolchildren.

## Help at hand for Kinlochleven residents looking to submit applications for Benefit Fund

The Kinlochleven Community Benefit Fund (KCBF) will be hosting a drop-in advice session at The Leven Centre for anyone wanting to submit a grant application, writes Richard Mason.

The fund gets money from the two hydro-electric schemes in the village, giving it £35,000 per year to distribute among community projects. Deadline for applicants is Friday January 17.

It was suggested following a well-attended public meeting in 2018 and a steering group was created which registered the KCBF as a charity and volunteers then stepped forward to become initial trustees.

Councillor Andrew Baxter, who also runs the Kinlochleven Post Office, is one of those initial trustees. He told the Lochaber Times: 'We get £5,000 per megawatt generated from the hydro-schemes and so far they produce 7mw per year which gives us £35,000 for community projects.

I have a completely open



mind about what projects could benefit from this money, but they should have long-term benefits for the village.'

Helen Thompson, who was elected to be a trustee of the fund due to her role in the Kinlochleven Community Trust, wants existing groups to think of new projects to use the money.

She said: 'There are many deserving groups in Kinlochleven, all working to make our village an even better place to live, and I would hope that they all have projects in mind that could benefit from the fund.'

Hydroelectricity made Kinlochleven the first village in the world to have every house connected to the electricity

grid and this new scheme hopes to give it another boost.

You can find out more about applying for funding by collecting a Guidance to Applicants leaflet and a grant application form from either the Kinlochleven Post Office or The Leven Centre.

The drop-in advice session on Saturday is for anyone who has not completed a grant application before or who wants some clarification on what can be funded. It officially runs for an hour from 9.30am.

The deadline for applications for the first round of funding is Friday January 17 and there will be two further dates for applications in May and September.

A special general meeting to elect trustees who will administer the fund in future is scheduled for Wednesday March 18.

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# Fundraiser Liz hits the £55,000 mark

by Richard Mason  
rmason@obantimes.co.uk

Independent charity fundraiser Liz Macmillan has just crossed the £55,000 mark with her fundraising, thanks to last year's donations.

From the beginning of 2019 to the end of November this year, Mrs Macmillan has raised £7,450, making substantial donations to a number of causes local to Lochaber.

Among recipients of the money were Chloe Purvis and her family who received £1,000; with £900 going to Kayla Laverty and her family; £3,500 to the Sepsis Research Centre in Glasgow in memory of Lynsey MacPherson; £380 to the local foodbank; £300 to the local clothing bank; £200 to Lochaber Women's Aid; another £200 to the Fort William Men's Shed; and £900 to Jamie MacDonald and his family.

Working full-time as a registered child minder, Liz does all the fundraising herself and in her own time, but insists she is not the important part.

She said: 'I do not look for any sort of recognition from my work, I just want to raise money for those in need.'

'I raise money from items that are donated to me by very generous individuals. I



Liz MacMillan, second from left, presenting a cheque to the Belford Hospital in 2018. Photograph: Liz's charity fundraising page

sell them on and all the money goes to local causes. I also do raffles on my Facebook page at the weekend and do a bottle stall a couple of times a year.

'The most effective way for me to raise money is by selling items online because I work full-time. I am very grateful to those people who donate items to me because without them none of this would be possible.'

A passion for raising money for those in need began at an early age for Liz when her father tragically passed away at 38 from cancer. She was only 14 and did a Cancer Research fundraiser.

She has been raising money for local people ever since, but told the Lochaber Times that

since starting her Facebook page, the amount she has been able to raise has gone up significantly.

Liz continued: 'Before the Facebook page, I was able to raise about £1,000 per year, but this year I managed to raise £3,500 in eight weeks. That was in memory of Lynsey MacPherson, who was a very popular person locally. It just goes to show that the important part is the people donating.'

In five years, Liz has raised £25,000 from her efforts and, while she is now taking a short break, will be back to raising money soon.

To contribute, or just follow her work, 'like' Liz's charity fundraising page on Facebook.

## New gin crafted from Arisaig landscape

Gin has, without a doubt, become one of the most popular drinks in recent years, with one market research company suggesting that gin sales may even outstrip whisky, writes Kirsteen Bell.

Indeed, Scotland has been at the forefront of craft gin production, with 70 per cent of the UK's gin production taking place here.

Now a family team are using the botanicals found on the West Coast to make a new craft gin from Arisaig.

The flavour of each gin comes from the selection of botanicals - gathered from Creag Mhor Croft and the shore of Arisaig and used in the distillation - providing a variety for the keen gin-drinker to search out.

While the recipe remains secret, the makers will say that it includes self-heal, blackcurrants and bladderwrack, describing the flavour as 'crisp, slightly sweet and warm'.

Christopher MacBeth, who works in the oil industry, and his sister Kayleigh MacBeth, an art and design teacher, are originally from Mallaig.

Crofter Anne MacDonald came from Leeds 20 years ago and married a Highlander,



The new gin was launched just in time for Christmas.

taking early retirement from the electronic and engineering sector to concentrate on making gin, while her daughter Sharon Pashley is a technical services manager in IT.

Though they come from these diverse backgrounds, all four have strong connections with land around Arisaig, so decided to handcraft a gin with the flavours of the local area using a still on family land. The label also reflects the view of the islands seen from Arisaig's shores, as well as silver lettering to reflect the silver sands.

The Arisaig gin makers were recently featured on a Scottish gin blog, It's a Scottish Gin Thing, where they said: 'This has been a team effort with lots of love and pride. We even named our pot still "Wee Effie" after our late Granny MacDonald, who lived and

raised her family on the croft. Family has been at the heart of this gin.'

The development process involved sending out samples of test recipes to friends, family and gin experts of all ages.

The family team said: 'We loved reading the reviews. From then, we identified the secret recipes that is now Arisaig Gin.'

The Arisaig gin was ready to launch in time for the festive season, with the first batch available on Monday December 23. It sold out quickly, just in time for Christmas orders, closely followed by the release on the second batch the following week. Those who missed out on the first bottles should not be too disappointed as the Chlachain Inn in Mallaig, Tradewinds in Corpach, and the Crofter's Rest in Arisaig all now stock Arisaig Gin.

## VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER

Happy New Year from everyone at Lochaber Chamber!

