

## Storm Brendan batters Argyll

• Full report on page 2



# Concerns voiced as food bank use on rise in Argyll and Bute

by David McPhee  
dmcphee@obantimes.co.uk



The number of people using food banks in Argyll and Bute has risen by 18 per cent.

A new study revealed that 8,509 food parcels were distributed in the area from April 2018 to September 2019. This is up from 7,195 over the previous 18 months.

The study was published by Menu for Change and Independent Food Aid Network, which combined their findings with the Trussell Trust.

The statistics for Argyll and Bute derive from five independent food banks within the constituency. Overall, a total of 586,723 parcels were distributed by food banks across Scotland for the same time period – a rise of 22 per cent.

In Oban, Hope Kitchen handed out 350 food parcels over the festive period.

Speaking to The Oban Times, service manager Catriona Petit said: 'It does concern me that in 2020, in one of the richest countries in the world, so many of our community are in a position where they have

to face the indignity of asking for food.'

'At Hope Kitchen, we are trying to address the underlying causes of food insecurity. By being part of the Independent Food Aid Network, we have been able to have a collective voice to represent the needs of some of the most vulnerable in our communities.'

'Our ultimate aim is for our

### 'Our ultimate aim is for our food bank to be no longer needed.'

food bank to be no longer needed, but as you can see there is a long way to go to reverse what is an upward trend. If anyone wants to find out more about how to try to help challenge food insecurity, then please come into Hope Kitchen or contact us on 01631 565730 or obanhopekitchen@gmail.com

'Remember, if you or anyone you know needs the support of the food bank, please come and see us or get in touch.'

A Menu for Change – the

partnership between Oxfam Scotland, Nourish Scotland, the Poverty Alliance and the Child Poverty Action Group in Scotland – and the Independent Food Aid Network say the UK government must ensure people have sustainable and secure incomes to stop them being pushed into food insecurity.

They are demanding the UK government increase the National Living Wage to the Real Living Wage and the rates of all benefits with inflation. They also want the two-child limit and benefit cap to be scrapped, zero-hours contracts banned and for there to be better support for people experiencing income shocks through life events such as bereavement.

Margaret MacLachlan, project manager at A Menu for Change, said: 'Today's statistics are shocking, but experts warn that data on food parcel distribution only provides a partial picture. No-one in rich Scotland should run out of money to buy food, and political leaders must act now to prevent more people being dragged into poverty.'

### Life on Lismore makes you smile



Having found new custodians for Lismore's only shop following an appeal, islanders are hoping they will have the same good fortune as they search for a new head teacher and church minister. For full story, turn to pages six and seven.

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John Finnie MSP cuts the ribbon supported by Pipe Major Angus MacColl, Councillor Roddy McCuish and ACHA's chairman Jim Milne. 15\_T03\_ConnelHousesRibbon

## Finnie opens new ACHA development in Connel

An ambitious plan to build 32 new rental housing units in Connel has been completed and was officially opened last week by Highlands and Islands MSP John Finnie, writes Fiona Scott.

Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) has just completed the final phase of the new build which provides a mixture of family and special needs housing, from one bedroom to three bedrooms.

Funded in a three-way partnership between ACHA, the Scottish Government and Argyll and Bute Council, the total value of the development saw an investment of £4.9million.

The main contractor for the project was Argyll company MacLeod Construction.

Speaking at the official opening last Friday Mr Finnie said: 'It is fantastic to see this important project reach completion. Providing high quality affordable homes to people in Argyll is more im-

portant than ever and I hope those moving in will spend many happy years here.'

'Decent housing isn't a luxury, it's a basic human right. I congratulate ACHA and everyone else involved and look forward to continuing to support the housing association in its vital work.'

The Connel development is part of an ongoing new build programme throughout Argyll and Bute by ACHA with developments currently on site in Oban, Kilmartin, Cairnbaan and Garelochhead. Additional site starts are due shortly in Inveraray and Tarbert.

Alastair MacGregor, ACHA's chief executive, added:

'I am delighted to see these badly needed homes completed, and to see families with young children moving into Connel. This development is about ensuring that we have decent, affordable housing in small villages in Argyll as well as larger towns such as Oban.'

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

Flooded streets, cancelled ferries and a car in danger of being swallowed by the sea were just some of the issues Storm Brendan caused this week.

Tobermory Main Street was like a loch on Monday night and motorists were warned to avoid the area.

Lasting damage seems to have been mitigated, however, as 'businesses seemed to get their sandbags and flood barriers in time,' one resident said the following day.

Also suffering during the high tide was Oban's Columba Hotel and Bar Rio restaurant. Firefighters were in attendance on Monday night to pump out six inches of water from the flooded basement back into the sea.

Debris flung from the sea was also spread right across Oban's Esplanade.

A number of homes in the Taynuilt and Glen Lonan area were left without power during the storm, and one home-owner reported 10 hours with no electricity.

In Port Appin, the tide rose so high that the Pierhouse Hotel had to evacuate its car



park. One vehicle had to be left, however, despite efforts to contact its owner, the Reverend Dr Iain Barclay and get it moved. The tide washed into the car park too quickly for it to be rescued until Tuesday afternoon.

The minister's wife Carillon later posted on Facebook: 'A

Tobermory Main Street was flooded during Storm Brendan, left, and fire-fighters had to pump out Oban's Columba Hotel.

big thank you to everybody who helped in rescuing our car. Believe it or not, it started, was dry inside and took kindly to being towed out of all the stones.'

Traffic was brought to a standstill elsewhere in Argyll at high tide, with the road being closed at Inveraray bridge.

A video posted online, which has since been shared more than 6,700 times, warned: 'If you're heading through Inveraray, don't bother until the tide goes out.'

It showed cars being battered by waves and the road starting to become severely flooded.

Glencruitten resident David Colthart got in touch with The Oban Times after his wind turbines recorded wind speeds of 98.2mph at 3.30pm on Monday.

And strong southwest winds continued into Tuesday, causing the Met Office to issue a yellow weather warning that day for the west coast of Scotland.



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Edie Elliott, Fiona Cruickshank, Gavin Thorpe, Eva Bonetti and Dylan Howe from Oban High School String Group.

16\_T03-OHString02

## Oban pupils add another string to their bows

Oban High School String group has added another string to its bow, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Four of its members have just received certificates from The Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music.

Violinists Edie Elliott, Fiona Cruickshank and Gavin Thorpe all got Grade 5, Eva Bonetti got her Grade 2.

Edie and fellow pupil Dylan Howe have also been accept-

ed into the West of Scotland String orchestra.

Strings instructor Hazel Clark is delighted with their success, saying: 'They have been working hard for months and it has all paid off.'

Before Christmas the musical group were busking in supermarkets in Oban and made more than £200 to buy shopping for the town's Hope Kitchen project.

# Fears for Oban's 'last green space'

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Oban could lose its most important recreational area if proposals under the latest Local Development Plan go ahead, warns Friends of Ganavan.

The group fears the area, that once had beach huts, an 18-hole golf course and pavilion, is at serious risk unless people object before Argyll and Bute Council's consultation deadline runs out on January 23.

The beach and the shinty pitch is much-used by townspeople and visitors, and is the last substantial 'green space' near Oban for people to enjoy, says Friends of Ganavan.

Under a plan that sets out how Oban could develop over the next 10 years, the area is marked out on maps for change.



Ganavan is regularly used for recreational purposes

A spokesperson for the group that was set up to protect the area and its benefits said: 'Any development in this area would be retrograde, not only for locals but the economy.'

'A massive economic benefit will be lost if this area is developed for housing.'

The spokesperson added: 'Not many people in Oban and the surrounding area will be aware of this potential development area – but if it is adopted, everyone will be affected and it will be a severe and irretrievable loss to our area.'

'Everyone who cares about Ganavan and feels strongly they want to keep Ganavan for the people of Oban should lodge comments by the January 23 deadline.'

The local development plan does say health and well-being should be supported through promoting outdoor access and it states the shinty pitch would be relocated elsewhere, although the Friends do not know where.

Concern has also been expressed about the possibility of the coast-hugging Oban to Ganavan road being linked to the new Dunbeg Housing

Corridor, with the spokesperson for the Friends adding: 'The Ganavan road, built in 1904, is not suitable as a link up road and is at maximum capacity at present.'

'As outlined in The Oban Times of January 9, concern is deepened by the possibility of this becoming a rat run for the proposed housing therefore diminishing amenity value even further.'

People in Benderloch are also being urged to check the plan for substantial change proposed for their village and the Letterwalton area regarding a quarry and mineral extraction already ongoing.

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

## HAVE YOUR SAY

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

## Spring reopening for Regent Hotel

Oban's Regent Hotel will reopen on Monday March 2 under new management.

The Corran Esplanade business closed its doors last Friday leaving staff fearing for their jobs.

Former caretakers Bespoke Hotels took over the running of the venue this week. Robin Sheppard, CEO of Bespoke Hotels, added: 'We are delighted to have reached an agreement to resume management of the Regent Hotel which will strengthen our growing presence in Scotland. It is a property with huge potential.'

A spokesperson for the company added: 'The hotel is undergoing a short period of closure to allow the company to assess the business, before reopening on March 2.'

## Oban traffic survey

More than 1,000 people have responded to an online traffic survey about congestion in Oban. A report on the findings will be brought to the town's next community council meeting on January 27. As previously reported in The Oban Times, residents have expressed fears that emergency services could get stuck in traffic while responding to 999 calls.



Malcolm Roughhead at the Ocean Explorer Centre with Dr Anushka Miller and David Adams McGilp. 16\_T03\_visitscotland

## VisitScotland tour in Oban

VisitScotland chiefs were in Oban this week at the start of Year of Coasts and Waters 2020, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Its chief executive Malcolm Roughhead and regional director David Adams McGilp stopped off at Dunbeg's Ocean Explorer Centre as part of a listening tour of the area,

finding out more about what the area's opportunities and challenges are for tourism. 'I don't think you could find a better themed year for Oban than coasts and waters,' said Mr Roughhead, who added the economic benefits for the area would be far-reaching to the whole community, even those not directly linked to tourism.

'Tourism is such a powerful economic driver. Everyone will benefit from it,' he said.

Year of Coasts and Waters 2020 has a full programme running right through to December including a RowAroundScotland bid and the Easdale Rib Rendezvous organised by Seil-based Seafari Adventures.

Talks with Argyll and the

Isles Tourism Co-operative and Argyll and Bute Council were also on the VisitScotland pair's agenda on Tuesday, as well as a visit to Oban's tourist iCentre on the North Pier.

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For more, turn to page 12.

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**POLICE FILES****Fraud trick by Facebook 'friend'**

About 11am on Monday January 6, police received a report of a banking fraud where an Oban woman was befriended by someone on Facebook and duped into transferring a sum of money to a fraudulent bank account. Members of the public are reminded to be cautious about all online interactions with people they don't know in real life. If asked to transfer money, be very wary and seek advice from bank staff or police.

**Drink driving allegation**

About 4.45am on Saturday January 11, officers came across a road crash on the A828 near to Appin. Enquiries at the scene revealed the driver, a woman, 19, had allegedly been driving under the influence of alcohol, with no insurance and with no licence. The woman was arrested and charged and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

**Abusive behaviour**

About 2.20am on Sunday January 12, in Stevenson Street, Oban, a man, 54, was arrested for allegedly behaving in an abusive manner. The man was charged and issued with a recorded police warning.

**Investigation into air gun shooting**

Between December 24 and 25, a domestic cat was injured in Rockfield Road, Tobermory, on Mull. Subsequent examination by a vet confirmed that the cat had been shot by an air gun or similar weapon.

For more on this story, see page five.

**If any member of the public has information in relation to the above, or to any incident, they can contact their local police station on telephone number 101, or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.**

# Oban gets knitting for koala care

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Visiting uncle from Oz Malcolm Clark almost bust his baggage allowance on the return trip home after an appeal to help stricken wildlife touched the hearts of Oban people.

Mr Clark from Perth, Australia, was staying with his niece Pamela Holland when she put out an appeal.

Within 24 hours, piles of knitted donations had been dropped off at Eric Smith Travel where Mrs Holland works. More, including blankets, had been left at her home.

Although Mr Clark, who had spent the last four weeks visiting relatives in Barra, Mull and Glasgow, as well as Oban, lives many miles from the affected areas, his neighbour is going to volunteer at an animal shelter in the west of the country and has agreed



Caption in here and here and here ranged left.

to take Oban's donated haul with her.

Pamela said: 'One lady knitted three blankets the night she spotted the appeal on Information Oban, another went and bought lots of baby mittens and another very kind lady brought in a huge bag of about 150 knitted squares that my aunt Fiona Clark will turn into

kangaroo pouches. We are so impressed with Oban's response but not surprised. Oban is tops when it comes to being generous.'

She added: 'Uncle Malcolm managed to squeeze lots into his bags but they were fit to burst and Aunt Fiona and my cousin Kevin were doing the same. They said they'd find a way of getting it all home.'

## Last call to win £15,000 prize

Time is running out to win a free wedding package worth £15,000.

Oban businesses united last year to contribute to the prize to help raise money for Motor Neurone Disease.

Tickets cost £10 and so far more than £2,300 has been raised – almost 50 per cent of the £5,000 target.

Prizes include a venue and catering for 75 guests thanks to Argyllshire Gathering Halls, plus table and chair covers, table centrepieces, and a wedding arch, if the winners choose to have their ceremony in the venue.

The winner will be announced on Valentine's Day and the venue date is set for February 13, 2021.

To be in with a chance of winning, just donate a minimum of £10 and leave their name on www.justgiving.com/fundraising/karen-macinnnes4

Karen MacInnes organised the raffle after 42-year-old Oban man Brian MacDonald was diagnosed with the disease. She said: 'This is a devastating illness for Brian and his close family, so by donating just £10 and with an opportunity to win this fantastic wedding prize worth over £15,000 is a small step into making a difference to MND.'



## Donald's surprise spot the ball win

A Kintyre man was surprised to land £2,000 in the Courier's Spot the Shinty Ball competition.

Donald McLellan, 83, from Machrihanish, was up against hundreds of people in the competition which runs in the Campbeltown Courier, the Argyllshire Advertiser, the Oban Times and the Lochaber Times.

Donald said: 'It was a great surprise. It's a lovely wee lift in the new year, after spending a few pounds at Christmas!'

'I play regularly - I've been doing it for years - and I've had a few near misses, winning £25, but I've never won the big money.'

For your chance to win next week's £2,150 prize money, turn to page 43.



## Rockfield moves step closer to completion

New steelwork has arrived on site at Oban's Rockfield Centre, notching up another milestone for the project, writes Kathie Griffiths.

The old blue staircase, also known to many as the 59 block stairs, has been removed to make way for a new staircase and a lift, meaning all floors are fully accessible.

Eleanor MacKinnon, project facilitator said: 'The build is moving forward at a good

pace. All the demolition work is done and dusted; the windows are finished; cornicing has been replaced; it's a case of plastering walls; toilets are going in and more scaffolding is coming down.'

'Once that's done there will be a period of kitting the building out and if all keeps going to plan, we will gradually start moving from the huts to the main building, with a razzmatazz launch in 2021.'



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# Pet lover's shock over cat shootings

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk

Two shooting incidents involving the death and injury of two much-loved household pets are being investigated by police officers on Mull.

Fiona Henderson from the Rockfield area in Tobermory was devastated in November when her beloved cat Emre, aged two, was shot twice and killed by an air gun, or similar weapon.

Named after former Liverpool midfielder Emre Can, Fiona's youngest cat was extremely affectionate and loved attention.

'The chilling verdict of the vet was that he was shot from close range, perhaps indicating that it was this affection that got him killed,' said Fiona.

Tobermory is an incredibly safe place, so this came as a massive shock. I had to tell my son (who is at university) over the phone that Emre was not only dead, but that he was killed.

'He was, of course, hugely saddened by this, that his wee affectionate pal had been



Emre and Bear were deliberately shot at.

killed, but overwhelmingly shocked at how such a thing could happen on such an ostensibly safe street.'

Exactly a month later, on the night of Christmas Eve/early Christmas morning, Fiona's older cat Bear, aged four, was shot and injured in similar circumstances.

'Bear and Emre were the closest of buddies,' added Fiona. 'He, too, is really affectionate and a massive scaredy-cat.'

'He is a huge character and it's hard to imagine the house without him, which is why it

came as such a shock to see him in the awful state he was in on Christmas Day.

'It was hard to believe that, after the reaction caused by the original shooting, someone would be cruel enough to do it again. But, according to the vet, that is exactly what most likely nearly killed our Bear at Christmas.'

'Pets really are family and it's heartbreaking to see them suffer, or worse.'

I'd urge those with any information to please come forward. It has become obvious that the original incident was deliberate and the prospect of a repeat is cause for major concern.'