Do you remember when the date 2020 sounded like something out of science fiction? When we'd all be driving in hover-cars and have robot butlers? Well, here we are, and in some ways, it looks nothing like our collective imagining but in other less showy ways, our world has been transformed through technology.

2020 is off to a flying start at the Chamber with our digital tourism roadshow taking key tourism industry players to meet with businesses at venues in Glencoe, Strontian, Fort William and Mallaig in early February.

This is a great chance for local businesses to ask questions



and hear directly from online travel industry experts.

This year we're also delighted to be leading an international trade mission to Nova Scotia, Canada, as part of the Scottish Chambers of Commerce's international programme.

In March, we'll be taking a small group of businesses from across Scotland to meet with prospective trade contacts in Halifax, the capital of Nova Scotia, which has strong cultural links to Scotland.

This opportunity is open to all businesses, so if you'd like to find out more, please call.

2020 is also the first year of the One Lochaber Leadership Programme, a tailored leadership training programme developed for local business needs. There is still time to sign up for this professional development course accredited by the Chartered Institute of Management. It's a great way to invest in yourself or a valued employee.

With regular networking lunches, training events, business site visits and access to loads of business advice and support, make 2020 the year you join the hub of Lochaber business community.

To find out more, visit [www.lochaberchamber.co.uk](http://www.lochaberchamber.co.uk), call 01397 705765 or visit us at 15 High Street, Fort William.

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# From Banavie to Brisbane: a tale of fortunes won and lost

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Standing looking at the lock keeper's house at Neptune's Staircase at Banavie just before Christmas was clearly a poignant and emotional moment for Ross McKinnon.

Originally from South Australia, Mr McKinnon has called Brisbane home since 1972.

The former curator of Brisbane Botanical Gardens, he has also been a popular gardening presenter on ABC radio and television in Australia, as well as a regular newspaper columnist.

He and his wife, Susie, were back in the Highlands for the first time since 1976 and stopped off in Fort William on their way to spend the festive season at Kinloch Lodge, the Skye home of Godfrey, Lord Macdonald of Macdonald, and his wife, the famous cookery author,



**Australian visitors Ross and Susie McKinnon were back in Scotland over the festive season, above; right, Mr McKinnon's late uncle, Allan McKinnon, killed during the Second World War; and Mr McKinnon's late grandmother, Elizabeth McKinnon who inherited the Australian fortune.**



Lady Claire. The link with the Macdonalds comes through the fact that Mr McKinnon

and Lady Claire have been pen pals since they were children.



That connection started after his late uncle, his father's elder brother Allan, who was serving with Bomber Command during the Second World War, stayed with the then very young Lady Claire's family in Yorkshire.

Lancaster pilot Allan flew 35 bombing sorties over Europe with No.460 Squadron RAAF, before eventually being shot down south of

Berlin in March 1944. He was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross by King George VI.

Mr McKinnon's father, David, died in June last year and, in his eulogy for his dad, Mr McKinnon had traced his great-grandfather [Alexander McKinnon, 1832-1902 ] to the house at Banavie where he left with older brothers Angus, Dugald and wife, Ann (nee Cameron), for Australia in 1851.

The family's new life in Australia saw them achieve considerable success, at one time being the second largest land owners in the country, running a rural empire in South Australia almost the size of Wales.

'My grandfather, who was killed on one of his properties in 1934, was head of the family, the brains of our family,' Mr McKinnon explained.

'During his lifetime he had built up a property portfolio

to be the second largest of any family in Australia at the that time.

'After his death, my grandmother was left in the middle of the Depression to slowly sell off all the properties – although she still had some when I was a child.

'We've all gone our separate ways since.

'My family were peasant people who came from Scotland with nothing, yet this lady – my grandmother – ended up a multi-multi-millionaire.

'The family had so much money, then they virtually lost the lot with the death of my grandfather.'

On their current trip to Scotland, Mr McKinnon told us: 'It is quite exciting to see where they lived at Banavie. It's another piece of the puzzle put into place.

'We were very much looking forward to this trip and then going on to Skye.'



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# Lights, camels, action! at Banavie and St Columba's primary schools

In our last seasonal round up of local primary school Christmas shows, this week we feature a selection of photographs by the youngsters of Banavie and St Columba's RC primary schools.



ST COLUMBA'S



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LT

# Review of the Year 2019 – part two



## River gives up Jacobite treasure

A cannon which may have a link to Bonnie Prince Charlie and his Jacobite army has been discovered in a river at Glen Loy, near Spean Bridge, almost 274 years to the day from when the Young Pretender set off from France to reclaim his throne.

Paul Rigby, 56, made the find while walking his dog, having passed the spot, only a few hundred yards from his home, almost daily

JULY

since moving in 14 years ago.

The three-foot, nine-inch cannon, which is strikingly similar to an 18th-century French naval, two-pounder 'swivel gun', could have come from the ship Du Teillay which set off from France on July 16, 1745, with Prince Charles Edward Stuart aboard.



## Strontian Primary School officially opened

A strong community spirit was praised during the official opening ceremony of the new Strontian Primary School by Scotland's Deputy First Minister, John Swinney.

The village of 400 people financed and oversaw construction of the building after Highland Council said the previous one

AUGUST

was unfit for purpose in 2012. This unique approach to build the £930,000 school was taken after the community rejected Highland Council's preferred solution to make improvements to the existing building.

SEPTEMBER

## A Wild decade for Ben Nevis race

As the sun shone on Claggan Park, Finlay Wild, 35, marked his tenth consecutive victory in the annual Ben Race with a time of 1:32:05.

With more than 450 competitors this year, the race up Ben Nevis on Saturday September 7 was led by Finlay, of Lochaber Athletic Club, from the moment the runners left the start line. The Lochaber native celebrated his birthday on Sunday which added to celebrations. He said: 'The race is special for me having gone to Lochaber High School as well as living



## Last chapter of Ben Nevis Book Corner

It has been used as everything from an unofficial tourist information centre, left luggage office, creche, genealogy centre and somewhere for auld acquaintances to enjoy a craic. That's all on top of the main reason for the existence of Ben Nevis Book Corner in Fort William's Monzie Square – the sale of second-hand and antiquarian books. But now, after two decades as the only dealer in used

OCTOBER

books in the town, the shop set up by Ian and Pat Abernethy is turning its final page and closing. It was originally opened partly to help free up space in the couple's home, while furthering Ian's love of books and helping sharing that passion with the great many others who have since come through its doors.

## Crinan Hotel 2020

We wish you a happy New Year, and thank you for all your support during 2019

The hotel will be closed after breakfast 12th January until 31st January in the evening.

The Seafood Bar and coffee shop within the hotel will be open for the rest of 2020.

Lunch 12.00 till 2.30  
Dinner 18.00 till 20.30

We are open for tea and coffee from 09.00 till 18.00

The coffee shop by the canal will be open again in March when the weather warms up

### February 27th marks 50 years at Crinan hotel for the Ryan family

Frances and Nick arrived 5 days after their wedding having become engaged in Cape Town with a view to staying 6 months in Scotland but fell in love with Crinan. Frances' mother was from Oban and her grandmother from Tarbert so Argyll was already a favourite place and Nick soon realised why, and of course their children Julia and Ross and grandchildren Archie and Jock now live most of the time in Argyll.

Archie MacAllister will be playing at the Hotel on 29th February to celebrate so please book and come along.

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and working locally. The Ben Neve Race has a real prestige in the UK because it's the biggest mountain and it suits my

running style because I like rough things, but there's a lot of clearer running too. 'I am absolutely delighted to

get the ten. I never dreamed it would be possible but everything lined up perfectly this year.'



## A write Highland Hoolie has Mallaig buzzing

Visitors and residents came together for Mallaig's Book Festival at the West Highland Hotel.

Writers and musicians celebrated at the weekend Highland Hoolie which included writers, talks, music and traditional storytelling.

The event opened on Friday night with a celebration of Carnegie prizewinning author Teresa Breslin's recent OBE award for services to literature.

### NOVEMBER

Guests also sang Happy Birthday to Sine Davis, manager of the West Highland Hotel and co-founder of the book festival along with naturalist and writer Polly Pullar.

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### DECEMBER

## Corps honours 75 years of service

Members of 1730 (Lochaber) Squadron, Air Training Corps (ATC) and representatives of the Highland Wing gathered to celebrate the exceptional commitment of Alan Lamb, who has served the organisation for 75 years. Mr Lamb, who was also minister of Arisaig Parish Church, joined the ATC in 1944 when he became a cadet in Wembley. In 1968, he took on the role of padre of 16F Squadron (Middlesex Wing), assuming the same role in Lochaber in 1995. Two years later, he became padre to the Highland Wing. Recently, Mr Lamb has been a valuable member of the Lochaber Squadron Committee, a role from which he is now stepping down.



## MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

[angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk)



Never in my life have I had any interest in the literature of horror or in the films of that terrifying genre and, until this summer, I had never read a book or watched an entire film in the category.

A contemporary author through a weaving and narrowing net of books and a brief encounter had earlier this year sparked my interest in one such work and the story behind it.

Bram Stoker's Dracula is a classic of the genre and I am grateful to the Irish author Joseph O'Connor for being the catalyst that brought me to this masterpiece.

For Christmas last year I was given a copy of Joseph O'Connor's novel, Star of the Sea. I had never heard of the book or the author, but immediately became engrossed in the story and in awe of O'Connor's rich mastery of language. This led me to attend a talk and reading at the Edinburgh Festival in August, where his just-published historical novel Shadowplay was the subject. Sometimes these events can be fairly boring. Not

so with Joseph O'Connor.

As he read excerpts, discussed content and took questions from, it was clear this man was a master of his trade. He could articulate his thoughts, his inspirations, the background to the book and the process of writing it beautifully and with a precision, ease and humour that kept us all hungry to hear his every word.

Shadowplay is based on the lives and interweaving connections of Bram Stoker, his boss and idol, actor and theatre operator Henry Irving and the even more famous theatre star Ellen Terry. Among the many strands of the book, the strongest theme is how unknown Bram Stoker was during his own lifetime, and, conversely, how famous and everlasting his name would become through his creation of Dracula and crucially how none of the three could have predicted this.

During the lives of the three close friends, Stoker was no more than a hard-working theatre manager and personal assistant to Irving and his

attempts at writing had gone relatively unnoticed.

Stoker's primary ambition was to be an author, but time and time again his work would be rejected, publications would go unnoticed and, through anger and frustration, he would destroy his own manuscripts. He also had to endure discouragement and disparaging comments from Henri Irving, whom Stoker idolised. However, he struggled on and, through the creation of that one character, Dracula gave Stoker posthumous fame and success none of the three could have imagined.

If you want to make an impact on the world, do what Stoker did and keep forging on. If you are working for or with someone who dismisses your dreams, get out and plough your own furrow. Had Stoker done this, he might have enjoyed success during his lifetime as he could have focused on his literature, free of the ties of his job and, more importantly, Irving's negativities.

Happy New Year and follow your dreams!



# Whatever your business...

## Draw in the crowds with a shop front grant

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LT

Ben Fogle, centre, with Dan and Ann Parry at Luskenyre on Harris at the weekend and, below, with Norman Macleod.



## Ben Fogle braves Harris New Year dip

A large crowd gathered on Luskenyre Beach, Harris, on Saturday to hear a talk from television presenter Ben Fogle before he joined residents for a bracing New Year dip in the chilly sea, writes Mark Entwistle.

Ben was in the islands to mark the 20th anniversary of his taking part in the Castaway television series, which was set on nearby Taransay, and to support his friend and fellow UN ambassador, endurance swimmer Lewis Pugh, with training for his Antarctic swim project.

On Wednesday January 22, British lawyer Lewis, 50, will try to swim a kilometre across a lake on the Antarctic ice sheet to raise awareness of



climate change and its impact on melting polar caps.

Before the presenter of programmes including New Lives in the Wild and Extreme Dreams with Ben Fogle, went for his bracing swim through

the waves, he gave a talk to 70 people about adventures.

Ben, who is currently touring with his one man show, Tales From The Wilderness Tour, was accompanied by his daughter Iona.

# ConCom network to close in March

by Richard Mason  
rmason@obantimes.co.uk

The Connected Communities network that has been used in medical services, schools, homes and businesses throughout the Outer Hebrides for the last 15 years is to close in March.