The incidents have shocked the animal-loving community in Tobermory where there is growing concern over the safety of household pets.

Mull police officers are investigating the incident and are appealing for any witnesses or anyone with any information to contact them or call 101 and quote incident number 3885 of 07/01/20. Crimestoppers can also be contacted anonymously on 0800 555 111.



Lucky trolley dash winner Sharon Summers with twins Josh and Ryan. 16\_T03\_trolleydash

## Trolley dash win for mum, Sharon

Mum Sharon Summers has won a trolley dash worth £200 after collecting four tokens from her Oban Times, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Courtesy of Tesco in Oban, lucky reader Sharon from Dunollie will be filling up her trolley with goods at

the supermarket next week after her entry was picked at random.

All Sharon had to do was collect four tokens over four weeks from December 12 and get her entry in by January 9 to be in with a chance to win.

Twin sons Ryan and Josh

aged four have already put in their special requests for chocolate and smoothies, and grannie Nancy Morrice will also be in for a treat or two, said Sharon.

'This is very much appreciated, especially coming just after Christmas,' she added.

## Hoping for calm after the storm

Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

editor@obantimes.co.uk

I hope everyone has come through the recent storms unscathed.

I know there was flooding, roads blocked and power cuts, and we owe a huge thanks to the emergency services and the engineers who worked tirelessly to make sure everyone was safe, damage was minimised and that power was back on as quickly as possible. It can't have been much fun working in those conditions.

Luckily, I was tucked up safe and warm – as I am most evenings at the moment. It takes something good to tempt me to leave the house at this time of year. It's just as well there are good things on or I might become a recluse.

Tomorrow (Friday January 17) we have a fabulous quiz in aid of Oban Pipe Band in the Masonic Hall and tonight (Thursday) we have the regular quiz in The

WHERE IS THIS?



Oban Inn – so that's two nights out already this week and there are a few things tempting me in the cinema as well just now.

And let's not forget Homestart Lorn's Burns Supper which is on Sunday (January 19) in Cuan Mor.

Just in case you want to be well prepared for next weekend, don't forget the bingo night in aid of the Dove Centre in the Argyllshire Gathering. It's always a really entertaining night and a good cause.

If you like a Burns Supper but don't like coming out

at night, then Dunollie Museum, Castle and Grounds have the perfect solution with a Burns lunch. Have a look on their website for details.

I've noticed a difference in the lighter evenings as well which is encouraging, as it won't be too long until we're back to nice bright nights which makes it a bit easier to get out and about.

The photo last week was of the Post Office in Albany Street. This week's photo is a repeat of a very old one, just to see if anyone was paying attention!

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# Wanted: Lismore seeks new headteacher and minister

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Islanders on Lismore have found new custodians to run their only shop after an appeal but are still looking for a headteacher and church minister.

The identity of the new proprietors, who will also be running the Post Office counter, has just been revealed as islanders Laura and Robbie Cook.

Inhabitants of the lush island, 10 miles by sea from Oban and so green they call it The Great Garden, are hoping their appeal for the remaining jobs at the core of island life will prove just as fruitful.

As a search for a replacement headteacher and minister starts off the new decade, islanders say the

changes will bring new beginnings for their thriving community and are 'excited' rather than 'desperate'.

The island, home to multiple artisan crafters and small business entrepreneurs, has its own public hall, heritage centre, museum and cafe, drawing in ferryloads of visitors – and those who decide to stay for good.

Headteacher Catherine Davies is one of them. Even though she retires in April, Lismore will remain her home sweet home.

There will be 'big boots to fill' after her decade as top teacher at the island primary school and nursery, say parents and colleagues.

With 12 youngsters on the primary register and three under-fives in nursery, not counting the tinier tots and babes-in-arms who appear



for Bookbug sessions, the school – declared by inspectors in the past three years as one of Argyll and Bute's best – is a vital spark and hub of the community.

Pupils who will be involved in the interviews have come up with the following job requirements: the ability to be funny and make learning fun, be kind, friendly, respectful, patient, smart, tidy but not too organised, be musical, welcoming, not too strict and be part of the community.

Enjoying even more of the Great Outdoors and following up her new-found pursuit of rock climbing is on Mrs Davies' to-do list when she retires, but she will still make the time to keep in touch with her school family.

'It would be impossible not to! We are one big family here – the whole island is so supportive of the school. A bit of me will be sad to say goodbye but I'll still be here supporting them and island life,' she said.

A hands-on parent council plays a huge part in school

**Lismore headteacher Catherine Davies has been 'a star' say parents.**

daughter Hannah, three, is in nursery regularly, calls in with seven-month-old baby Nora to chat with other parents and hopes the next headteacher will keep the school doors open as a way of beating social isolation.

Mum of twins Roxanne MacColl said: 'This is going to be a great opportunity for the school to see exciting changes, but there's big boots to fill.'

The island's historic St Moluag's cathedral is looking for a replacement too. In July, Lismore and Appin minister the Reverend Dr Iain Barclay will take his last service on the island before retiring to Tighnabruach on the Cowal Peninsula, administering to his greenhouse and keeping bees.

A strong stomach for choppy waters will stand candidates in good stead for the ministry role that demands at least six ferry crossings a week between Lismore and Port Appin. The Rev Barclay was never reunited with a pair of spectacles swept off his nose during one particular gusty voyage.

'You need a sense of adventure to take on this job. It's an experience, not run-of-the-mill. It's Highland as well as island. You have to listen to the heartbeat of Lismore; it beats in its own unique way,' he said.

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Outdoors singalong with headteacher Catherine Davies and pupils who hope their new head will be just as musical.



Clockwise from top left:  
Lismore minister, the  
Reverend Dr Iain Barclay  
will be retiring in July;  
David Wilson is delighted  
new custodians have been  
found to keep the store  
and post office running;  
the community is hands-  
on at Lismore Primary  
School, says parent council  
chairman Dirk Parker.



island shop at the start of August, David and Teenie Wilson can finally start planning their retirement after 23 years – converting the shop van into a camper and touring around Europe is on the horizon. The response to finding new proprietors was ‘overwhelming’, they said.

‘We sincerely hope that

everyone will give them their full support as they all have to us in the past 23 years. We wish them well and hope they enjoy their new venture as much as we have,’ added David.

The Aladdin’s Cave-like shop in the middle of the island, which stocks everything from home-grown hyacinths

to cupboard essentials, island beef and whisky to walking boot spikes and souvenir mugs, has been trading for 100 years, including time spent doubling up as a tailors at one end and a grain store at the other.

‘We’ve got all the needles but not the haystack,’ said David.



The playground is open to the community to share in the fun.

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OT

# New chief executive says: 'We can make Argyll and Bute the very best'

by David McPhee  
dmcphee@obantimes.co.uk



'Working together, we can make Argyll and Bute the very best it can be.'

That is the message to residents, businesses, communities and organisations throughout the area from the council's new chief executive.

Pippa Milne has taken over from Cleland Sneddon, having moved up from being executive director for development and infrastructure services.

Having worked in local government for 28 years, Ms Milne is only too aware of the challenges ahead – but can't wait to get started.

She said: 'I'm passionate about Argyll and Bute and the potential that it offers. Leading this organisation is an exciting opportunity.'

'The best part of the job



**Pippa Milne is Argyll and Bute's new chief executive.**

is that, as a team, we get to make a positive difference for people every day.'

'There are undoubtedly challenges, not least delivering services with fewer and fewer resources but there are also great opportunities like delivering our Rural Growth Deal.

I'm looking forward to working with all our partners in the area to make the most of those opportunities.'

I would like to see Argyll and Bute thriving and growing with a buoyant economy; opportunities for work and study that make it an attractive place for young

people; housing suitable for those who want and need it; and services which meet the needs of our communities.

'Things that will help us get there are the delivery of our Rural Growth Deal over the next 10 years and capturing the benefits of the Maritime Change programme at HMNB Clyde for the local area.'

Ms Milne first joined Argyll and Bute Council in 2013, having fallen in love with the area as a visitor. She has worked for a number of different councils in England and Scotland, and now lives with her husband at Crinan.

The challenge of helping the area reach its full potential is one she is ready to take on – but it is not something that can be undertaken alone.

Ms Milne continued: 'Delivering for Argyll and Bute means working in part-

nership. Working co-operatively with other public sector organisations like the health and social care partnership, police, fire, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, private sector businesses, voluntary and community organisations and communities themselves is critical.'

'Our community planning partnership brings all those bodies together and a range of teams who all believe we can make a difference.'

'Our population is both ageing and declining. This threatens our economic success, makes it difficult to fill jobs and leads to increases in the cost of public services.'

'We need to make the area attractive for young people to ensure the long-term sustainability of our area.'

One of Ms Milne's first tasks is to oversee the council's 2020/21 budget-setting

process, which has already faced obstacles.

Recent events at UK level have left that process shrouded in uncertainty – but the chief executive knows choosing savings will prove difficult in any event.

She said: 'At the moment we don't yet know when we will find out how much money the council will be allocated.'

'We have been preparing for the budget using assumptions and the council's policy and resources committee considered the budget outlook and savings proposals in December.'

'Many of these are proposals we would rather not have to put forward, and they will present difficult choices for those involved in agreeing the budget.'

Ms Milne added: 'Argyll and Bute is a great place to live, work and invest.'

## TAX RETURN DEADLINE 31 JANUARY 2020

**The tax return deadline when filing your online Self Assessment for the tax year ending 5 April 2019 is midnight on 31 January 2020**



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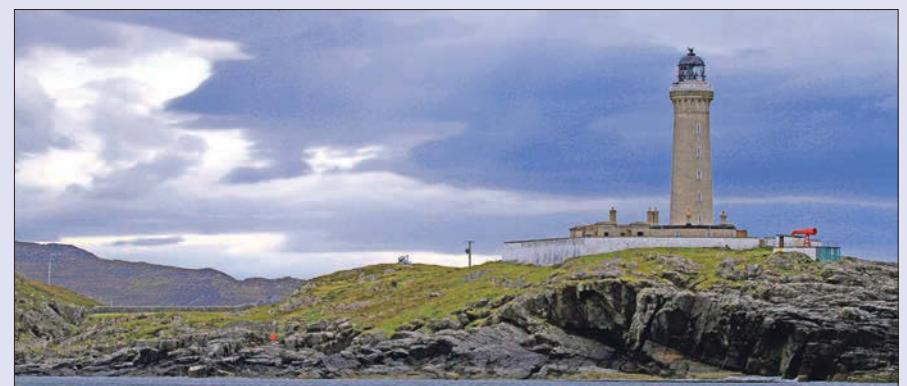
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Ardnamurchan lighthouse, part of the 'coast that shaped the world' project.

## Digital heritage tourism projects win vital cash

Two digital heritage tourism research projects at the University of the Highlands and Islands are amongst nine projects in the Highlands and Islands selected to share a £5 million European Regional Development Fund.

The Uibhist virtual archaeology project received a grant of £271,000 to create a new series of virtual reality digital reconstructions of seven archaeological sites located on the Hebridean Way walking route in Uist and Benbecula.

The 'coast that shaped the world' project received a grant of £350,000. This project will develop a website, app and programme of innovative digital

exhibitions along the west coast of Scotland to narrate how maritime cultural, and natural heritage, helped to shape the world.

The Natural and Cultural Heritage Fund is led by Scottish Natural Heritage and is part funded through the European Regional Development Fund.

Professor Neil Simco, vice principal (research and impact) at the University of the Highlands and Islands, said: 'We are proud that our projects have been selected to be part of this exciting investment programme.'

This is an example of where the university's research excellence is playing an important role in local communities to support

and contribute to transforming and enhancing lives, the environment and the economy across the region.'

The Uibhist virtual archaeology project is led by Dr Rebecca Rennell and Dr Emily Gal, both archaeological experts based at Lewis Castle College UHI.

Dr Rennell said: 'The team is thrilled to have received this funding from the Natural and Cultural Heritage Fund.'

'It will help to realise community benefits, unlock economic potential and improve the visitor experience in a way that conserves and protects the unique natural and cultural heritage recognised across the region.'

## Council concerns over landfill waste costs

Measures to ban landfill waste could force Argyll and Bute Council to seek more financial help from the Scottish Government, a report has warned.

A ban on sending biodegradable municipal waste to landfill sites under the Waste Regulations (Scotland) Act had been scheduled for January 2021, but has now been pushed back to 2025.

Disposal of rubbish via Energy from Waste [EfW], which involves the processing of rubbish to create a source of fuel or generate electricity or heat, will be encouraged instead.

But a report for a short-life council action group set up to co-ordinate the authority's climate change efforts has stated that Argyll and Bute faces a unique set of challenges in moving away from the use of landfill sites.

These include separate waste contracts between Helensburgh and Lomond and the rest of the area, increased revenue costs, and the impact on ferry capacity

as a result of transferring rubbish for EfW use.

Kirsty Flanagan, the council's interim executive director for development and infrastructure, said in the report: 'The council recognises the serious global impacts of climate change and is committed to reducing the environmental impact of the council and its residents.'

'Changing the council waste disposal methodology with a move away from landfill to EfW is extremely challenging for every local authority.'

However, Argyll and Bute faces a unique set of circumstances that disproportionately increase this cost challenge of landfill ban compliance.'

Ms Flanagan added: 'Due to the disproportionate challenge the council faces due to our rural/island geography and our existing contractual commitments to the Waste PPP agreement we require a mixture of practical and financial support from the Scottish Government to achieve this transition.'

# Cyclists up for tough challenge

by Kathie Griffiths  
kg Griffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Freezing temperatures, 17 hours of darkness and miles of gruelling terrain will challenge four Benderloch cyclists this weekend.

The team will be taking part in the Strathpuffer 24 endurance event in aid of a charity supporting wounded military personnel.

Leading the team will be Ronald Gordon, who last year raised more than £3,000 for Help Our Wounded Royal Marines and Supporting Arms when his home improvement business Gordon and Stratheron organised a golfing day at Ballachulish.

Mr Gordon, who was in the Royal Navy for nine years, is being joined in his latest fundraiser by his 19-year-old son Sean, DJ Barr and Ian Macdonald, who are all fellow



Sean and Ronald Gordon with Ian Macdonald and DJ Barr.

members of the North Argyll Cycle Club.

'We all do a lot of cycling so it'll just be a case of starting the challenge and keeping it going. We'll be doing it in relay to notch up the laps over the 24 hours. The worst bit will be coping with the weather we could experience – it could be absolutely brutal,' said Mr Gordon. He is hoping

donations to his JustGiving.com/fundraising/ronald-gordon1-gordonandstratheronltd will take the amount raised so far, including the golfing day, to more than £5,000.

Every penny raised will go directly to the people who need it, making a real difference to lives, said Mr Gordon.

Jean MacPherson, who lives in Oban, is a trustee

of the charity. Her husband David's Royal Marine brother, Gordon, lost his life in the Falklands conflict the day before hostilities ended in 1982.

Since the charity got its registered status in 2013, many events have been held for marines, their families and others who have served in the military but now find themselves in need of assistance.

Mrs MacPherson, who with others has run 10km events and bungee-jumped for the charity, said: 'It's absolutely amazing what Ronald and his team-mates are doing for us. We need to keep the money coming in so we can give all the help that is needed. The government doesn't help these people so someone has to step up and that's what we do.'

To organise an event or give support, email Mrs MacPherson: Jmacp35@gmail.com



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OT

## Have your say on Islay bus service

Islay residents, businesses and visitors are being asked for their views on their current and potential use of school and public transport on the island.

The current contract for the provision of School and Public Transport on Islay (Service No. 450 and 451) is due to end in October 2020.

Before retendering for this contract, Argyll and Bute Council is asking people living, working on, as well as visiting, Islay and Jura how they use the service and how they would like to see it used in the future.

The short survey opened on Friday January 10 and will run until Friday February 7. All responses are voluntary and anonymous and anyone of school age and above is encouraged to take part. Visit [www.argoyle-bute.gov.uk/consultations/Islay-school-and-public-transport-survey](http://www.argoyle-bute.gov.uk/consultations/Islay-school-and-public-transport-survey). Paper copies available on request by emailing [procurement@argoyle-bute.gov.uk](mailto:procurement@argoyle-bute.gov.uk) or call 01546 604239.

# Ardchattan Kirk up for sale for £115,000

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

A beautiful B-Listed church on the shores of Loch Etive is finally up for sale one year after it shut.

It has taken 12 months for the Church of Scotland to get Ardchattan Kirk ready for the buyers' market.

Since its doors shut, the congregation have been travelling instead to St Modan's Church in Benderloch.

Offers of around £115,000 are being asked for the striking-looking church built back in 1836.

With its nave, east and west transepts, vestry, hall, WC and upper gallery area, church officials are hoping it will be snapped up soon.

Parishioners have been hoping after 182 years of worship, there is still a chance



the building could start a new life as a hub of sorts for the community.