Stretching from the southern island of Barra to the most northerly point of Ness on Lewis, demand has fallen as fibre services have been rolled out.

Owners of the network, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), say the high fixed costs makes the service no longer viable. They are alerting ConCom customers so they can switch to alternative broadband options like fibre or 4G services.

Stuart Robertson, director of digital at HIE, said: 'Connected Communities has

played a vital part in island life for 15 years and switching it off marks the end of an era.

'It has helped us run our medical services and schools and linked our people and businesses with the online world.

'We've kept the ConCom network going as long as possible while the publicly funded fibre roll-out has progressed.

'Creating ConCom and keeping it going for 15 years has been a considerable investment by HIE and our partners that ensured the Outer Hebrides was able to share in the benefits of early broadband.

'However, we've reached the point where other solutions are now available and it's no longer viable to subsidise this ageing network from public funds.'

Around 500 ConCom customers remain on the is-

lands and HIE has advice for switching on its website [www.hie.co.uk/broadband](http://www.hie.co.uk/broadband).

The £146m Digital Scotland project, led in the region by HIE, brought superfast broadband to the Outer Hebrides for the first time.

It included five subsea fibre optic cables linking the islands to each other and the mainland. The longest subsea link was almost 50 miles and was landed at Braighie near Stornoway in 2014. The first superfast broadband home went live in June 2015.

Today, coverage stretches across 29 telephone exchange areas from Barra to Lewis, bringing superfast broadband to around 80 per cent of homes and businesses.

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## View From The Edge

CATH MACDONALD

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The rain was lashing down as I drove the 40 miles to Stornoway to meet my sister who was arriving on the plane from Glasgow at 4pm.

She and her family had come to spend Christmas with us in past years, but this time she was coming on her own for the New Year, as Christmas had been spent with family and in-laws at home in Largs.

The roads were flooded. It was dark and the effect of the crosswinds gusts on the car could be felt in certain areas.

Fortunately the plane arrived on time. As a result of the extreme weather, the plan to have a meal in Stornoway before heading home was dropped as it made sense to get across the Clisham hills and home as soon as possible in case the wind should strengthen.

About this time last year, I wrote of Christmases of old in the Western Isles. How things have changed, New Year customs included. We no longer have first footing, nor the Callainn of which my grandfather used to often speak.

I wrote in that column of the Sunday School treat held in the home of our missionary

when we were children. These mission houses are long gone, but Sunday School Christmas celebrations continue. In our church, the Sunday School Christmas Family Service was held on the morning of December 22.

The Sunday School members took part in the service, leading prayers, singing and readings of Christmas Bible stories. The Christmas Carol Service took place on Christmas Eve in the church. It was attended by young and old. After the service, mince pies, tea and coffee were served allowing people to meet and mingle in a warm and friendly ambience.

The same happened the following Sunday and my sister met up with some friends and former class mates.

The fact first footing, as it was in the past, has stopped here does not mean people do not call on neighbours and friends at this time of year.

As usual, my sister visited our neighbours, which included a visit to Harris House care home, to see a lady she was accustomed to visiting who is now a resident there. The staff were welcoming and helpful and we were offered tea or cof-

fee. As well as visiting the lady who had been a neighbour, we also met others who had been known to us, including some of their visitors.

It was uplifting to have visited a comfortable care home, where people are happy and well looked after by wonderful staff. We also visited a lady who lives on her own in a remote area. As usual, we had an interesting visit as we sat and chatted. She has carers in daily and many others call on her. She is up to date on all the local news and is an excellent source of information on local history.

On New Year's Eve, on BBC Alba, there was the live Hogmanay Ceilidh at 11.30pm to which we had looked forward to, but before that there was an excellent programme about Callainn (Hogmanay) nights of the past, presented by singer and Lochaber Times columnist Robert Robertson with wit and humour. It was repeated on New Year's Day and I hope it will be repeated again. So, no first footing, but plenty of people to see, events to enjoy and good late night entertainment on BBC Alba.

Seasonal good wishes to readers.



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Point and Sandwick Trust board member Jane Watson is fitted with one of the new lifejackets by Stornoway Rowing Club chairwoman Rose Bugler.

## Rowers get new safety equipment

by Richard Mason  
rmason@obantimes.co.uk

Stornoway Rowing Club has received a generous donation of new Spinlock lifejackets from Point and Sandwick Trust (PST).

Representatives from the community wind farm charity presented the lifejackets to the club on Boxing Day then joined members for their traditional post-Christmas row.

The safety equipment was in a variety of sizes to make the sport accessible to everyone, something club chairwoman Rose Bugler said is what they want to do in future.

She commented: 'It's fantastic because it means whatever the club decides to do in the future, in terms of challenges, the equipment is up to it. It's good quality gear.'

It means people of all ages, shapes and sizes can try out rowing in the Hebrides, something that is becoming more popular.

The sport is growing on the islands with five clubs rowing out of Stornoway. Those who do it frequently describe it as being a 'close community' and because the skiffs are portable, it's a good way to see parts of the island you wouldn't otherwise.

Donald John MacSween, general manager of Point and Sandwick Trust, was happy to support the club.

He said: 'Making an outdoor activity, such as rowing, accessible and safe for all age groups is something PST wishes to encourage and support. Outdoor activities need not be limited to summer months and there is plenty of opportunity, even in the winter, to enjoy rowing.'

'Stornoway Rowing Club is active throughout the year as long as it is safe and enjoyable and you don't have to be a super fit athlete to take part.'

Stornoway Rowing Club hopes to organise a regatta in Lewis on May 30 2020.

## Government legislation puts focus on islands

As 2020 is The Year of Coasts and Waters, it is appropriate the Scottish Government has put its focus on Scotland's islands with the National Islands Plan.

The plan aims to improve the quality of life for island communities and sets out 13 objectives to do that.

There are more than 100 specific measures to support

the objectives which will hopefully address issues including population decline, climate change and improvements to transport, housing, the delivery of public services and digital connectivity.

It follows an extensive consultation which included 61 events and meetings on 40 islands which were attended by almost 1,000 people of all

ages and backgrounds. An online consultation received a further 400 responses.

Scotland's Islands Minister Paul Wheelhouse said: 'I am proud to introduce Scotland's first National Islands Plan – a milestone that began with the passing of the Islands (Scotland) Act last year.'

'The plan has been created with the input of many

islanders and those with a stake in our islands' future and I am extremely grateful for all their contributions.'

'The plan is a key milestone. Through the plan's development, Scotland is showing our island communities that they are important to our nation, we care about their futures and that their voices are strong and being heard.'

Column sponsored by Fairer Scotland

## New Funeral Support Payment

Are you, or someone you know, struggling to pay for a funeral? You may be able to get help with some of the costs.

Funeral Support Payment is available if you live in Scotland and get certain benefits or tax credits.

Funeral Support Payment can pay an average of £1,300 and can cover burial and cremation costs. The payment also includes other expenses and some travel costs.

The money can be paid directly to your chosen funeral director, or into your account.

You can apply from when the person dies, and up until six months after the date of the funeral.

This new Scottish Government benefit is delivered by Social Security Scotland, and is an investment in everyone.

This support is there to help when you need it and you are encouraged to find out if you are eligible for Funeral Support Payment.

If eligible, the amount you get will depend on what funds were left by the person who died, and the eligible costs incurred. If the person who died left financial assets we will recover this payment from their estate.

Social Security Scotland was set up by the Scottish Government to deliver a number of benefits and, once fully operational, will deliver benefits for people on low incomes, disabled people, carers, young people entering the workplace and to help people heat their homes.

For more information or to apply for Funeral Support Payment visit [mygov.scot/benefits](https://mygov.scot/benefits) or call 0800 182 2222



Point and Sandwick Trust representatives join Stornoway Rowing Club on its Boxing Day row. Photograph: Katie Laing

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

## People's generosity of nature simply keeps on giving

The season of goodwill may be officially over but the generosity of spirit shown by people across the Lochaber area seems to know no bounds.

In keeping with the festive spirit was a fantastic response to an appeal by Lochaber Foodbank, based in Fort William's High Street.

People overwhelmed the foodbank with their donations of countless items to help those in need at Christmas, often seen as a particularly difficult time for the disadvantaged among us.

Alex Mcconachie, who runs the foodbank, was quick to thank the generous people who thought of others at this time of year.

Quite rightly, he also wanted to thank the team of volunteers to help out at the foodbank, whose services are, unfortunately in increasing need.

## Milestone reached for West Highland Museum

Welcoming its 60,000th visitor of 2019 marks a significant milestone for West Highland Museum.

As we report this week, the number of visitors to the museum has been increasing steadily but leaped upwards by more than 4,000 last year compared to 2018.

It is testament to the hard work put in by the mostly volunteer team under the capable hand of manager Colleen Barker but it is also as a result of the improvement of the collection on offer. Among the 'new' items in the museum's extensive and noted Jacobite display, is a snuff box with a concealed picture of Bonnie Prince Charlie.

Well done to all concerned.

## Appeal for help to find friends' address

In the late 1970s, we lived in Oban on what was then the new Soroba estate. Joyce and Charlie Millar were our neighbours and our strength and help. As a young couple with two children and no work, they accepted us strangers and treated us as a family.

We moved from Oban after a couple of years and Joyce and Charlie moved to run Beechgrove Guest House on Croft Road in Oban.

We kept in touch and, while on a short trip to Norfolk, they visited me this year in Hethersett and left their new address, as they retired from the guest house. However, I lost the address so please, if you can, help me to get in touch with them again. They are very well known in Oban, so I am sure somebody will know their address.

**Anna Harris, 14 Karen Close,  
Hethersett, Norwich NR9 3DG.**

## Lismore Christmas tree festival thanks

I would like to thank all those who contributed to the success of the island's very first Christmas tree festival – it would not have been the stunning success it was without your imagination and flair.

For those who enjoyed taking part in the the people's vote, the results were: first The Heritage Centre with their St Moluag tree, second the primary school with their Tree of Friendship, third Hazel MacCormick with her Sheep tree. Joint fourth were the Badminton Club and Sadie Gilchrist's Nativity Tree. Thanks to all and see you next year.

**Rosemary Barry, Lismore.**

## New helicopter to boost life-saving charity's work

2020 is set to herald a major advancement in the provision of emergency pre-hospital care in Scotland. This spring, Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA) will launch a second life-saving air ambulance helicopter, flying expert clinical care to the scene of serious illness and injury and airlifting patients on-wards to definitive hospital care.

The new helicopter – callsign Helimed 79 – will operate from a new base at Aberdeen International Airport, providing an identical

## YOUR PICTURES



We know our readers love to take photographs so we are happy to showcase these each week. If you have a photograph you would like to see published here, send it to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

obantimes.co.uk, post it to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB. Alternatively, hand it in to our offices in Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, or to our office in High Street,

service to the charity's existing helicopter, Helimed 76, based at Perth Airport.

Working in tandem with Scotland's two government-funded helicopter air ambulances (based at Glasgow and Inverness), SCAA's two helicopter air ambulances will play a critical role in the country's 999 response network, flying help and hope to communities in every part of the country.

Since the charity's first service launched in 2013, SCAA has touched the lives of thousands of patients. This amazing service has only been made possible thanks to the generosity of people all across Scotland who have taken the tireless work of fundraising for the life-saving charity to their hearts.

People have walked, run, abseiled, dressed up, dressed down, baked, cycled, climbed,

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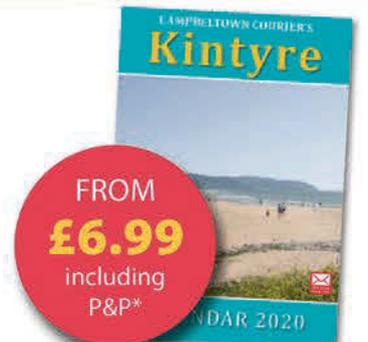
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# DISTRICT NEWS

## LOCHABER

Lochaber history buffs have a lot to look forward to in January with three talks in six days.

The first took place on Wednesday January 8 at the Moorings Hotel, Banavie, and was on the history of shinty entitled 'The Caman and the Calluinn'. Hosted by the West Highland Museum, all proceeds went toward the museum and 'Shinty Memories'.