Reasons for the delay in putting it up for sale included the lengthy process of getting approvals from various church committees, The Oban

Times was previously told. The church at Achnaba had to close because of its straitened financial circumstances after a review by The Church of Scotland.

The new owner at Achnaba could use it as a crèche,

day nursery, day centre, educational establishment, museum, art gallery or public library without having to go to planners for change of use consent.

It also has potential for other uses such as a theatre, cinema,

**Ardchattan Kirk,  
Achnaba,  
near North  
Connel,  
is being  
sold by the  
Church of  
Scotland.**

restaurant, shop or community resource space but would need the right permission from Argyll and Bute.

Using it as a home is also a possibility but would need the proper planning permission first.

The Church has kept the right to remove fixtures and fittings, including the pews.

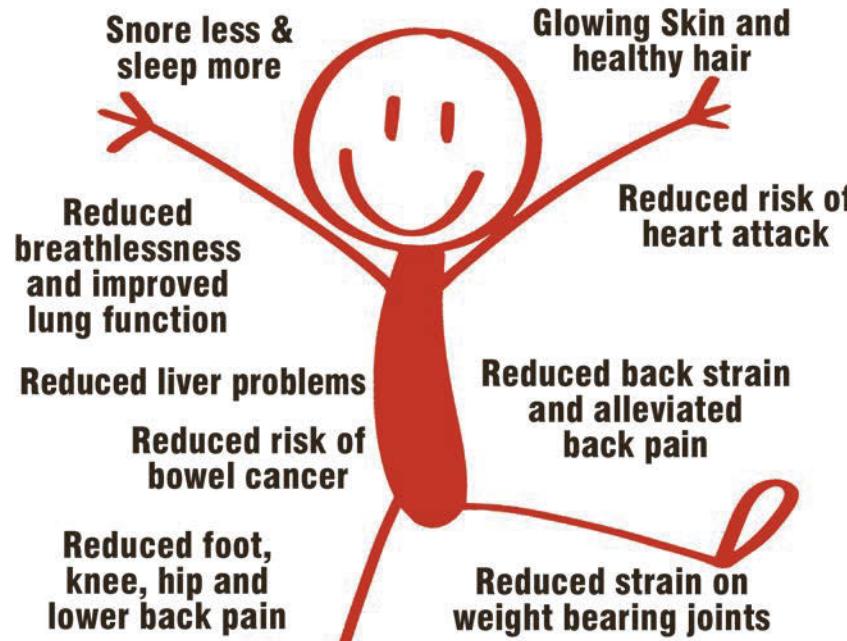
As well as the outside of the church being listed, it also had a rare central communion table about 30ft long and a precentor's box inside that are also listed.

A Church of Scotland spokesperson said: 'In agreement with the congregation, the communion table and precentor's box will be marketed as part of the church building.'

Anyone wanting to go and view it should contact The Church of Scotland Law Department on 0131 240 2263.

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## MacPhail

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Tiree has suffered throughout its history from the lack of a good natural harbour.

To a large extent, it still does but this year a new pier at Milton Harbour has greatly improved the berthing capacity and safety for the island's fishing fleet.

This type of long-term investment in a tangible and permanent asset is exactly the kind of project that will reap benefits far into the future.

As Storm Brendan put his immense power behind the high spring tides that happened to coincide with his tempest wrath this week, the value of this investment is already showing its worth. In these conditions, the previous pier would have been two to three feet under water, posing a risk to any boats tied alongside.

In such conditions, it is perfectly realistic that the entire fleet could have been wrecked alongside the old pier. However, even at the peak of the high tides on Monday and Tuesday, there was still plenty of pier showing above the waves, keeping the boats safely on the outside of the pier and not getting bounced, battered and wrecked on the top and edge as was always the risk

previously when spring tides and gales combined.

When my father started lobster fishing in the early 1970s there was no pier at all at Milton. However, he managed to seek funding from the Highlands and Islands Development Board and in 1972 a small concrete pier was built by D A Gillespie, father of Skerryvore brothers.

As the fishing fleet grew, it was clear that more berthing capacity was needed and in 1984/85, after many years of perseverance and with many knock-backs and stalls, funding was again secured and a higher three-berth pier was built and the harbour bed was also dredged to lessen the tight tidal constraints.

The activity of that building and dredging was a highlight of my childhood as we lived just at the top of the harbour road. The blasting, the boring, the huge lorries, the dumper trucks, the diggers and the constant din of metal against rock were all a great source of amazement to a five-year-old!

The kindness and patience of Danny Gillespie's workmen is also very fondly recalled. Many an excited hour I spent in Lachie Brown's digger in

awe at the huge rocks he could move with ease. His wife, Sandra, even used to pack extra sandwiches and biscuits in his piece box for this hungry apprentice.

I didn't carry on with the digger driving but what happy memories to look back on.

When I was home last week, it was with great pride and happiness that I stood on the new pier. The sense of positivity and hope of a bright future was amplified further by the arrival of a new boat to the harbour. Iain Lamont's Cygnus 26 is a very welcome addition to the fleet and is yet another pertinent piece of evidence as to the value of this small harbour development.

From a tiny concrete pier in 1972, five boats now work safely from Milton, with room for more. That represents a lot of jobs and potential revenue for a small island such as Tiree.

My father would be very proud if he was alive to see the small seeds he planted nearly 50 years ago still bearing fruit and allowing future generations to bring home the harvest of the sea.

Congratulations to all who were behind this latest step forward for Milton Harbour.

## History group heads to the woods

Lorn Natural History Group's first monthly field trip of 2020 is to Dunollie Wood.

The area was recently taken over by the Woodland Trust to conserve and manage the remnants of ancient Atlantic woodland.

LNHG members will be searching little-visited areas of the woods on Saturday January 18 searching for bryophytes and lichens, which are one of the woods' key features.

The place to meet on the day is at Corran Halls car park at 10am.

Bring a packed lunch and hot drink, wear suitable clothing and be prepared for terrain on a slope that could be tricky.



# Busy year for Oban's recompression facility

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

Oban recompression chamber experienced its busiest year in the last decade in 2019.

In total, 37 treatments were given to divers who had suffered some form of decompression illness, sometimes referred to as 'the bends'.

The patients were predominantly recreational divers but treatment was also given to divers employed on fish farms, as shellfish harvesters and in civil engineering.

The chamber is located at the Dunstaffnage Marine Laboratories in Dunbeg and is one of only three NHS-registered emergency treatment centres for decompression illness in Scotland, the others being in Orkney and Aberdeen.

It is also approved by the



Royal Navy and the US Navy to support their operations when diving on the west coast.

The facility is owned and managed by the diving company Tritonia Scientific Ltd. Its managing director, Dr Martin Sayer, said: 'This increased level of activity confirms our decision to take

over running the facility when it was threatened with closure in 2018.

'It is difficult to know if there were any specific factors that caused this increase but maintaining a NHS-registered chamber on the west coast is obviously of vital importance to the many

Tritonia Scientific staff host a visit to the chamber from the Royal Navy's Southern Diving Group in July 2019.

businesses that use, or are involved with, diving.'

Twenty four/seven cover is provided mainly by the core employees of Tritonia Scientific but with the assistance of an additional 14 casual staff.

The medical element of the operation is facilitated through the Lorn Medical Centre involving doctors from that practice and Lorn and Islands Hospital.

Dr Colin Wilson, medical director for the recompre-

sion chamber, added: 'We have been recruiting to our on-call team over the past 18 months and the high number of treatments in 2019 has provided plenty of practical experience for these doctors as they continue their specialist training in diving and hyperbaric medicine.'

There is a Scottish helpline for anyone involved with a diving incident and they should telephone 0345 408 6008 and ask for the hyperbaric doctor on call.

Alternatively, the Oban unit can be alerted through the Coastguard on Channel 16.

More information on the signs and symptoms of decompression illness and what to do if you suspect decompression illness can be found on the website:

[tritonascientific.co.uk/tritonia-hyperbarics/tritonia-emergency-response](http://tritonascientific.co.uk/tritonia-hyperbarics/tritonia-emergency-response)

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The medical element of the operation is facilitated through the Lorn Medical Centre involving doctors from that practice and Lorn and Islands Hospital.

Dr Colin Wilson, medical director for the recompre-

## Isle of Ulva is on the hunt for a project manager

An 'ambitious and experienced project manager' is being sought to help develop an island with a population of just six, writes David McPhee.

June 2018 was a historical year for the isle of Ulva, following a successful community buyout after its private owner placed the island on the market.

Last year, hundreds of people filled out an application expressing an interest in moving to Ulva.

And now, the North West Mull Community Woodland Company (NWMWC), which owns the island, is on the hunt for a project manager to help take the plans to the next level.

Writing on Facebook, the NWMWC said: 'In 2018 we took the Isle of Ulva into community ownership. The objectives of the acquisition are to manage the island to provide sustainable benefits with a focus on repopulation and ensuring community ownership delivers benefits for the wider North



A proven track record in procuring and managing capital build projects is essential. Project and budgetary management skills are also important, as is experience of working within a community setting. In addition, experience within the heritage sector would be an advantage.'

The closing date for the application is Monday January 28 at 9am and interviews will be held on Mull in February.

Those interested should send a completed application form and C.V. to [admin@nwmullwoodland.co.uk](mailto:admin@nwmullwoodland.co.uk) or post to NWMWC fao Helen Murray, Penmore Mill, Dervaig, Isle of Mull, Argyll, PA75 6QS.

The post is funded through the Scottish Government's European Regional Development Fund and the National Heritage Lottery Fund.

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# OUTDOORS

# Going coastal over 2020

by Martin Laing  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

A series of events are set to make a huge splash in celebration of Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters 2020.

From canal carnivals to coastal-inspired opera and art, seaweed festivals and science events to thrill-seeking endurance activities and coastal rowing voyages, Scotland's celebratory themed year will shine a light on a far-reaching programme of events throughout 2020.

Setting sail across spring 2020 (March to May), events supported through the Round 2 Year of Coasts and Waters event fund include: Canal Festival Time Machine will bring to life the tales of the Forth and Clyde Canal through art, music, and performance from the Kelpies to the Falkirk Wheel, and Sea Tamagotchi, part of the year-long programme for Galway 2020 European Capital of Culture is a linguistic art project that will seek out and celebrate endangered maritime words and place names in coastal regions, with a focus on the Western Isles.

Splashing into the summer months (June to August): An t-sruthair – a spectacular summer seaside festival, and the Scottish Traditional Boat Festival's Portsoy Ahoy! will offer an expanded programme with an added focus on our marine environment; the Skye Festival returns with an exciting programme highlighting the distinctiveness of Scotland's coasts and waters while raising awareness of the need to protect them for future generations.

Steòrnabhagh air a' Chuan



The Clansman approaches Oban: CalMac will feature significantly.

(Stornoway on the Ocean) will celebrate the opening of Stornoway's new marina with sailing events, workshops, races, ceilidhs offering a vibrant Hebridean cultural experience.

Rowaround Scotland will see at

## 'Argyll and the Isles can aptly be described as the land of coasts and waters.'

least 1,000 coastal rowers travel 1,000 miles between Scottish Coastal Rowing Association clubs in a multi-staged voyage.

Nevis Water Stories, presented by Nevis Ensemble, will work with coastal communities to create new orchestral music to be performed across a range of locations including beaches, harbours, castles and schools.

Launch on the Sea with Scotland's Lifeboats is organised by Screen Argyll Limited. Launch! is an immersive live film performance opening up the RNLI's archive to international composer, sound artist and beatboxer Jason Singh and award-winning film curator Shona Thomson.

Launch! is presented by Screen Argyll and A Kind of Seeing. It is supported by Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters 2020, and by Film Hub Scotland, part of the BFI's Film Audience Network and funded by BFI and Screen Scotland.

Travelling Gallery, Coasts and Waters Tour from March 1 to May 1 is a contemporary art gallery in a bus and is unique to Scotland. Its function and core mission is to take its exciting and experimental programme to every part of Scotland, allowing access and learning for all.

Ferry Tales in March/April by the

National Theatre of Scotland will deliver an imaginative and impactful performance and community project, with the support of CalMac and their ferries, celebrating the waters surrounding Scotland and the journeys over them made by

## 'Everyone in Oban should make the most of this superb opportunity.'

thousands of residents and visitors. Locations are still to be confirmed but will be taking place in Argyll and Bute.

The Scottish Islands Peaks Race from May 15 to 18 is an adventure race for teams of sailors and fell runners starting in Oban and sailing through the likes of Arran, Jura and Troon.

Easdale RIB Rendezvous from

May 1 to 3 is a rigid inflatable boat adventure weekend on one of the most stunning areas in the UK for boaters due to the fantastic scenery, myriad islands, pristine waters and amazing wildlife. RIBbers from all over the UK meet on Easdale Island, 25 minutes south of Oban for a weekend of hardcore boating. This is a free event organised by volunteers. Registration is essential. <http://www.easdaleribrendezvous.org.uk/>

Loch Long Adventure Challenge May 2 is a new sporting event to celebrate the Year of Coasts and Waters in Arrochar which is surrounded by stunning scenery. You will compete in teams of two and each of you have to do a 3.5km kayak, a 24km fairly gruelling cycle on good forestry tracks away from public traffic and a 5km run to finish with. <https://www.lochlongevents.com/>

The Tiree Wave Classic from



Cabinet Secretary Fiona Hyslop at the launch of the Year



# HURRY! SALE ENDS 31ST JANUARY

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# 0 themed year



of Coasts and Waters 2020.

The Tiree Wave Classic surfing competition is a highlight of the calendar.

October 10 to 17 is a world-renowned windsurf wave-sailing competition that is the longest standing wave-sailing event ever. The Tiree Wave Classic 2020 hosts the wave-sailing battle for the Tiree Throne and coveted Broad Sword

relation to coasts and waters, with a focus on unique, authentic experiences and sustainable tourism.

The visitor opportunity in terms of experiences and events will focus on our natural environment and wildlife, our historic environment and cultural heritage, activities and adventure and food and drink.

Home to 23 inhabited islands, several long sea lochs and a stunning coastline, Argyll and the Isles can aptly be described as the land of coasts and waters.

The region boasts a range of tranquil beaches, beautiful scenery, fascinating history and a vibrant culture. Combine this with exciting activities, top attractions, some fantastic restaurants and world-famous distilleries, and you can clearly see that Argyll and the Isles is perfectly poised to make the most of the next themed year.

Partnership and collaboration

trophy. David Adams McGilp, VisitScotland regional director, said: 'The Year of Coasts and Waters 2020 will shine a spotlight on the impact our waters have on our country and inspire visitors, locals, and the tourism and events sector to get involved and enjoy everything the year has to offer.'

The year will celebrate all aspects of Scotland's visitor experience in

## 'This is an opportunity for Argyll to showcase its fantastic offering.'

Jim Irvine from Gordon MacPhail is joining us for our tasting this weekend.

As usual we will be tasting 6 drams really looking forwards to this one as it is sure to be a memorable night.

£20.00 per ticket. 7pm - 9pm, Ardshiel Hotel.  
 Tickets available here: [tickets.ardshiel.co.uk](http://tickets.ardshiel.co.uk)

We think Fridays are for dramming...



Drink Whisky!

## This week's walks

### 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)

**Saturday January 18, Meall an t-Slamain, Camusnagaul.**

Like a sentinel above The Narrows between Loch Eil and Lochaber, this hill offers great views of familiar places, from a different perspective.

Start from Camusnagaul ferry slip at NN094750. Follow a way-marked path up through the woodland to the viewpoint, then continue up the hillside to the mast and trig point, 291m. Follow the ridge SW to the summit of Meall an t-Slamain, 467m. Continue SW, descending to Gleann Sròn a'Chreagain and follow the path down to the road at Stronchreggan. Return NE along the road to Camusnagaul. Return ferry to Fort William at 1635.

Grade: M. Distance: 10km. Height to climb: 485m. Map(s): LR41, EX392. Meet at: Camusnagaul ferry slip at NN094750. Start of Walk 0930. Leader: TBC.

**Thursday January 23, Achnacarry circuit and Invermallie Bothy, Loch Arkraig.**

A walk with woodland, river and lochside scenery.

Start at the CP by the waterfalls at NN176888. Follow the path N steeply up to the forest track at NN180893. Turn right and follow the track E to its end shortly before the Allt Bhàin. Descend SE through mixed woodland to the bridge on the B8005. Follow the B8005 round to the bridge at Bunarkraig and take the path on the N side of the River Arkraig. Cross the river on a footbridge to arrive at Achnacarry. Head NW to the foot of Loch Arkraig and follow its S shore on the track to Invermallie Bothy, NN135887. Return to foot of the loch, turn left and cross the bridge at NN170885. Turn E on to the B8005 and return to the CP. This walk may have to be modified if the work on the bridge at the end of the walk is still under way.