The illustrated talk focused on fascinating incidents related to shinty matches at New Year and why the historical background makes these matches one of the most enduring traditions of the game.

The second talk, on Thursday January 9, is curiously titled 'Lochaber's Big Boulders and the Biblical Flood' and is by Noel Williams.

One hundred and fifty years ago, the realisation huge rock boulders were to be found on top of the hills of the Highlands - and particularly about Lochaber - led to much speculation as to how they had got there.

Many had apparently been moved for many miles from where they were first laid down. Speculation as to the cause of this movement ranged from raised sea levels to 'the great flood'.

But there are other explanations. Noel, a teacher, mountaineer and geologist, will guide the audience around the hill tops to see and understand the story of some of these giant boulders.

Hosted by Lochaber Local History Society, this event is in the Ben Nevis Hotel in Fort William at 8pm.

The final talk of this week is by the Royal Society for the Protection of Bird's Chris Bailey who is speaking on 'Corncrakes - A conservation success story?'. It looks at the more than 30 years' work the society has been doing with crofters, farmers and the Scottish Government to increase Corncrake numbers in Scotland and the challenges that still face them. This Lochaber Natural History Society talk starts at 7.30pm in the Ben Nevis Hotel.



Ardgour Primary School held its panto in Ardgour Hall last month. Entitled The Christmas That Santa Forgot, it was enjoyed by everyone who attended.



## LOCHABER

Lochaber Scouts and Guides took part in services in Duncansburgh Macintosh Parish Church, Fort William, Kilmonivaig Parish Church and St Mary's, Roy Bridge, to pass on the 'Peace Flame' which burned in each of these locations until twelfth night. The flame started its journey in Bethlehem and was passed around the world, igniting new sources which were then passed to candles and lanterns to keep it alive and mark peace in the world. The Lochaber flame travelled from Scout groups in Glasgow and was distributed to individual candles at each location from where people took the flame home to keep the message of peace and goodwill alive during the festive season.

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## Musician's 'dook' to raise song cash

A singer songwriter who lives in Kinlochleven is writing a song to celebrate the village's new zip wire.

Originally from France, Sarah Fanet moved to Kinlochleven five years ago and has recently finished recording an album about the village.

To raise money for her project, which is being supported by Watercolour Music in Ardgour, Sarah took a dip into Loch Linnhe on New Year's Day.

She said: 'I kept it short but did it to raise money for the recording of a song to celebrate the story of the zip wire which we hope will be ready this summer in Kinlochleven. Although I have had a tune and lyrics in my head for some time, I felt it was appropriate to wait till the project had

been fully approved. The song is a happy and fast one and the plan is to record it at Watercolour Music where I recorded my album It Happened by Loch Leven. I plan to use my network of musicians and involve young professionals from the area and beyond to join me. I would like to show a project like a zip wire can benefit young people not just in the outdoors but beyond in areas such as the arts, provided we are pro-active and use our imagination.'

Although not yet built, Sarah wants the song to inspire people to get behind the project as something that is not just a business, but will become a large part of the community.

The fundraiser can be found on Facebook under the name 'Dippy for the Zippy'.



A celebration was held to mark the re-opening of the White Bridge.

Photograph: The Woodland Trust.

## White Bridge re-opened at Loch Arkaig

Residents, businesses and visitors can use the White Bridge over the River Arkaig at Achnacarry again following its official re-opening on Sunday January 5.

The bridge had been closed from July last year for strengthening works.

The work was carried out by Woodland Trust Scotland, which manages Loch Arkaig Pine Forest in partnership with Arkaig Community Forest. The woodland is

one of the last remaining fragments of native Caledonian pinewood.

As part of the restoration of Loch Arkaig Pine Forest, a large number of non-native trees are being removed from Glen Mallie Forest between 2020 and 2026 and the refurbished bridge will now be able to cope with the lorries transporting timber. Cameron of Locheil cut the ribbon at the ceremony and the group was led across the bridge by Clan Cameron piper Astie Cameron.

## Retro Roamer

fort@obantimes.co.uk

## More Roamerisms from the early 1990s

■ Aye, well, that's us into the later 1990s now – and back to old clothes and porridge at the same time. Happy New Year to my faithful reader and Bliadhna Mhath Ur to the other one – he of the 'two spokes'.

■ Handshakes all round after the Masonic Ne'erday shinty match. Contrary to what you might read elsewhere, there was no secrecy about the result. The Lodge 43 and Lodge 1200 stalwarts settled for a diplomatic 2-2 draw.

■ Hogmanay at The Moorings took a couple of novel twists or, in the case of actress Helen Mirren who turned up unexpectedly, a couple of Boston Two Steps, Gay Gordons and St Bernard's Waltzes. The film star was with a group which came over from Corriegour to take in the New Year at The Moorings and they entered into the spirit of the occasion.

■ Saint Mary MacKillop of Australia will be beatified next week. It's great to see a Brae Lochaber connection which is attracting worldwide attention. I was intrigued, however, to read that 'Roy Bridge is planning a celebration on January 19 to mark the occasion – with more than 300,000 people expected to attend!' It'll require a miracle for Roy Bridge to cope with this amazing influx.

■ It was Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team's annual dinner dance in the Alex on Saturday night. As you can imagine, the crack was brilliant. At what other function, for example, would you witness an 'Eightensome Reel' danced by 18 men? Willie Anderson won the bottle of Ben Nevis whisky which was the prize for the tiebreaker in the Novelty Waltz. And it was drinks all round from Willie as a result. Give Willie his due, if not his Mountain Dew, because, by the time he had topped up the glasses of his rescue team colleagues there wasn't a drop left for himself.

■ There was a very nice touch, too, at the mountain rescue team 'do'. Two £50 cheques were handed out, one to the Lochaber team and the other to representatives of the Glencoe team who were invited on along to the night. The cheques had been sent from Fareham in Hampshire by Florence Riley, a keen hillwalker, who had been a patient in the Belford Hospital 17 years ago. She sent the donations to Anne Naughton, one of the staff who had nursed her, and with whom she had kept in touch over the years. 'Will you pass the enclosed cheques to the right people for me,' was Florence's message. She went on to write: 'I hope the money will be useful to help the rescue lads and lasses in their wonderful work.'