Grade: L. Distance: 16km. Height to climb: 300m. Map(s): LR34 EX400. Meet at: Fort William Woollen Mill 0900. Start of Walk 0930. Leader: Trevor Jones 07831 437454.

### 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)

**Sunday January 19, Meall an Uillt Chaoil, Stob Coire nan Cearc, Streap, Streap Comhlaidh, Gleann Dubh Lige.**

Streap is the highest point on a long, rocky massif, steeply flanked on all aspects, that separates Glen Finnian from Gleann Dubh Lige. A Corbett with no less than five tops, it is a fine sight from any angle. This route omits the two Tops of Beinn an Tuim. \*A complete traverse is a tougher prospect.

Start from the small CP just W of Drocahid Sgairnir off the A830 at NM929798. Return to the main road then head N into Gleann Dubh Lige on the forest track for 2.5km. Turn E at the junction, NM943817, and continue on the track across a bridge over the Dubh Lige, curving N again to reach the bothy. The track deteriorates but continues N to emerge from the forest after 1km. A further 1km on a rough path finds a footbridge back over the Dubh Lige at NM947837, not shown on the maps, close to a ruin. Head W up the fall line a distance of 800m to about 430m alt. Turn NW and climb the steep spur of Meall an Uillt Chaoil to its summit. Descend NE, curving N down to Bealach Coire nan Cearc and climb up to Stob Coire nan Cearc. A fine ridge heads NNE to the summit of Streap, distant 1.5km. Descend SE to a col at 818 alt, then climb E to the summit of Streap Comhlaidh. Descend its S ridge to reach the path in Gleann Dubh Lige and follow it back to the ruin and footbridge. Return by the outward route.

\*For the fit and swift or anyone ticking Corbett Tops, precede the above with a traverse of the omitted Tops as follows:-

\* Turn W at the junction at NM943817. The track turns N climbing gradually. At its end, continue a further 75m through the trees and scale the boundary fence to reach the open hillside. Turn WNW and climb to a small lochan on a level spur at 580m alt, then turn N and climb to the S summit of Beinn an Tuim, 795m. The second Top lies 280m away on a bearing of 3200G. Descend N to Bealach a' Chait, then climb N curving E to the summit of Meall an Uillt Chaoil. From here, follow the principal route described above. 18km, 1191m ascent.

\*18km, 1340m ascent.  
 Suggested by Gavin Theobald.  
 Coordinated by Craig Beckett.

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# BUSINESS NEWS

## West coast firm appoints business development boss

A provider of holiday properties and luxury homes, cottages.com, has appointed Luke Smith as business development manager in west Scotland.

Luke, right, will join a 14-strong team which manages more than 2,800 rental properties in Scotland. Luke will be responsible for new and existing owners and will oversee 200 rental properties in a patch along the west coast including the Outer Hebrides and the Isle of Skye.

In Scotland as a whole, property numbers have increased and the top five most popular towns in northern Scotland for bookings in 2019 were Portree, Aviemore, Glencoe, Fort William and Sligachan. In addition, all the Outer Hebrides saw a 42 per cent increase in bookings in 2019 versus 2018.

Luke will provide support to existing property owners, as well as growing the portfolio of holiday homes to meet with the increase in demand.

Luke has experience of relationship management and business development from roles working for the Royal Geographical Society, NSPCC and Cancer Research UK.

He understands exactly what tourists are looking for as a result of first-hand knowledge in travel and tourism, having spent three years travelling around the world and leading cycling and walking tours.

Luke said: 'Having holidayed on the Isle of Skye for many years and having also spent much time walking across the Highlands and Islands, I have a strong affinity with the region.'



# Western Ferries in talks for Islay service

Western Ferries (Clyde) Limited has reported a rise in pre-tax profits as it continues to weigh up plans for a potential return to serving Islay.

In its latest full-year accounts, the company, which operates the Gourock to Dunoon car and passenger ferry service, saw its pre-tax profits increase from £2.3 million to £2.7 million.

Revenue hit £8.5 million, up from £8.0 million for 2017/18, while operational expenses rose from £5.7 million to £5.8 million.

Western Ferries receives no government subsidy for the provision of this service.

According to Western Ferries' accounts for

### 'Islay could be a big part of Western Ferries' future plans going forward for 2020.'

the year ending March 31, 2019, the company provided almost 32,500 sailings but only cancelled 56 sailings, delivering a service reliability of almost 100 per cent.

Around 400 additional sailings were provided to meet peak demand, making it the highest level of frequency for any route in Scotland.

Meanwhile, Western Ferries continued to provide the blue light out-of-hours sailings to transfer emergency patients from Cowal to hospitals in Inverclyde and Glasgow, at no cost to the NHS.

Western Ferries puts its buoyant results down to the overall resilience of its services, the hard work and professionalism of the Western Ferries' workforce – 90 per cent of who are Dunoon-based – and the fine weather during the summer of 2018.

Western Ferries also noted the favourable fuel efficiency of its new vessels – Sound of Soay, Sound of Seil, Sound of Shuna and Sound of Scarba – which makes them one of



Western Ferries is in discussions with Transport Scotland about a freight service to Islay.

the most environmentally friendly operations in the country.

Managing director Gordon Ross said: 'Once again we have delivered a near 100 per cent reliable service to our customers, by far the best in Scotland. We have continued the process of investing in new ferries and our terminals, which better ensure the resilience of Western Ferries' service.'

'Our environmental record is also a source of great pride to the team at Western Ferries.'

The financial year saw the completion of the replacement second berth at its terminal at McInroy's Point in Gourock, and a £3.5 million investment in the replacement second berth at Hunter's Quay Dunoon was brought into service in August 2019.

In the future, Western Ferries has plans to upgrade its overnight berth in Kilmun, and

is currently building a new head office at the Hunter's Quay terminal. Western Ferries also hopes that the completion of the office will coincide with new shore, vessel and online ticketing.

At the end of Western Ferries' current programme of capital improvement, almost £30 million will have been reinvested back into the service over the past 12 years.

On Islay, Mr Ross said Western Ferries was continuing discussions with Transport Scotland in relation to potentially operating a dedicated freight service to link Islay to the Ayrshire coast.

'Islay could be a big part of Western Ferries' future plans going forward for 2020. However, further in-depth discussions with multiple partners will be required before any dedicated freight service can become a reality.'

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# Workshop to build a sustainable future in Skye

A workshop in Portree is to explore how the construction sector in Skye can design and produce sustainable buildings and infrastructure.

Aimed at construction businesses and stakeholders, the free event is being run by Zero Waste Scotland and is part of its Resource Efficient Scotland programme.

Taking place on January 27 in Portree, it aims to break down barriers to accessing low carbon materials and technologies on the island.

Iain Gulland, chief executive of Zero Waste Scotland, said: 'Environmentally-friendly buildings and infrastructure are needed now more than ever.'

'The climate emergency has led to wider concerns for sustainable design and the waste generated by construction.'

'There are opportunities for the construction industry to embrace the circular economy and maximise the life of materials and where



Iain Gulland, chief executive of Zero Waste Scotland.

you live shouldn't be a barrier to achieving this.'

'We'd encourage everyone involved in the design or construction process to come along, invite their contacts and help find local solutions to a national problem.'

Construction professionals and stakeholders will also have the opportunity to discuss specific construction business support

with Zero Waste Scotland staff.

The circular economy offers solutions for the current wasteful 'make, use, dispose' way of living, known as the linear economy.

Circularity is about much more than recycling, according to Zero Waste Scotland – it's about making the most of the resources used, the choice of materials and the management of those

materials during construction, operation and at end of life.

Scotland has set an ambitious target to reach net-zero emissions by 2050. Zero Waste Scotland says the construction industry has an important role in meeting this target by considering its carbon impact as well as energy efficiency and waste.

Resource Efficient Scotland is part of Zero Waste Scotland's Resource Efficient Circular Economy Accelerator Programme, which will invest £73 million in circular economy and resource efficiency projects, thanks to support from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

The workshop will take place on January 27 between 3pm and 7pm at the Royal Hotel in Portree. Registration is free and those interested can sign up at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/workshop-for-island-solutions-for-circular-construction-and-infrastructure-tickets-85978733707>

## Food from Argyll heads to food show

Six Argyll food producers are heading to Glasgow this month to represent Food from Argyll at Scotland's Speciality Food Show aiming to attract new trade customers and raise awareness of the range of high quality artisanal food products available in Argyll.

All the producers attending have set up businesses within the past few years and come from throughout the region. Their products showcase a range of traditional and innovative products.

Food from Argyll now boasts several coffee roasters and two of them (Argyll Coffee Roasters from Tighnabruaich and Hinba from Seil) will be attending the show along with a new cheese made from Bute milk (Largie), ice-cream from Highland cows at Barcaldine (Highland Fold Ice Cream), a range of gins from Beinn An Tuirc distillers based in Carradale and newly developed ready meals and pies from Shellfield farm, Glendaruel, using its home produced lamb, grazing around the Kyles of Bute.

Scotland's Speciality Food Show is at the SEC from January 19 to 21.

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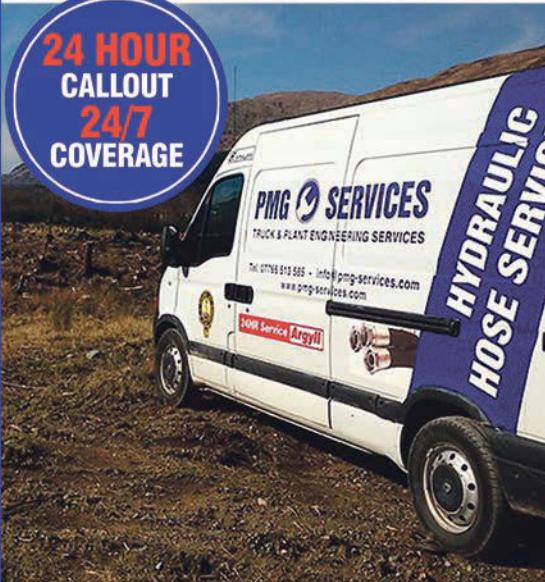
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## Candelabra sale smashes expected price

A pair of candlesticks from a French palace, that once lit Kilmory Castle in Argyll and which were saved from revolutionaries in the 19th century, have sold at auction for £124,000 after being considered 'missing' for nearly 170 years.

The metre-high ormolu and hard-stone-mounted candelabra, a detail of which is pictured, sold on the telephone at prestigious saleroom, Woolley and Wallis, creeping their way up from a starting price of £20,000.



'There were a group of these candelabra that were made for the Palais de Tuilleries in Paris in 1839, from a commission by Ferdinand-Philippe, duc d'Orléans,' explained works of art specialist Mark Yuan-Richards.

'A pair were sold in Christie's, New York, in 2017 for £75,000, but the whereabouts of the others was at that time unknown. Somewhere there may still be another 10 similar candelabra in private collections around the world.'

The candelabra came under threat during the 1848 revolution when a mob broke into the palace. Luckily, no lasting damage was done and the candelabra were taken to the Louvre for safe keeping.

The candlesticks (lot six in the sale of January 1853) were acquired by Sir James Watts of Abney Hall in Manchester then passed down the family line to his great-grandson, Sir John Campbell-Orde of Kilmory Castle in Scotland.

'It is very difficult to put a price on provenance,' said Yuan-Richards, 'and although we hoped that the candelabra would achieve well over their estimate there are no guarantees at auction. Fortunately, we had a lot of interest from bidders within the UK, continental Europe and the USA, and they eventually sold to a telephone bidder in New York.'

# Pier pressure on bo

## Morvern Lines

IAIN THORNBER

iain.thornber@btinternet.com

*'The wind is fair, the day is fine,  
And swiftly, swiftly runs the time,  
The boat is floating on the tide  
That wafts me far from Fuinary.'*

(From the well-known Gaelic song, *Farewell to Fuinary*, written by Rev Norman MacLeod of Fuinary in 1808)

Loch Aline (Gaelic, *Loch ath a' linne*, 'the loch of the ford of the pool'), with its sheltered anchorage, has been an important natural harbour from time immemorial. Prehistoric man, ever in search of food and fertile land, came to Morvern by sea more than 12,000 years ago and left behind stone circles and burial cairns at Kinlochaline, Claggan, Acharn, Killundine and Achnaha.

The roving Vikings who followed were active around the loch's thickly wooded hillsides and must have found it a perfect haven for building and beaching their long-ships. Although they left Morvern more than 900 years ago their influence survives in local place-names, reminding us that this area was once part of the Sea Kingdom of Norway.

It was in Morvern that Somerled, a Hebridean/Norwegian warrior prince, defeated the Vikings in a battle at the head of the Black Glen on the way to Strontian. His descendants created the MacDonald Lordship of the Isles and built the nearby Ardornish Castle, whose ruined 13th-century walls still stand guard at the entrance to the loch.

The MacDonald power lay in the sea, which they controlled by small galleys, called birlinns. These were faster than any other vessels of the time and kept at anchor in Loch Aline in a state of constant readiness.

According to tradition, Donald, Lord of the Isles (1387-1423) mustered more than 800 of them in Loch Aline in preparation for the Battle of Harlaw, fought in 1411. The Lords of the Isles, when they were not indulging in acts of piracy, established religious foundations on Iona and elsewhere throughout their vast territories, including one at Lochaline.

Tradition has it that the church of Cill Choluimchille (Gaelic, 'the cell of Colm of the churches' – now known as Kiel) was established by St Columba in the 6th century. In the little museum at Kiel there is a collection of finely carved medieval grave slabs and free-standing



crosses decorated with swords, warriors, churchmen and high-prowed birlinns – the favourite motifs of the Lords of the Isles who commissioned them.

History has not recorded when the first stone pier was built in Loch Aline. Those used by the Vikings and the Lords of the Isles were most likely made of wood and have long since disappeared. However, a large, derelict stone jetty still exists on the northern shores of the loch and to the east of the entrance, which may be several hundred years old and was probably in use until the construction of that near the Fishnish ferry terminal.

This pier, originally known as the Relief Pier and now called the Lochaline Old Pier, was built in 1843 by John Sinclair, a landowner who founded the village of Lochaline about 1830, and completed by the British Fisheries Board five years later.

It was financed by the Highland Relief Board to provide work for 31 Morvern families who

were victims of the potato famine and the infamous Highland Clearances.

The men, women and children who built it received food (oat and wheat meal) instead of money. The general allowance for a man was one-shilling (5p) worth of meal each day but quantity allowances varied. In some instances, a man was given 14lbs of meal a week and others 10lbs.

The allowances for women were 5lbs per week and children according to their age. At the time of its construction, there were more than 1,500 people living in numerous villages scattered throughout the Morvern Peninsula. In the years that followed, more than half of that number left this pier in emigrant ships bound for America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

*Cuid chaidh thar cuan, cuid sa chill ud shuas  
'S cuid cha'n eil fhios caite  
(Gaelic: Some went across the ocean, some  
went to the graveyard, and where are the others?  
No one knows.)*

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# Cats and men



The entrance to Loch Aline off the Sound of Mull and, inset, thousands of tons of timber are exported from Morvern every year by boat. Photographs: Iain Thornber

a regular steamer service between Oban and Tobermory, calling daily at Lochaline, sounded the death knell for the Relief Pier.

Another pier, now called the West Pier, was built in 1883 to the south-west of the village on the Sound of Mull. It could accommodate large ships at any state of the tide, leaving the Relief Pier for small pleasure craft and the occasional puffer and small lighters bringing coal from the Clyde.

By 1992, the Relief Pier had almost been abandoned and was decaying rapidly. In that year, an enterprising voluntary group met to see what could be done to save the structure from further damage. The Lochaline Old Pier Association was established and, with financial assistance from several government agencies and other sources, it managed to restore the pier to its former pristine state.

Memories of the Clearances and the potato famine have now almost vanished but the Relief Pier is being used again and is a monument to a hard period in the life of our forebears.

Today the Morvern Peninsula still relies on its maritime links. Lochaline silica sand, among the purest in the world and the only source of sand in Great Britain suitable for high grade domestic glass and lens manufacture, is shipped regularly to England, Northern Ireland and Scandinavia.

Aggregate Industries Ltd exports millions of tons of granite aggregate annually by huge ore-carriers from its massive Glensanda super-quarry operation in Loch Linnhe and both the Forestry Commission and the salmon fish farms in the area also use the sea to move their products to well established markets.

'..... All ends in sea:  
No valley so hazed with green, but the sea  
Runs its salt tongue inland, abrading  
Rock and face to a harsh sweetness  
That is nowhere else. More durable  
Than a child's summer, here the salt earth holds  
Its yellow daffodils like flags for the heart  
And the Sound lies like a sword between  
Mull and Morvern -  
Sword of Tristan and Isolde,  
Familiar as a forgotten childhood,  
And secret as love...'  
(Lines from *The Sea's Country* by Morvern Cameron.)

One village which was cleared of Gaelic-speaking people in 1824 to make way for large-scale sheep farming was Inniemore (Gaelic, Aoineadh Mor, 'the great steep promontory') near Loch Arrias. Here the ruined walls of the old houses, sheep pens, enclosures and barns have been carefully preserved and interpreted by Forestry and Land Scotland, which welcomes visitors to this interesting historical site.

Although the Lochaline pier gave badly-needed employment and provided a suitable ferry point across the mouth of Loch Aline, it unfortunately dries out, making it impossible for larger vessels to come alongside. Only the smallest boats could call on the flood tide and, when the currents were suitable, otherwise regular steamers anchored off the mouth of the loch from which small boats inconveniently ferried passengers and freight to and from the steps of the Relief Pier. A rise in visitor numbers to the area and the establishment of

## DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



We go back to 1996 this week and what appears to be a dramatic photograph from an incident on a CalMac ferry. In fact, the 'casualties' aboard the Coll were only pretending as part of Exercise Highland Fling.



Also from 1996, this photograph shows Dunbeg Primary School choir which competed at that year's Royal National Mòd after mums and dads rallied round to raise funds to send them to Blairgowrie, including holding a line-dancing evening.

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### Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker

(12A) 142 mins

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### Frozen 2

(U) 103 mins

"bigger, bolder, and more epic" Empire  
21/01 at 5.30pm, 23/01 at 5.30pm, 25/01 at 2pm

### Knives Out

(12A) 130 mins

"Daniel Craig has a blast in a murderously fun whodunit worthy of Agatha Christie" The Telegraph  
21/01 at 8.30pm, 25/01 at 8.30pm

Port Ellen Wed 22 - Sat 25 Jan

### Little Women

(U) 135 mins

Coming-of-age classic about four sisters growing up in New England following the American Civil War. 22/01 at 8.30pm

### Sorry We Missed You

(15) 101 mins

Drama by Ken Loach about a husband and wife struggling to balance their work and family lives. 25/01 at 5.30pm

Book at: [www.screenmachine.co.uk](http://www.screenmachine.co.uk). Tickets also at the cinema 30 mins before screenings.  
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# LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)  
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## Great response to devastating fires across Australia

The scale of the devastation in Australia from the still out-of-control wildfires is simply staggering.

The human cost of the disaster is enormous, with thousands of houses destroyed, people left homeless and lives lost. The smoke generated by the bushfires is now causing significant air pollution and is thought to pose a risk to people's health.

As has also been well-documented, Australia's unique wildlife has suffered hugely, with some estimates suggesting that perhaps as many as a billion animals may have died.

In Oban, crafters have responded brilliantly by knitting and crocheting items that will help orphaned and injured animals to recover from the depredations they have had to endure.

We thank them all and urge more of you to join in.

## Thanks to emergency services and engineers

Storm Brendan raged across the Argyll and the Isles area this week, bringing with it considerable disruption.

Roads were closed, schools were shut, ferries were cancelled and damage was caused. There was significant inconvenience for some islanders who were unable to travel to or from their homes.

However, while the vast majority of us were able to shelter from the storm in our own warm abodes, spare a thought for the emergency services and staff from the power companies.

These stoic souls venture out despite the weather to ensure the rest of us are safe, have power in our homes and to clear up the mess caused.

We all owe them a debt of gratitude for their efforts.

## Working towards flexibility at Dail Mhor

I was disappointed to read the letter from Alan Thomson (Challenge NHSH on failure to provide essential facilities, December 26 2019), which follows previous letters from him of a similar nature.

Mr Thomson is well aware the community councils' working group is fully committed to reinstating full-time residential care facilities at Dail Mhor, as soon as it is possible to do so, and that we restate that commitment to NHSH colleagues every time we meet. He is also aware that changes in care commissioning and statutory registrations have meant that it is not currently possible for Dail Mhor to deliver this service.

Dail Mhor is currently providing a wider range of services, and with far greater flexibility to accommodate differing needs, circumstances and requirements, than it was immediately prior to the 2017 closure. While the working group continues to work towards a viable way to provide full-time residential care, we would not wish that to come at the expense of these other services, since they are serving a greater need within the community.

Small-scale, dedicated residential care facilities are no longer viable, and are effectively being discontinued nationally. The only realistic opportunity for reintroducing full-time residential care is if it can be delivered alongside other similar services in multi-functioning and flexible service provision, which is what we are continuing to work towards at Dail Mhor.

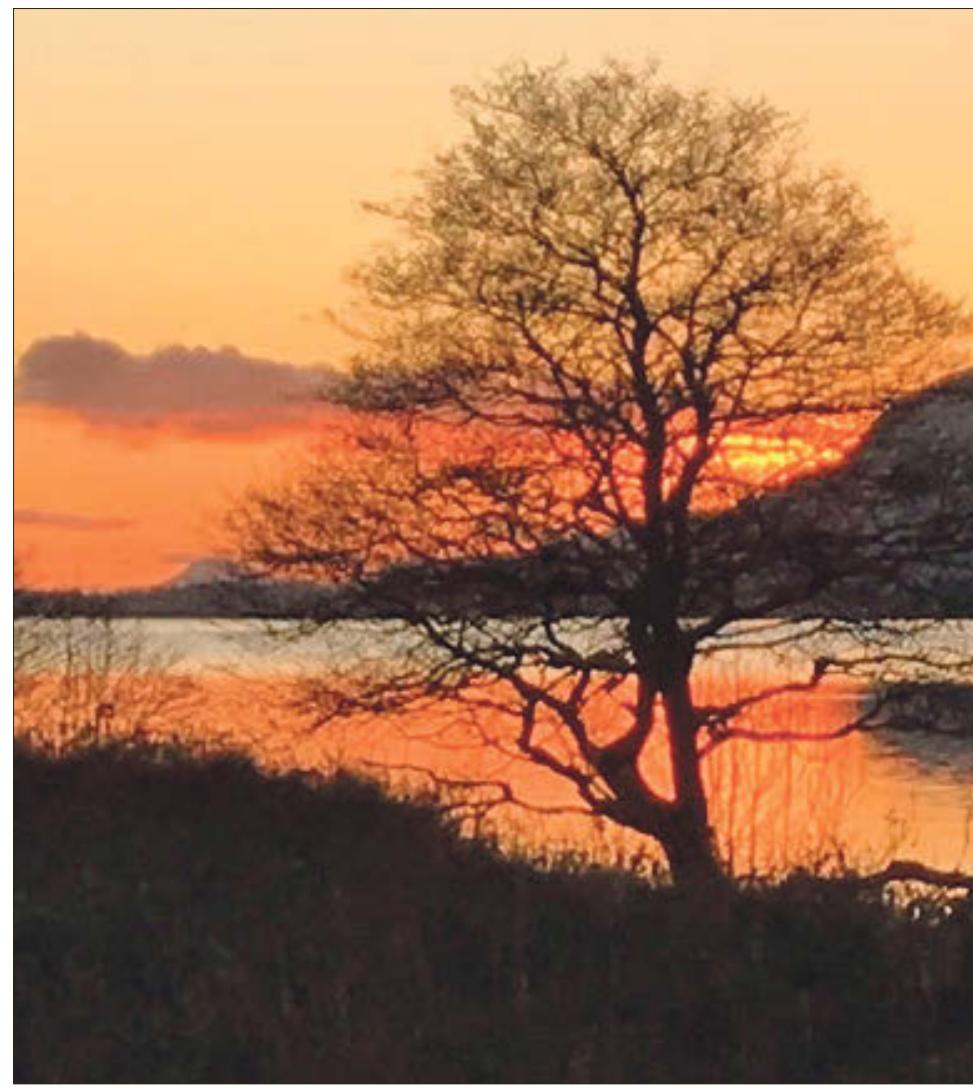
We appreciate that it must be extremely frustrating for people who need a service other than the ones currently provided, but if we have any hope of ensuring a future for Dail Mhor, it must be developed in a way which is economically viable and serves the greatest need, and that is what we are doing.

Joanne Matheson,  
Acharacle.

## No new laws, enforce the ones we have

I should like to make an appeal to all MPs, MSPs, councillors and all lawmakers that in 2020 they make no new laws. At the beginning of this new decade they should improve the laws they already passed. I would even like them to go further and reduce the

## YOUR PICTURES



number of laws that are in existence. I am not against all laws; what I fear is that instead of addressing the issues, legislators believe that extending what are regarded as crimes will change society for the better. They are wrong.

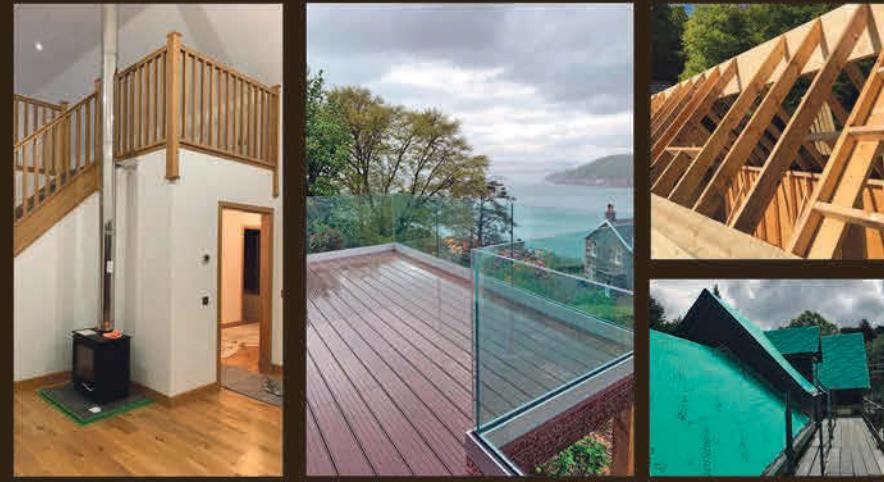
We know that parking on pavements is wrong; 'upskirting' is horrifying; smoking in a car in which there are children is unacceptable; dropping litter is shameful; driving

through a red light is dangerous. What we need is the range of social and cultural influences that help us feel that we should behave in a positive way. In the 1950s, '60s and '70s the majority of people regularly attended churches and religious organisations. In these environments people developed feelings of what was right and wrong. Positive behaviour was also developed by participat-



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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), 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, Fort William. This week's photograph was taken by Mairi MacDonald, which she took looking down to Ardgour from the picnic site before the Corran ferry.

ue to deteriorate. So my plea to politicians is simple, stop making us all criminals by passing more and more laws, and start supporting and encouraging agencies, groups and people who indirectly and directly instill behaviour of which all can be proud.

**Finlay Craig,  
Cove.**

## Lochgilphead skatepark still long way from reality

In 2017 the Argyllshire Advertiser ran a story entitled Skate park pipe dream a reality for Lochgilphead. Nearly three years later I fear the dream is still a long way from that reality.

Mid Argyll Youth Development Services (MAYDS) certainly seems to have ambitious plans for an indoor skate park and this is to be lauded, however, a quick look online will show an apparent apathy with regard to moving forward with the project: A young man created the Lochgilphead Skate Park Association on Facebook in 2012, yet a final post in 2016 indicated how little the proposal had moved forward. If the project needs more money to get it built we need to know how much, so appropriate funding can be sought. What is causing the project to take years to come to fruition?

The potential for help by the £3 million Tarbert and Lochgilphead Regeneration Fund in 2016 was dashed when councillors instead decided that improvements to road junctions, streets, a cycle track and indoor bowling were more important, and allocated a staggering £250,000 to feasibility studies for these projects alone – this is before any work is actually done. That is a great deal of money for feasibility studies and design works.

Let us be realistic: in nine long years the community has gone from the initial excited buzz about a skate park to finally buying a plot of land on which to build it in early 2018. From there it seems the project has stalled.

In the meantime the youngsters who worked so hard to give momentum to the project appear to have given up hope and are now probably giving thought to employment prospects rather than having fun. It is a sad state of affairs.

But rather than giving up hope, let us reignite this campaign for our children to have the dream of a skate park in Lochgilphead while they are still young enough to enjoy it!

**Nick MacIneskar,  
Tayvallich, Lochgilphead.**

ing in the extensions of these organisations through activities in young mother groups; women's guilds, choirs, and religious celebrations. These helped to develop positive moral compass in people. Most children and young people went to youth organisations such as the Girl Guides, the Scouts, the BBs, army and naval cadets. No more. Without them the honourable behaviour of society will contin-

## Beachd Ailein

**ALLAN CAMPBELL**

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



ar tort dhachaigh sàbhailte? Ach gu follaiseach tha e ceàrr dha dràibhean aire a thoirt far an rathaid gus fòn-làimhe obrachadh, agus saoil nach eil an aon rud fior dha dràibhean poileis a chìthean air telebhisean a' siubhal aig astar agus a' tort làmh far na cuibhle gus rèidio air an gualainn obrachadh? Comhairle bhuapa nach d' fhuaireadh aca 's dòcha as na tha iad ag ràdh rinn mu na fonaichean-làimhe?

Driving any vehicle is potentially dangerous for the driver and other road users, so police campaigns to stop mobile phone use by drivers is justified. It is interesting, however, to note television programmes showing police traffic officers driving one-handedly at high speeds while operating shoulder mounted radios. Surely a dangerous practice, and a bad example!

**Ailean Caimbeul  
(Allan Campbell)**  
[ailean@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:ailean@obantimes.co.uk)

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



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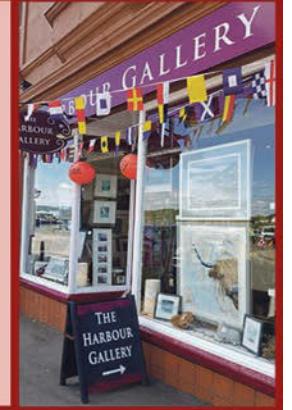
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# DISTRICT NEWS

## KILLIN

At the December Killin SWI meeting, president Elizabeth Woods welcomed a large turnout of members and friends who were entertained by member Jean Faichney.

The event was held in the lesser McLaren Hall, Killin, and Jean, with help from Cathie Reid and Jenny Huntley, showed off her flower arranging skills by demonstrating how to make a door wreath using fresh and artificial materials.

While Cathie entertained by making a lovely fresh flower arrangement, Jean also brought along some arrangements which she had already made which were suitable for various purposes, doors, graveside etc.

A lovely buffet was served and Elizabeth closed the meeting by wishing everyone seasonal greetings.

The SWI kicked off the new year on January 4 in the Bridge of Lochay hotel.

The theme for the afternoon was You Will Go To The Ball and the ladies did not disappoint.

Almost everyone had been in the attic, charity shop and back of wardrobe hunting their party wear and each and everyone was 'lovely'.

Bob, Amanda and staff served a beautiful lunch and the ladies had a great afternoon.

## OBAN

The annual quiz night in aid of Oban Pipe Band will be held tomorrow (Friday January 17).

The event, which will take place in the Masonic Lodge on Albany Street, will start at 7.30pm. Teams should consist of two people to six, with entry £3 per person.

It was all fun and games on Saturday December 21 as St Columba's School in Oban held the annual Christmas family bingo.

The event included guess the weight of the cake, how many sweets in the jar, guess the elf's birthday, and many more fun activities for the children.

It was then eyes down as Nicola



Calan, above, won the big hamper but gave it away.



Wilson, chief elf, called out the numbers, and with many prizes, including sweet treat, games and toys, and vouchers, there were plenty of winners on the day.

The half-time break saw a wonderful Christmas spread laid on by all the school helpers. The event also included the Christmas raffle, which saw many winners including Calan, who got the big hamper. The school was very proud of its former pupil on hearing he donated the wonderful prize to Hope Kitchen.

To make the day even more special, there was a surprise visit from Santa Claus. The event raised an amazing £705.65 for Parent Council funds which will be used to support the school through out the year.

Former Oban lighthouse keeper, Ian Duff, will be coming to speak to the Lorn Archaeological and

## Superstar hosts young musicians



Mull Music Makers went to Glasgow to join in workshops run by violin virtuosa Nicola Benedetti.

Young Mull Music Makers are back from performing with violin virtuoso Nicola Benedetti in Glasgow.

The Scottish superstar violinist, who has won international fame, welcomed hundreds of youngsters from across the country, including 12 from Mull, to join in the first of her new Benedetti Foundation educational sessions for 2020 at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall.

The children performed in a mass strings orchestra, with 12-year-old Evie Kellet from Mull Music Makers being awarded a solo part. The Tobermory High School pupil,

who lives at Salen, got the part despite only being able to get lessons once a month on the island through the Mull Music Makers project that raises funds to bring tutors over from the mainland.

'May Evie's hard work and commitment be a shining example to everyone!' said the project's Laura Mandleberg.