■ 'What would you like for your birthday?' asked David Sedgwick's family. 'A Hibs shirt, please' was the obvious request from the keen Hibeas fan. The package duly arrived, wrapped in green paper. David opened it and inside was – a Rangers strip! David couldn't believe it. However, just as he was singing the blues another package was produced and inside was the coveted Hibernian jersey. David was in no doubt as to who had set him up with the Rangers top. 'It was John Stafford at Cost Cutters,' he guessed correctly.

■ I have in front of me what the Ministry of Defence still describes as a 'signal'. This one, however, is from Nevis Radio, stating its 'signal' had been picked up in Finland by a holidaying Italian radio enthusiast. Aye, Senor Giovanni Bellabarba was well chuffed. As was Malcolm Brown, who said delightedly: 'Surely now there must be hope for Glenfinnan, Invergarry and Onich getting Nevis Radio reception?'

■ Helen didn't win the £1,000 prize in a breakfast TV word game. She did get her own back, however. Helen

had quickly sussed out 'Dynasty' was the answer. She had then given a lot of thought as to how she should submit her entry. 'I know,' Helen mused. 'I'll send it in on a postcard of Ben Nevis. No-one else will think of that and it might catch the judge's eye.' Next morning, through the post, Helen received a postcard - of Ben Nevis. She had written her name and address so prominently on her TV submission that it was delivered back to her. Helen's stamped, addressed postcard will go down well in the family annals.

■ A statement from Fort William Football Club: 'We will be seeing the Old Year out with this message. We reckon 1995 is likely to be an eventful year for FWFC and have high hopes we can get the club on its feet both on and off the park.' Meanwhile, has anyone got a photograph of Claggan Park? A football fanatic from Madrid – yes, Madrid – collects stadium, pitch and park pictures as a hobby. Super Ally's 'Golden Boots' haven't been seeing much action of late. So maybe he'll qualify for similar comment to that meted out, on BBC Radio Scotland, to the effect that 'Billy Dodds has gone six goals without a game'.

■ The sharp-eyed among you would have noted the 'Three in a Row' but no bonus point chalked up by a daily paper last week. Incredibly its editions of Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday all carried, in the same column on page two, exactly the same 'news items' each day. Baffled readers could have been forgiven for having a sense of deja vu when they saw the duplicated stories on Wednesday. They must have been incredulous when these reappeared on Thursday. I asked the paper for a quote or three – even a humorous comment. But not three, nor two, nor even one has been forthcoming.

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## GOLF



Ian Wylie; Brien Dickie; Soydan Nihat, winner; Gordon McColl; John Taylor, second; Mark McDougall, third; and Bill Clark.

## Soydan wins 'Sair Heid' Trophy at Seil Golf Club

Seventeen fairly sober players turned up at Seil Golf Club for the 'Sair Heid' Trophy at noon on New Year's Day.

Conditions were dry but windy and a great day was had by everyone. Results: 1 Soydan Nihat, 21; 2 John Taylor, 20; 3 Mark McDougall, 20; longest drive, Mark McDougall; nearest the pin at the fourth, Gordon McColl; at the eighth, George Hannah.

## BOWLS

## Bowling in the New Year



Oban bowlers welcomed in the new decade with their traditional bounce game on New Year's Day. Twenty four hardy sportsmen and women attended the gathering at Dalriach Road for a mixed fun match before retiring to the clubhouse for refreshments.

## LOTTERY NUMBERS

## Lochaber club lotteries

**Ballachulish Shinty Lottery:** This week's shinty lottery numbers drawn on January 5 were 1, 2 and 5. Martin Cuthbertson, junior, of Glencoe, won the £1,200 jackpot. Next week's prize reverts to £200.

**Caol Community Centre Bingo Club Lotto:** Numbers drawn on January 5 were 6, 13 and 19. There were no winners so next week's jackpot will be £400.

## FOOTBALL

## SLT back in action

Last week's scheduled Greater Glasgow Premier AFL Division One game between South Lochaber Thistle and East Kilbride YM had to be called off as the Kinlochleven High School 3G pitch was closed for the festive holidays.

The team hopes to be back in action this Saturday, January 11, with a home game against Helensburgh.



Nic Goddard, far right with yellow float, and other swimmers in Loch Sunart on New Year's Day.

# The lure of open water swimming in Lochaber

*Correspondent Nic Goddard was one of the brave souls who took part in a New Year 'loony dook' and here she tells why she loves open water swimming.*

I swim most days in Loch Sunart, sometimes alone, sometimes with a group of friends.

It can be a personal hobby with just you, the sky and the water and whatever birds fly overhead or seals that pop up next to you, or a communal activity with a group of heads bobbing above the water with goggles on their heads and tow floats trailing behind.

For a few months, a group of us have been meeting on a Sunday at Strontian jetty for a midday swim.

Sometimes it's as few as two of us, other times as many as seven or eight. We are a mixed bunch of ages, shapes and sizes and a range of abilities with a couple of triathletes, a swimming coach and several doggy paddlers among our number.

There is a great feeling of support and camaraderie between wild swimmers. Hearing each other swear as we hit the cold water, checking in with each other to ensure we're all still okay as we strike out for another further marker before turning back, balancing against each other's shoulders as we lean over to peel off wetsuits, makes for

a quick sense of being close friends, sometimes before you are even sure of a person's name.

A New Year's Day 'loony dook', an annual tradition which started back in the 1980s in the Firth of Forth, as a hangover remedy has spread throughout Scotland and there were dips in Salen, Ardgour and Strontian on January 1.

The Strontian jetty regulars were joined by locals and visitors to the area for a swim to welcome 2020.

Swimming coach Laura McConnachie piped us in to Scotland the Brave, accompanied by Debra Green on the bodhran drum, playing in their wetsuits before putting down their instruments to get in themselves.

Fourteen hardy swimmers went in, with a crowd of a similar size cheering us on from the jetty. These included Mollie the dog who got her feet wet but could not be persuaded to take the plunge.

Our group included a couple of triathletes and a new swimmer wearing 'L' plates. We ranged in age from teens to 60 plus.

After a swim in the loch, several of us returned to shore to remove our wetsuits and get back into swimsuits for the full on, loony dook experience.

The loch was measuring a



Nic Goddard emerges from Loch Sunart after the loony dook.

chilly four degrees with some strength to the drift of the tide.