The youngest participant from Mull was seven-year-old Camryn Carmichael from Tobermory, who is a pupil at Salen Gaelic-medium school. She took part in the general musicianship workshop exploring

pulse, rhythm and pitch, as well as singing and creating songs and soundscapes, and learning how to use body percussion.

'My favourite part was getting to see Nicky play and I loved the sound of the drums in our workshop,' said Camryn.

Just recently Mull Music makers received £750 from the new Eilidh MacLeod Memorial Trust in memory of the young Barra piper killed in the Manchester Arena bombing in 2017. The hope is the cash will help young people follow in Eilidh's musical footsteps.

Historical Society tomorrow (Friday January 17) at 7.30pm in St Columba's Cathedral Hall about 'Lighthouse Years'. Admission is free to members, £3 for visitor.

## ISLAY

A family Bookbug session will take place in the Port Mor Centre on February 16.

The free event will run from 3pm until 4.30pm, with the first 90

minutes catering towards babies to pre-fives, and those ages five to eight can enjoy the remainder of the time.

However, on the event's poster it says: 'These ages are just a guide to which session your child may be most suited to. There is no age restriction in either session.'

## TAYNUILT

Taynuilt Primary ELC will be hosting an open afternoon for pro-

spective families of children due to register for nursery.

The event will be held on Thursday January 23 from 1.45pm until 2.45pm.

Parents and guardians will have the opportunity to look around, meet staff, and ask any questions.

## KILMORE

The winners of the bumper Kilmore 100 Club in December

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## At random

MARTIN LAING

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



## Floats my boat

This is, as many of you will know, the Scotland-wide themed Year of Coasts and Waters.

And what better place to celebrate our coasts and waters than Argyll and the Isles?

Our fantastic region will feature significantly in the themed year's activities ... and no wonder.

We are, after all, a magnet for visitors who want to explore our maritime communities and islands.

Personally, I think the Year of Coasts and Waters is a brilliant idea which should draw even more tourists to Argyll and the Isles, thereby boosting the region's economy and keeping people in gainful employment.

One area of marine activity that seems to be booming in popularity is the trend for open-water swimming – with or without wetsuits.

One of my colleagues at The Oban Times is a real enthusiast and takes a lunchtime dip in the sea most days, wearing only a swimsuit and in all weathers.

Now, I appreciate that it has many health benefits but I can assure you that, while I am in awe of open-water swimmers, I am not about to join them.

I will, however, be watching with interest to see the YCW2020 calendar and many scheduled events.

## Driven to distraction

There have been temporary traffic lights closing one lane at the top of Glen Ogle, just north of Lochearnhead on the A85 route to Oban, for months now.

Not once, however, despite being a frequent user of the road, have I seen any workers undertaking any kind of remedial action to fix what might be wrong.

Now, I must admit that motorists are not delayed for long when the lights are red but, as an impatient driver, I am becoming thoroughly frustrated that this hold-up is still going on after all these countless weeks.

Does anyone know why the temporary lights are there or, better still, when they might be removed?

## 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.

# Wonderful Wizard of Ozzydale



The wonderful Easdale Island Very Amateur Dramatics cast of Wizard of Ozzydale.



Easdale Island's New Year panto was magic.

This year's adapted story was The Wizard of Ozzydale and, despite the inclement weather on Thursday January 2, it attracted such a big audience that only standing room was left in the island hall.

Performed by Easdale Island Very Amateur Dramatics, the cast and crew was made up of residents, part-time island dwellers and friends visiting for the festivities.

'Not for the first time, the dress rehearsal, on the morning before the performance, was the first rehearsal with the complete cast in place!

'The performance itself was a laugh a minute and enjoyed tremendously by all.'

'Rave reviews followed that it was the best one yet!' said Keren Cafferty, the island's arts co-ordinator.

Donations that rolled in as people left raised just over £600 for the island charity Eilean Eisdeal.

were A Tully, who received £500; S Scott £200; and V Barlow £100. The January winner was D Morrison receiving £100.

### MULL

The Ulva Ferry family Burns lunch will be held at Ulva School on Saturday January 25.

The event, organised by the Ulva School Community Association, will cost £16 for

adults and is free for children. Booking is essentially for the bring your own bottle (BYOB) lunch and those interested are asked to respond to Ann on 01688 500301 or by emailing annhayesmrcvs@btinternet.com by Wednesday January 15.

### JURA

There will be a housing consultation event on February

20 in Jura Village Hall. The consultation will run from 5.30pm until 8pm and is being organised by the Scottish Government.

Those interested in attending can reserve their place by emailing to the address housing2040@gov.scot.

A spokesperson for the Scottish Government wrote: 'The Scottish Government's ambition is that everyone in

Scotland should live in high quality, energy efficient homes that are affordable and meet their needs.

'We want to hear people's views on the draft vision and principles and their innovative, bold and imaginative ideas for how to make them a reality.'

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# Fold began with Oban stock

With the Highland Cattle Society annual spring show and sale in Oban imminent, attention is firmly focused on the breed. The show is on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, February 8, 9 and 10.

Highland cattle are often mistaken by others as a hobby breed but more and more breeders are proving that the hardy, low maintenance breed not only has a pedigree worth, but a strong commercial value too.

Father and son duo Alex and Grant Hyslop, who farm near Crawfordjohn, in Lanarkshire, are in the process of building up a commercial herd of Highlanders to cross with the Simmental to produce replacements for them crossing to the Aberdeen-Angus.

Grant and his girlfriend Abbie Finlayson are also in the midst of increasing their 14-cow Black Glen pedigree fold which was established in 2015 with purchases from Oban to include a cow bought from David Cameron's dispersal, a heifer from Balnabroich and a cow with heifer calf at foot from Tordarroch.

'Highland cattle are so easily managed and have a great nature,' said Grant, who recently stood reserve overall senior champion at this year's Stars of the Future Calf Show, with

a yearling bull purchased privately from Michael Poland's Mottistone fold.

'Although Highland bullocks do take slightly longer to fatten, the male calves are just as productive as any other store calf and females can be crossed to any other breed to produce hardy and low maintenance cross-bred replacements.'

The family business stretches across 1,500 acres of mainly hill ground split between three units. Blackburn and Glentewing are both owned, while West Lindsayland, near

## 'Since the first cows, we've been buying at most of Oban sales'

Biggar, is rented. The beef enterprise comprises 35 breeding cows of which the majority are Aberdeen-Angus Friesians, while 10 are Highland cross cows. In the past, the Angus Friesians were mated to the Aberdeen-Angus but they now run with the Simmental.

'Our first experience with the Highland cattle breed was when dad bought three older cows at Lanark Market a few years back,' said Grant.

'When I was a youngster, I was badly hurt by a cow which



**Eoin Mhor of Black Glen.**

was protecting her young calf. I was traumatised and wasn't confident around cattle anymore but I feel it was through working with the Highlanders that I got my confidence around cattle back.'

'Since the first cows were bought in, we've been buying at most of the Oban sales ever since. It's really important to support and buy at premier shows and sales because it's the auction system which guarantees the best price,' he added.

Grant and his father hope to phase out the Angus Friesians, and instead run a similarly sized herd of either pure or almost pure Highlanders for running on a section of the hill ground at Glentewing.

The plan is to cross them with the Simmental for

producing cross-breds which will then be run at another unit when crossed with the Aberdeen-Angus.

'Dad and I went on visits to Woodneuk and Balnabroich to see similar operations with cross Highlanders and we were really impressed by the cattle we saw so it encouraged us to do the same,' said Grant.

'We like to use the Aberdeen-Angus over the crosses as you get ease of calving and the naturally polled gene. The whole purpose behind the Angus is to try and eventually have cross-bred females which won't need dehorned.'

At present, the pure Highlanders run alongside the Angus Friesians, while the pedigree Highlanders graze on ground at another unit. Grant

pointed out that the 14 pedigree females ran with the bull on the same land that could only previously cope with 110 Scotch mule ewes.

He said: 'The pedigree cows utilise the poorer performing ground and are only fed silage throughout the winter, yet still manage to maintain condition. Bigger continental cattle couldn't cope here without us having a massive feed bill.'

The cows are split calving, with some calving throughout January and others during March and April. Commercial

## 'The pedigree cows utilise the poorer performing ground'

calves are weaned in October and brought inside when introduced to ad-lib feed from a bunker feeder, before being sold through the store ring at Lanark in March.

Male calves from the pedigree fold, which aren't suitable for breeding, are weaned at eight months of age and cut, dehorned and overwintered. They go straight back outside and are fed 2kg of concentrates per day along with ad-lib silage, before being sold store at 17 to 18 months of age.

In September, the duo sold bullocks to Stephen and Rosie Hunter, who run the Hunters fold and finish commercial Highland heifers at Barnhill, Allanton, near Shotts, every year. The heaviest of the batch weighed 380kg.

'It would be ideal if we could beef the animals ourselves but we don't have the shed space or hard enough ground to winter bullocks for two and a half years,' explained Grant. 'It's a system we are happy to continue with as long as the demand for good-quality, Highland beef continues. You can't beat the eating quality.'

In the pedigree fold, Grant retained his first bull Eoin Mhor of Black Glen, which was bought inside his dam Banrigh of Mottistone, at Oban in 2016. His dam is a former Royal Highland Show champion, while the sire has bred bulls to 10,000gns and heifers to 4,200gns.

All 14 pedigree cows are scanned in calf to him, with the first of his calves due on the ground at the turn of the year.

On the other side of the equation, Grant received a top price to date of 1,800gns for the two-year-old heifer Duchess of Black Glen, at Oban in October 2018. She sold to the Leys fold and has been shown successfully at shows in the north.

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# LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

## Benderloch hub celebrates 100 years of fun and activity

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Benderloch's Victory Hall is celebrating its centenary this year and to mark the occasion its hard working committee is putting together a calendar of events to suit all tastes.

January is Historical month and to get the ball rolling, Bob McCulloch will be in residence tonight (Thursday January 16) with his Old Benderloch slideshow.

Entry is by donation, with tea, coffee and homebaking included. The show starts at 7.30pm.

February celebrates Musical activities with Celtic Connection award-winning quartet GNOSS appearing on Friday February 14, while Sport is the theme in March.



Opened in 1920, the original hall still functions and is now used as a 'chill out' reading room and makes an ideal

setting for more intimate performances.

A larger hall was added to the building in 1999, along

with toilets, a kitchen, a stage, and a bar for functions.

Such is the versatility of the venue, it is often affec-

tionately referred to as the Benderloch Palladium. Victory Hall committee members look forward to a year of celebration. From back: Gordon Robertson, Mamie Cattanach, Joy Cameron, Hamish Isaac (chair), Jane Eccles, Gordon Crookshank, Margaret MacColl.

'With that in mind, we look forward to welcoming old and new visitors throughout this landmark period in the history of the hall.'

Other events planned during 2020 include a bowls night, a family ceilidh, an arts and crafts exhibition, a quiz night, a horticultural show, Bookends book festival, a badminton evening and an evening with local politicians to commemorate the halls' use as a polling station.

Details of all these events will be published in The Oban Times and on the Victory Hall, Benderloch Facebook page nearer the time.

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**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**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 17TH JANUARY****Hope Kitchen Music Group**

Salvation Army Hall

1pm-4pm

**Parsley's Cat Cafe**

New Hope Kitchen

2pm

**LAHS Meeting**

St Columba's Cathedral Hall

7:30pm-9pm

**Oban Pipe Band Annual Quiz****Night**

Masonic Lodge

7:30pm

**Lorn Archaeological and Historical Society**

7:30pm-9:30pm

**Live Music & Entertainment @****Markie Dans**Calum Macphail  
Open till 2:00am**SATURDAY 18TH JANUARY****Parkrun**Ganavan Sands  
9:30am**Community Cafe**Salvation Army Hall  
12:00pm - 2:00pm**Event - Princess of Pop**

Corran Halls

1:30pm

**Live Music & Entertainment @****Markie Dans**

Crooked Reel

Open till 2:00am

**SUNDAY 19TH 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 20TH JANUARY****Oban Men's Shed**

Salvation Army Hall

9:00am – 12:00pm

**Slimming World Fort William**

Salvation Army Hall

9:30am &amp; 11:30am

Tel; Gillian 07796 040803

In partnership with Oban Town Diary BID4oban.co.uk

**Fellowship Meeting**

New Hope Kitchen, 2pm

**Slimming World, Lochgilphead**

Union Street/Argyll Street

5:30pm &amp; 7:30pm

Tel; Rhona 07880 878906

**Martyn's Monday Club**

New Hope Kitchen

7pm-9pm

**TUESDAY 21ST JANUARY****Hill Walk**

Corrour. All day

**Oban Men's Shed**

Salvation Army Hall

9:00am - 12:00pm

**Martyn's Monday Club Ladies**

New Hope Kitchen

7pm-9pm

**WEDNESDAY 22ND JANUARY****Oban Men's Shed**

Salvation Army Hall

9:00am - 12:00pm

**Slimming World, Oban**

Glencruitten Church Hall

9:30am, 11:30am, 5:30pm &amp; 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

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**

## Gig tunes up funds for MS Centre



A fundraiser gig at The Balmoral in Oban made £665 for the town's Multiple Sclerosis Centre at the weekend. Entertainment at the well-supported event on Saturday night was provided by Kenny Pearson, John Turnball, Duncan Forgrieve and band The Disclaimers accompanied by Payn In The Brass. The Disclaimers include musicians Scott Douglas, Andy Cullen and Guy Forteith. Payn In The Brass are made up of Easdale couple Samantha and Dave Payn. Proceeds from the night will go towards keeping up the centre's good work, including its oxygen therapy chamber.



## WINTER OPENING HOURS 2020

**January / February / March**

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**OPEN - Thurs - Sun**

**From 11.00am for tea and coffee**

**12.00pm to 9.00pm for hot food**

**Bar open until midnight**



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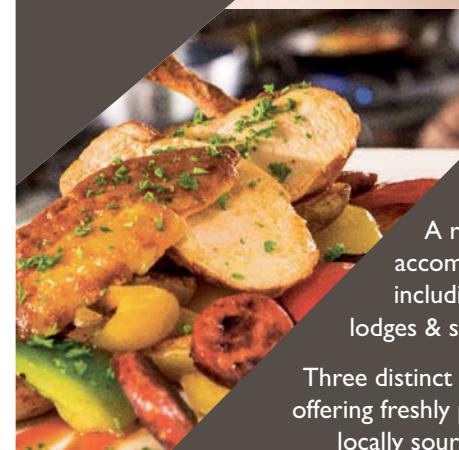
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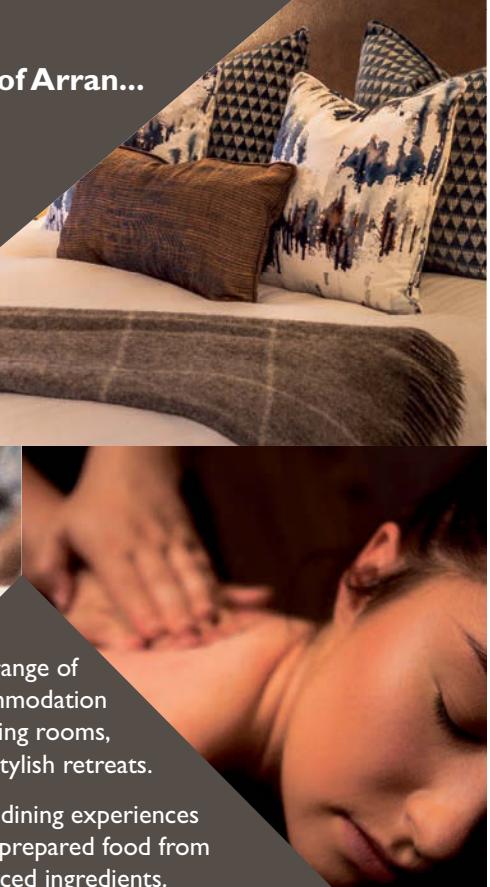
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# Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk

## Charity cèilidh raises £2,860

Donnie Maroot's charity cèilidh evening raised £2,860 for the Eilidh MacLeod Memorial Trust last Friday evening, January 10. Congratulations to the winners on the night: Ewen Henderson from Lochaber and Mairi MacLennan from Lewis. The victory, however, was soured slightly by the realisation at the end of the night that Donnie had ordered two trophies which read Strictly Come Cèilidh Dancing Champion 2019 rather than 2020! Perhaps there is still all to play for...

## Clydebank cèilidh

On the same night, the Clydebank and District Highland Association held its January cèilidh in the Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, with a fantastic line up, including singers Arthur Cormack, Rory MacDiarmid, and Alison Wood. Robert Wood played the pipes and Kirsteen Grant the piano. Margaret MacLeod was the bean an taighe for the evening.