We retired to the nearby Bothy Bar in Strontian where a feast including soup and mulled wine had been put on to help warm us up and raise funds for Marie Curie.

Several swimmers were taking new Christmas present wetsuits for their first dip and several more were donning new swimming robes, also bought by Santa, post-swim.

On a day when many people

## SWIMMING

are either nursing a hangover or starting to alter their lifestyles according to new year's resolutions to get fitter, a cold water swim seemed the perfect blend.

With Happy New Year greetings echoing in our ears as we all headed off with wet hair and the taste of salt still on our lips, several of us pledged to return on Sunday for our next dook.

# Lochaber Athletic Club hosts first 2020 events

A hardy bunch of 109 runners marked New Year's Day taking part in Lochaber Athletic Club's Aonach Mor Uphill 2020 event.

The first athlete home was Finlay Wild, Lochaber Athletic Club (LAC) in a time of 21:36.6. The first female runner home - and first in the veterans over 40 class - was Angela Mudge of Carnethy HRC in 14th place in a time of 26:57.1.

Runners were out in force again on Sunday for the club's Riverbank Splodge which lived up to its name with muddy conditions.

First runner home from the

## ATHLETICS

63-strong field was Gavin Whiteside (HHR) - also first male veteran over 40 - in a time of 00:54:05. First female home was Angela Mudge, Carnethy - also first veteran in female over 40 class - in ninth spot in 00:57:53.

Sunday also saw an event in the LAC Juniors Winter League.

Winners were: Under 11, boys - Angus Davies; girls, Maddison MacMillan. Under 13, boys - Duncan MacDonald. Under 15, boys - Fraser Anderson; girls, Mya Carmichael.



Runners tackle Lochaber Athletic Club's Riverbank Splodge.



The Riverbank Splodge lived up to its name, with runners ploughing through muddy conditions.



Runners set off in Lochaber Athletic Club's New Year's Day Race. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos



A large field of runners took part in Lochaber Athletic Club's New Year's Day Race - the Aonach Mor Uphill 2020.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos



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## WEATHER

**Thursday**  
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**Friday**  
Light rain and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures 7°C to 8°C.

**Weekend Outlook**  
**Saturday**  
Heavy rain and a moderate breeze  
**Sunday**  
Hail showers and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures 6°C to 10°C.



## TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday January 9, 2020** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

<b>Thur</b>	04.32	3.6	10.50	1.4
	17.05	3.8	23.03	1.1
<b>Fri</b>	05.12	3.8	11.35	1.2
	17.43	3.9	23.44	0.9
<b>Sat</b>	05.51	3.9	12.19	1.0
	18.21	3.9	** ** *	**
<b>Sun</b>	00.26	0.7	06.30	4.0
	13.03	0.9	18.58	3.9
<b>Mon</b>	01.10	0.6	07.10	4.0
	13.48	0.9	19.38	3.8
<b>Tues</b>	01.54	0.6	07.53	4.0
	14.34	1.0	20.21	3.7
<b>Wed</b>	00.41	0.7	08.38	3.9
	15.23	1.1	21.07	3.5

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

The lure of open water swimming in Lochaber

Lochaber Athletic Club hosts first 2020 events

# McMorran reveals he still has role at Claggan Park

Wick Academy	4
Fort William	1
Highland League	

Saturday's defeat by Wick Academy may have been a disappointing swansong for Fort William FC manager Russell McMorran, but it looks like his experience, knowledge and passion for the game will not be lost at Claggan Park.

Russell told the Lochaber Times that, following the Wick match, he sat down with club chairman Peter Murphy.

'We had a constructive conversation, which will see me return to Claggan behind the scenes to help the club move forward in the right direction, ensuring the stability and future of the club,' he explained.

Commenting on the game, he said: 'Despite the 325-mile, eight-hour round trip to Wick, the lads were positive and in confident form. Harmsworth Park is never an easy place to go to.'

'Wick are a physical side who can play good football and they use their home advantage well. We are disappointed with the result.'

'All credit to Wick, but it wasn't the comprehensive result or performance by Wick the final scoreline suggests.'

'We lost two early goals within the first three minutes of the game when the lads were caught cold completely against the run of play.'

'After losing the opening



Saturday's game against Wick was Russell McMorran's last game in charge of the team. Photograph: Fort William FC.

goals in quick succession, the lads found their feet and started to dominate large spells of the game, creating opportunities.

'The lads stuck to the game plan and we deservedly pulled a goal back.'

'Unfortunately, we were forced into making a change when right back Ronan Cameron was injured.'

'This was a changing point in the game as we had a foothold in the game and were

**'This is a long plan to turn the club around and the young lads can't be faulted for their passion and determination'**

pressing for the equaliser. Coming in at half time at 2-1 down, we were confident going into the second half we would take something from the game.'

'We started as we finished the first half, pressing for an equaliser.'

'Unfortunately we gave away a penalty to give Wick the opportunity to extend their lead and we can have no complaints about what was a stonewall penalty. I would

liked to have left on a high but you always have to take positives.'

'This is a long plan to turn the club around and the young lads can't be faulted for their passion and determination.'

'We continued to press Wick and looked to pull the game back right to the final whistle but at 4-1 that's almost an impossible task, so credit to Wick.'

'We made far more chances and attempts on goal and the

## FOOTBALL

lads were unlucky in the final third which is a massive improvement from our previous game.'

'We have a young squad and have to rely on our youth development programme.'

'Saturday saw four local lads who have progressed through the programme last season and this season and 16-year-old Rauridh Munro came off the bench to make his first team debut.'

In a statement issued online after the match, the club commented: 'Russell has guided us to our first league win in more than 800 days and to the North of Scotland Cup semi finals, where we lost out to the eventual winners.'

'He guided us to a 5-0 win in the Scottish Cup first round at home to Vale of Leithen and a 1-1 draw away at SPFL opposition Albion Rovers in their back yard in the second round of the competition.'

'We thank Russell for everything he has done for this football club over the past 18 months and wish him all the best for the future.'

Formartine United visit Claggan Park this Saturday for a Highland League clash.



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Smarter Places

NEVIS CYCLES

TRANSPORT  
SCOTLAND  
COTHAIL ALBA