## Stirling cèilidh

The Stirling branch of An Comunn Gàidhealach is holding its cèilidh in the Lesser Albert Hall this Saturday, January 18, at 7.30pm. Singers will be Rhona Morrison, DI Brown, and Norman MacKinnon. The young Cluaran Highland Dancers will be in attendance.

## Poet turns artist for charity exhibition

Seil bard and novelist Kenneth Steven has turned his hand to painting island scenes, helping to raise funds for charity.

An exhibition of his work is on display now at Oban Distillery and he will be there on Wednesday January 29 at 2pm to give a poetry reading. Refreshments including malts will be available.

A percentage of profits from the sale of his books and any paintings will also be given to Seil-based charity Seed For Life, a self-sustaining food aid project funding a community in Bemvu, Malawi.



The team of dancers, judges and musicians, who helped to raise £2,860 for charity at Donnie Maroot's Strictly Come Cèilidh Dancing event last Friday evening.

as usual, as well as piper Callum Wynd. Tickets are £6 which includes tea at the interval.

## What's On

Here is my list of interesting events up until next weekend. Go to celticconnections.com for many more.

■ Thursday January 16: Opening Night with the GRIT Orchestra performing The Declaration, 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, 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, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, Strathclyde Suite, at 8pm.

■ Tuesday January 21: The Big Fling - Scottish Dance Band Extravaganza - at 7.30pm, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall.

■ Thursday January 23: BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year 20th Celebration at 7.30pm in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall.

## Young creatives' showcase

A new exhibition has gone on display to showcase work by young people living in Tiree and on the mainland, writes Kathie Griffiths.

The exhibition is being supported by culture, heritage and arts assembly for Argyll and the Isles (CHARTS) and will run at Dunoon Burgh Hall until Sunday January 26.

Using filmmaking, digital drawing and animation, the event is part of CHARTS Creative, Confident, Connected, Youth Programme. This is the first youth initiative that has been supported by the almost 400-member-strong charity since it started.

The exhibition shows how complementary activities in Tiree and Dunoon have helped young people to work with professional practitioners to build up creativity and

confidence, also linking up with each other.

All those who have taken part have been working towards recognised UK arts awards and are expected to have competed them by next month.

CHARTS chairperson Jo McLean said Creative Digital was to be celebrated for connecting young people with their regional peers, adding:

'By continuing to help create opportunities for young people, supported by professionals of the highest calibre, we hope to assist young ambassadors and enthusiasts of the arts to have their voices heard.'

A key CHARTS ambition is to establish a youth arts advisory group. I am delighted that Creative, Confident, Connected, through Creative Digital, boasts the first steps towards this aim.'

**OBAN PHOENIX CINEMA**

# WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

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

**JOJO RABBIT**  
IN SELECT THEATERS OCTOBER 18

**LITTLE WOMEN**

**FRIDAY 24TH: 1917 | JUMANJI: THE NEXT LEVEL**

### FRIDAY 17TH JANUARY

Jojo Rabbit   12A	12:00/20:00
Spies In Disguise   PG	15:45
Little Women   U	17:15
Sorry We Missed You   15	20:30

### SATURDAY 18TH JANUARY

Frozen 2   U	11:30 ★
Spies In Disguise   PG	12:00
Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker   12A	14:00
Jojo Rabbit   12A	14:30/17:15
Cats   U	17:00
Little Women   U	19:30
Sorry We Missed You   15	19:45

### SUNDAY 19TH JANUARY

Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker   12A	12:00
Frozen 2   U	12:30
Jojo Rabbit   12A	14:45/17:30
Spies In Disguise   PG	15:00
Cats   U	17:15
Little Women   U	19:45
Sorry We Missed You   15	20:00

**Kinky Boots**  
THE AWARD WINNING MUSICAL FILMED LIVE IN LONDON

★★★★★ "HILARIOUS AND HEARTWARMING"

★★★★★ "FABULOUSLY SASSY AND UPLIFTING"

★★★★★ "A GLORIOUS HIGH-KICKING ROMP"

4TH FEBRUARY

## CINEMA MEMBERSHIP

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### MONDAY 20TH JANUARY

Sorry We Missed You   15	12:00/19:45
Little Women   U	17:15
Spies In Disguise   PG	17:30

### TUESDAY 21ST JANUARY

Little Women   U	12:00 ★/17:15
Spies In Disguise   PG	17:30
Sorry We Missed You   15	19:45
Jojo Rabbit   12A	20:00

### WEDNESDAY 22ND JANUARY

Jojo Rabbit   12A	12:00 ★/20:00
Little Women   U	17:15
Spies In Disguise   PG	17:30

### THURSDAY 23RD JANUARY

Cats   U	14:30 ★
Spies In Disguise   PG	17:00
Little Women   U	17:15
Sorry We Missed You   15	19:15
Jojo Rabbit   12A	20:00

**THE AMBER LIGHT**

THE AMBER LIGHT is a documentary about the origins of whisky making in Scotland and the place the spirit holds in its culture.



FRI 24TH SATURDAY 25TH JAN AT 6PM | RATED 12A

### KIDS CLUB ★ HOH SCREENING

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# M' ALBA

## MY ALBA

**DIARDHAON 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)

**DIHAOINE 17 Am Faoilleach**  
**FRIDAY 17th January**

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
18.35 Machair (rpt)  
19.00 An Là – News  
19.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)  
19.30 Leugh Mi (rpt)  
20.00 Oran na Mna (rpt)  
20.30 An Lot (rpt)  
21.00 Opry an Luir (rpt)  
22.00 An Klondike (rpt)  
22.50 Dhan Uisge (Sanna) (rpt)  
23.00 Doolin (rpt)  
23.45 Ceol bho Perthshire Amber (rpt)

**DISATHAIRNE 18 Am****Faoilleach****SATURDAY 18th January**

- 16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
17.45 An Là – News

**DIDÒMHNAICH 19 Am****Faoilleach**  
**SUNDAY 19 January**

- 11.00 ÙR/NEW: Spain v Scotland Women's Rugby  
13.05 Na Worlds 2018 (rpt)  
14.15 Pìobairean Bhòirnis/ Pipers of Bornish (rpt)

**14.25 Oran na Mara (rpt)****16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming****18.15 An La – News****18.30 Seachd La – News Review****19.30 Alleluia! (rpt)****20.00 Sgoil nan Sagairt (rpt)****20.30 Mach a Seo! (rpt)****21.00 Farpaisean Chon-Chaorach (rpt)****22.00 ÙR/NEW: Nochd****22.50 Ceol bho Perthshire Amber (rpt)****23.00 An Klondike (rpt)****23.55 Belladrum – Cridhe Tartan (Highlights) (rpt)****DILUAIN 20 Am Faoilleach****MONDAY 20 January**

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
19.00 Turas a' Bhradain (rpt)  
19.30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)

**19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)****20.00 An Là – News****20.30 Trusadh – Leabhraichean Gàidhlig (Gaelic Books) (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 21 Am Faoilleach****TUESDAY 21 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 – Leabhraichean Gàidhlig (Gaelic Books) (rpt)

**22.00 Oran na Mna (rpt)****23.00 Alleluia! (rpt)****DICIADAIN 22 Am Faoilleach****WEDNESDAY 22 January**

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
19.00 Turas a' Bhradain (rpt)  
19.30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)  
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
20.00 An Là – News  
20.30 ÙR/NEW: Wild Atlantic Way, with Anne London  
21.00 DIY le Donnie (rpt)  
22.00 ÙR/NEW: Scottish Premiership – Livingston v St Johnstone



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Six Oban High School pupils were judged on their culinary expertise.

## High school youngsters serve up haute cuisine on a tight budget

Six culinary geniuses from Oban High School went head to head in December in the final of the Rotary Club of Oban Young Chef competition.

The finalists were required to cook two courses (starter and main or main and dessert) and had a maximum budget of £15 to spend on ingredients.

They then had to plan and cook their menu and consider issues such as nutrition, health and cost.

The pupils received guidance from their home economics teacher Hannah Douglas and John McNulty, chef patron of the Etive Restaurant, while the competition was judged by Rotary Club of Oban president Douglas Small, Councillor Yvonne McNeilly (policy lead for education, Argyll and Bute Council), John McNulty (chef patron, Etive Restaurant) and David Lapsley (sommelier patron, Etive Restaurant).

Winning overall for his mouthwatering menu of Chicken Caesar Salad and Crepes with Orange Sauce was Dylan Squire, who received the unanimous acclaim of the judges.

Mr Small said: 'The Rotary Club of Oban is extremely grateful to Oban High School for its support of all our youth competitions and in particular this one which requires the use of school facilities. 'We particularly appreciate



the fantastic support given by Peter Bain, OHS head teacher, Hannah Douglas and our external judges John McNulty and David Lapsley.'

Dylan Squire's menu received the unanimous acclaim of the judges and congratulations from Oban Rotary president Douglas Small.

**YOUR STORY**  
 sharewithus: editor@obantimes.co.uk  
 telephone 01631 568000

# West coast writers win Ignite Fellowship awards

Scottish Book Trust, the national charity transforming lives through reading and writing, has announced the second Ignite Fellowship awardees.

The fellowship supports established writers who are embarking on a significant project. Argyllshire artist and writer Anoushka Havinden and poet Colin McGuire, from Glasgow, were selected by a panel including representatives from Scottish Book Trust and a professional writer while Hebridean actor and writer Catriona Lexy Campbell has been selected as the Gaelic Ignite Fellowship awardee, funded by the Gaelic Books Council.

Anoushka plans to use the Ignite Fellowship to work on a poetry collection exploring the watery history, geography and life of the west of Scotland. She will draw on her experiences of living there, and is particularly interested in the voices of women, myths and the nat-



**Argyllshire artist and writer Anoushka Havinden.**

ural world. She said: 'I hope very much that the work will live up to the faith shown in the project by Scottish Book Trust.'

'I hope to use the opportunity to help seek out and amplify some of the wonderful stories of this part of the world, and to produce a strong, evocative collection.'

Catriona will be working on a screen adaption of her father, Tormod Caimbeul's debut novel, *Deireadh an Fhogaire* (The End of

Autumn). Published in 1979, *Deireadh an Fhogaire*, widely regarded as a classic in Gaelic literature, tells the story of the last inhabitants of a community on a Hebridean island as they prepare to face the winter.

For his Ignite Fellowship project, Colin will draw on his work as both a poet and a mindfulness teacher, to explore wellbeing and mindfulness to record the process of loss and grief after the death of his brother. He will

research themes of mortality, loss and family legacy while delving into the affirmation of life through the use of mindfulness and expressive writing.

The Ignite Fellows will receive a £2,000 bursary and tailored creative support to suit their individual projects. The fellowship will run for one year, from December 2019 to December 2020.

Marc Lambert, CEO of Scottish Book Trust, said: 'Scottish Book Trust was delighted with the high standard of applications for the second Ignite Fellowship.'

'We are sure our awardees will benefit from the tailored advice and support, and all of us look forward to hear more about Colin, Anoushka and Catriona's fascinating projects.'

## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

**An Comunn Gàidhealach – Meur Chruachain**  
**TAYNUILT WINTER CEILIDH**  
Bean an Taighe – Morag MacNeil  
Clare Jordan, Riona McCormick &  
Freddy MacKenzie  
Ann Barlow – Fiddle  
Iain MacLean - Accordion  
Taynuilt Village Hall  
Saturday 18th January 2020. 7.30pm

**Netherlorn Piping Society**  
is holding a  
**CLUB NIGHT**  
(Featuring local players,  
young and old!)  
on Thursday 23rd January 2020  
in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls  
at 7.30pm  
Entry: Adults £3 and Children Free

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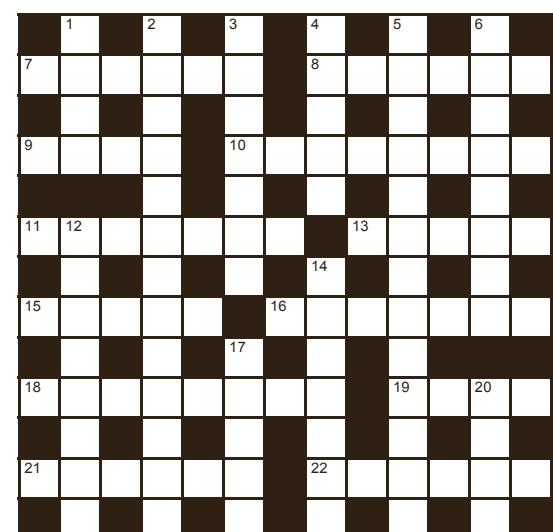
Andy & Sarah, 11am-3pm: Molly's Mix, 3pm-7pm: Drive time with Stephen, 7pm-9pm: Christine's Collection, 9pm-10pm: Anne's Ceilidh, 10pm-12am: Margo till Midnight

**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 Breeze, 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



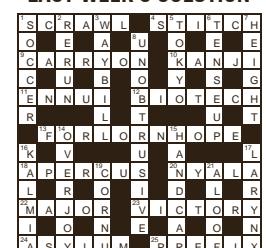
### Across

- 7 Large cup (6)
- 8 Bookworm (6)
- 9 Seaweed (4)
- 10 Hasten (8)
- 11 What's left (7)
- 13 Popular song in the past (5)
- 15 Use a soapbox (5)
- 16 Pipe type (7)
- 18 Polite behaviour (8)
- 19 Pear-shaped instrument (4)
- 21 Night light system part (6)
- 22 Swamp (6)

### Down

- 1 Trickle (4)
- 2 A cattail (8,5)
- 3 Length (7)
- 4 Hang (5)
- 5 Crane fly (5,8)
- 6 Elementary particle (8)
- 12 Military protection from above (3,5)
- 14 A compound, for example nylon (7)
- 17 Chin growth (5)
- 20 Yarn (4)

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



**BALLET WEST**

*Swan Lake*

**Corran Halls**  
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Tickets £15  
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T: +44 (0) 1866 822641 | E: [office@balletwest.ac.uk](mailto:office@balletwest.ac.uk)

# Welcome to the big, w

**Doesn't time fly!  
It seems like only  
yesterday you brought  
them home from  
hospital – and now  
they are getting ready  
for nursery school**

Here in Scotland, early learning and childcare is free to parents funded via the Scottish Government.

Children three to four years old can get up to 600 hours of funded early learning and childcare a year; around 16 hours a week in term time.

Children born between March 1, 2017, and February 28, 2018, are eligible for free early learning and childcare (ELC) from August this year.

Registration week in Argyll and Bute will take place between Monday January 27 and Friday January 31. During this week you should go along to your preferred ELC provider, pick up a registration pack and fill in an application form but remember to bring your child's birth certificate when registering.

In the Highland Council area, enrolment week commences Monday February 10 and concludes on Friday February 14. In the Western Isles Council area, enrolment date is later and dates for enrolment vary so please check with the nursery or childcare provider or call Education and Children's Services Early Years Office on 01851 822655.

**REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR  
CHILD'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE  
WHEN REGISTERING!**

## Did you know?

Traditionally in Scotland all children between four-and-a-half and five years old at the start of the autumn term enrol in primary school.

But parents of children still aged four at the start of the school year on the commencement date have a legal right to be deferred.

Children whose fifth birthday falls in January or February have the right to start school at four-and-a-half.

They also have the right to defer entry and to have a free early learning and childcare place for an extra year.

Those children whose fifth birthday falls after the school commencement date and the end of December also have the right to start school.

They also have the right to defer entry to school but a free early learning and childcare place is not automatic for these children; it is at the discretion of the local authority.



## Stramash Outdoor Nursery

Providing unique learning and early years environments via their outdoor nurseries, Stramash are now offering 1140 hours to all 3-5 year olds from Aug 2020.

- Stramash's experienced practitioners provide nurturing care and learning opportunities, helping children to become resilient, develop empathy, and nurture a connection to the natural world.
- Preparing children for a lifetime of learning through self-directed play is at the heart of Stramash life.

- With its central location, field of dreams and cosy Yurkie, Fort William Stramash nursery is at the heart of this Highland community. Taking children from 2-5 years old. 1140 available now!

- While Oban nursery truly has one of the finest views from any outdoor nursery! Ganavan clifftop location, woodland and field and cosy cabins make for a magical setting. Taking children from 3-5 years old.

- Registrations for 2020/21 open now - funded & non funded.  
Shared placements welcome.

**Freedom to learn inspired by nature**

- ★ Oban, Fort William, Elgin, Inverness
- ★ Fully Funded nursery spaces
- ★ 50 weeks a year
- ★ Holiday Clubs

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**Rainbow**  
CHILD CARE

***Looking forward to exciting times ahead***

Rainbow Childcare are delighted to announce that we will be offering not only one option for accessing your 1140 hours but two options! More choice for parents and flexibility to support your family's needs.

As of August 2020, FREE early learning and childcare funding hours increase from 600 hours to 1140. At Rainbow Childcare we have a 38-week pattern (school term time) and a 48-week pattern (full year). Both patterns can be taken over mornings, afternoons, full days or mixed.

Included in the extra funding, all children attending will also be provided with a hot lunch, light tea or both if accessing full days.

Please contact our centre manager Olivia for more information or come along to our centre during registration week.

Tel: **01631 564160**

EMAIL: **oban@rainbowchildcare.me.uk**

Rainbow Childcare:  
*"Where smiles and laughter bring colour to our centre"*

# West Coast MOTORING

GARAGES  DEALERSHIPS  PRIVATE SALES  NEWS

TO PLACE YOUR ADVERT IN THE OBAN TIMES:

TELEPHONE: 01631 568000  
Lines open: Mon to Fri 9am- 5pm

FAX: 01631  
568001

POST & IN PERSON: Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB  
Office hours: Mon - Thurs 9- 5pm, Fri 9 - 4pm

E-MAIL: [adverts@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:adverts@obantimes.co.uk)  
Please remember to give your name, address, postcode and phone number.

## WANTED 4X4S FOR CASH



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

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

**WON'T BE BEATEN ON PRICE,  
FAST PAYMENT AND COLLECTION.**

**CALL TODAY ON 0778 985 5381**

## WANTED

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

**Tel 07546 788945**

### LANDROVER DISCOVERY 4, 3.0 SDV6 COMMERCIAL



Year 2013, seat conversion, towbar c/w full electrics, full service history, one owner from new, 116,000 miles Mot'd until 09/20.  
**£10750 + Vat**

**Call 07768 915674**

## WANTED

All types of motor homes and caravanettes. Any age or condition. We also buy water damaged or in need of repair. Also all types of touring caravans from 95 onwards.

**T: 07885 203020 or  
E: [gbplantsales@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gbplantsales@hotmail.co.uk)**

## WANTED MOTOR HOMES

Caravanettes and camper vans, all makes and models considered. Also touring caravans and statics, instant decision, same day payment.

**Contact William 07730 130284  
email [wlmotorhomes@outlook.com](mailto:wlmotorhomes@outlook.com)**

## SCOTTISH FIELD

*February issue*



## Ayrshire & Arran...

Outlander author Diana Gabaldon...  
Scotland's wild goats... Scotland's top independent schools... Stunning wedding photography... Comedian Sanjeev Kohli...  
Top tattie recipes

## NEW CAR INDEX



Gordon Motors  
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PH7 4BQ  
Tel.01764 652125  
Delivery throughout the West  
[www.suzuki.co.uk/gordonmotors](http://www.suzuki.co.uk/gordonmotors)



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[www.wdsemple.com](http://www.wdsemple.com)  
Inveraray Shore Street  
Tel.01499 302150  
Lochgilphead  
Highbank Park  
01546 606767 / 606272



S & S Services  
Old Bridge Road,  
Heathfield, Ayr  
01292 880080  
01292 880440



S & S Services  
Old Bridge Road,  
Heathfield, Ayr  
01292 880080  
01292 880440



S & S Services  
Old Bridge Road,  
Heathfield, Ayr  
01292 880080/880440

# West Coast MOTORING

GARAGES  DEALERSHIPS  PRIVATE SALES  NEWS

TO PLACE YOUR ADVERT IN THE OBAN TIMES:

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568001

POST & IN PERSON: Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB  
Office hours: Mon - Thurs 9- 5pm, Fri 9 - 4pm

E-MAIL: [adverts@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:adverts@obantimes.co.uk)  
Please remember to give your name, address, postcode and phone number.

## WANTED

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

**Tel: 07546 788945**



## HUGE SELECTION OF CAR TYRES IN STOCK.

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**£32.80**

**Tel: 01631  
568000**



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**L200 SERIES 6 WARRIOR**  
NOW AVAILABLE FROM  
**£235 PER MONTH\***  
all rentals +VAT at 20%

+ £2,775.84 initial rental - 36 months rental term - 8,000 miles annual mileage

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**01334 654228**  
SCOTLAND'S 4 X 4 PICKUP PEOPLE

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NFUS

PICKUP OF THE YEAR 2019



19/69 Mitsubishi L200 Series 6 Barbarian X	£32,500+VAT
19/69 Mitsubishi L200 Series 6 Barbarian X	£29,999+VAT
19/19 Mitsubishi L200 Series 6 Barbarian	£26,000+VAT
19/69 Mitsubishi L200 Series 5 Barbarian Black EDW	£26,000+VAT
19/19 Mitsubishi L200 Series 5 Challenger	£26,000+VAT
19/69 Mitsubishi L200 Series 5 Barbarian	£23,600+VAT
19/69 Mitsubishi L200 Series 5 Barbarian	£23,100+VAT
19/19 Mitsubishi L200 Series 5 Barbarian	£20,999+VAT
19/19 Mitsubishi L200 Series 5 Barbarian	£20,999+VAT
17/67 Mitsubishi L200 Series 5 SVP Edition	£22,999+VAT
19/19 Mitsubishi L200 Series 5 Titan	£21,500+VAT
19/19 Mitsubishi L200 Series 5 Titan	£19,209+VAT
19/69 Mitsubishi L200 Series 5 Titan	£18,999+VAT
17/17 Mitsubishi L200 Series 5 Barbarian	£19,999 NO VAT
16/16 Mitsubishi L200 Series 5 Barbarian	£18,999+VAT
15/65 Mitsubishi L200 Series 5 Warrior	£13,999+VAT
15/65 Mitsubishi L200 Series 5 Warrior	£13,999+VAT
15/65 Mitsubishi L200 Series 4 Challenger	£13,999+VAT

# S & S SERVICES

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**MAKING BETTER ADVENTURES**

ISUZU D-MAX FROM ONLY  
**£389<sup>†</sup>** PER MONTH + VAT | INITIAL RENTAL £3,501.00 + VAT

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35 MONTHLY RENTALS OF £389.00 + VAT. EXCESS MILEAGE CHARGE OF 15.60p + VAT PER MILE AND RETURN CONDITIONS APPLY. VAT PAYABLE AT 20%. PROVIDED BY ISUZU CONTRACT HIRE.

XTR Model pictured (inc. optional special paint finish) from £399.25 a month +VAT plus Initial Rental in advance of £3,593.25 +VAT.

ISUZU D-MAX XTR

**Speak to S&S to find out more on the amazing  
14% NFU Scotland\* discount offer - 01292 880080**



**THE NEW XV SELF-CHARGING HYBRID.**



Vehicle shown is an XV 2.0i SE e-BOXER Lineartronic, OTR price of £31,545.00. Model shown price includes optional special paint finish at £550.

Subaru XV 2.0i SE e-BOXER

FROM ONLY  
**£329** PER MONTH | INCLUDES £1,000 SUBARU DEPOSIT CONTRIBUTION

PLUS DEPOSIT & OPTIONAL FINAL PAYMENT

You can expect the same 5-star safety, go-anywhere capability, and rugged reliability that our SUVs are renowned for; with the added benefits of battery-based power. And all without the need to plug in to recharge.

**DISCOVER MORE AT**

**S & S Services 01292 844296 www.sandservices-subaru.co.uk**

8 Old Bridge Road, Ayr, Ayrshire KA8 9SX

W B Spicer, W J Spicer & D Spicer, trading as S & S Services is a credit broker and not a lender.

PCP Representative Example.

OTR Cash Price	£30,995.00
Customer Deposit	£6,029.25
Subaru Deposit Contribution	£1,000.00
Total Deposit	£7,029.25
Total Amount of Credit	£23,965.75
48 Monthly Payments	£329.00
Optional Final Payment (including £10 purchase fee)	£13,321.00
Total Amount Payable	£36,142.25
Duration of Agreement	49 Months
Representative APR	6.90% APR
Interest Rate (Fixed)	6.68%

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

# S & S SERVICES

ISUZU

SUBARU

## ALL-NEW FORESTER E-BOXER. 4X4 MAGAZINE'S BEST SMALL SUV OF THE YEAR



Subaru UK is pleased to announce the all-new Forester e-BOXER – the first self-charging hybrid from Subaru – has been awarded 4x4 Magazine's Best Small SUV of the Year 2020, a testimony to Subaru's on-going commitment to build cars that are incredibly safe,

extremely capable and unfalteringly reliable, too.

Beating off strong competition, Forester impressed the judging panel at 4x4 Magazine across the board thanks to its wide range of safety technologies, on-road drivability and genuine off-road skills.

Alan Kidd, Editor of 4x4

Magazine, said: "Subaru's new Global Platform is the gift that keeps on giving. It means the all-new Forester has a roomier cabin than ever, as well as being almost unbelievably entertaining to drive – and one of the safest family vehicles in the world. That's a hat-trick to be proud of!"

Subaru UK Managing Director Chris Graham commented: "We're delighted that the all-new Forester e-BOXER has won 4x4 Magazine's Best Small SUV of the Year 2020. Subaru are committed to building the safest vehicles on the road, with all-new Forester out-

forming all other vehicles assessed by Euro NCAP last year. These accolades are testimony to a great product and our vision to produce cars that truly are better where it matters."

The safety credentials and suitability of Forester as a family wagon have also been confirmed by

Euro NCAP, with the all-new model achieving Best in Class 2019 in the Small Off-Road / MPV class\*1 – and the best score across all new cars tested by Euro NCAP in 2019.

To find out more please call your local Subaru dealer S&S Services, 01292 880080

### Supporting the people of Argyll for over 30 years



### ALL-NEW FORESTER SELF-CHARGING HYBRID.

Subaru Forester 2.0i XE e-BOXER

FROM ONLY  
**£399** PER MONTH

INCLUDES £1,000 SUBARU  
DEPOSIT CONTRIBUTION

PLUS DEPOSIT & OPTIONAL FINAL PAYMENT

You can expect the same 5-star safety, go-anywhere capability, and rugged reliability that our SUVs are renowned for; with the added benefits of battery-based power. And all without the need to plug in to recharge.

Vehicle shown is a Forester 2.0i XE e-BOXER Lineartronic, OTR price of £36,545.00. Model shown price includes optional special paint finish at £55.

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

# RECRUITMENT

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**HIJOBS**  
Visit [hijobs.net](http://hijobs.net)

## FIXED PLANT MAINTENANCE FITTER



A Position has become available for a maintenance fitter within our maintenance team. Ideally we would be looking for a suitable candidate with experience within quarrying/mining.

Aggregate Industries is a leading manufacturer and supplier of concrete products to the construction industry and part of the global Holcim Group. With nearly 4,000 employees and operations across the UK and Northern Europe, we are committed to helping create a better built environment. As a Fitter to our Maintenance Team Leader you will be responsible for safely and efficiently carrying out planned maintenance and repairs to site equipment to maintain our asset capacity and value.

### Responsibilities:

- Carry out planned maintenance and repairs to the site equipment.
- Carry out planned repairs to equipment to maintain asset capacity and value
- Contribute to the preparation and development of Safe Systems of Work for repair procedures.
- Respond to unplanned repairs and other requirements.
- Respond to plant breakdowns – ensuring it is returned to production in a timely manner, and temporary fixes are followed up with a permanent solution.
- Maintaining a high standard of housekeeping, keeping areas clean, tidy and hazard free.
- Deal with all daily issues professionally and liaise with site management on a regular basis
- Support and train operatives to complete minor maintenance tasks
- To carry out all inspections; complete the forms and where a problem exists notify line management immediately.
- Enter maintenance and work data on the site Computerised Maintenance Management System.
- Be responsible for the plant assets in your area of responsibility and as required in all other work areas.
- To react promptly and effectively to site breakdowns by liaising with operatives and assisting where needed.
- To monitor and ensure that all plant stoppages, breakdowns and logs are documented correctly.
- Complete and adhere to all Safety related documentation for all maintenance activates.
- To carry out other reasonable tasks within the scope of your operation and abilities as and when required.
- Strong communication with site team.
- Support other area teams when required.
- Support the site reliability program for planned change out of equipment and recording of CM data
- Use maintenance access equipment and lifting equipment

### 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.
- Experienced fitter who is also skilled in welding, cutting and fabricating techniques with tech qualification, NVQ3 or equivalent.
- Excellent communication and team working skills.
- Ability to plan and implement maintenance schedules and good working knowledge of engineering drawings.
- Good understanding of health and safety.
- Good organising skills
- IT literacy and ability to work to deadlines.
- Ability to work flexibly.

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: Friday 31st January 2020.**

Glensanda Quarry Operations, Rhugh Garbh Depot, Barcaldine, Oban.

Telephone +44 (0) 1631 568140

[www.aggregate.com](http://www.aggregate.com)

## 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 as 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

## The Rockfield Centre

Are looking to recruit for the exciting new role of

## Heritage Officer

28 hour post based in Oban.

Full details website.

<https://www.therockfieldcentre.org.uk/work-with-us>  
SC045503

### 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.



## North Argyll House

Bealach an Righ, 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)

## Couple Required for Seasonal Role On leading West Coast Sporting Estate

## Ghillie / House keeper

Benmore Estate on the Island of Mull is looking to recruit a Ghillie and a Housekeeper to join our estate team for the coming season (May-Oct).

This opportunity would ideally suit a young couple who are looking for seasonal employment. Successful applicants need to be enthusiastic, hard working and totally reliable.

A competitive package which includes accommodation in a newly refurbished remote mountain bothy is available.

Interested parties should email a CV to [julian@benmoreestate.co.uk](mailto:julian@benmoreestate.co.uk)

Further details of the estate are available on the estate website.  
[www.benmoreestate.co.uk](http://www.benmoreestate.co.uk) [www.hookedonmull.co.uk](http://www.hookedonmull.co.uk)

### Career opportunities



## CONSTRUCTION SITE OPERATIVE

We are looking for a Construction Site Operative to join our busy team in Oban. The position is based at Dunbeg Development, Kirk Road. Forklift experience desired but not essential.

Please send CV to  
[jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk](mailto:jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk) or call  
 01546 602989 for further information.



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**HIJOBS**

Visit [hijobs.net](http://hijobs.net)



## 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?

## 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.

*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.*

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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

The Oban Times  
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

## REPORTER

An exciting opportunity has arisen for a bright, passionate and self-driven reporter to join The Oban Times' busy team.

The person we are looking for will have an NCTJ or similar qualification, including shorthand, and be multi-media literate.

We are passionate about good local journalism and like our reporters to get out into the local community, meeting people face-to-face, sourcing the best stories.

You should be bursting with ideas and have an eye for a good story, understand the importance of fostering great contacts and knowing your patch, and be capable of working on your own initiative as well as part of a team.

As the position will be based in Oban, knowledge of the area would be an advantage.

You should also hold a full driving licence.

As well as writing for the newspaper of record for Argyll and the West Highlands, you will be expected to take photographs on the job, as well as contribute to our social media channels and podcasts.

In return for all this we offer a competitive salary, great experience and training, as well as an enhanced pension.

Please apply by email, sending your CV, plus a covering letter and some examples of your work to: Alison Arden - [ali@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:ali@obantimes.co.uk)

campbeltown  
**courier**  
Incorporating Argyllshire Advertiser

## Trainee Reporter

Here at the Campbeltown Courier, we pride ourselves on producing quality grassroots journalism.

An exciting opportunity has arisen for a bright, passionate and hard-working trainee to join our small, busy team.

The person we are looking for will ideally have passed their NCTJ prelims, including shorthand, be multi-media literate and unafraid of hard work.

We are passionate about good local journalism and like our reporters to get out into the local community, meeting people face-to-face, sourcing the best stories.

You should be bursting with ideas and have an eye for a good story, understand the importance of fostering great contacts and knowing your patch, and be capable of working on your own initiative as well as part of a team.

You should also hold a full driving licence.

As well as writing for the newspaper, you will be expected to take photographs on the job, as well as contribute to our social media channels and podcasts.

In return for all this we offer a competitive salary, great experience and training, as well as an enhanced pension.

Please apply by email, sending your CV, plus a covering letter and some examples of your work to: Alison Arden - [ali@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:ali@obantimes.co.uk)

## Make a difference every day

Join one of Scotland's leading social care and community development charities for a fulfilling and worthwhile career in social care.



Find out more at  
[www.carrgomm.org/work-with-us](http://www.carrgomm.org/work-with-us).

**Carr Gomm**  
Supporting People & Communities

# IN ASSOCIATION WITH HIJOBS

## INVERARAY CASTLE

### SEASONAL STAFF

**1st April – 31st October**

### GUIDES/TEAROOM ASSISTANT

Inveraray Castle has a Recruitment Open Day on Thursday 6th February - 11.30-13.30 and 14.30-16.30.

If you have a passion for delivering the highest quality customer service, we have both F/T and P/T positions as a Castle Tour Guide or Tearoom Assistant - **1st April – 31st October**. Guide positions an interest in Scottish History and one or more foreign languages are desirable but not essential.

Please email our Castle Manager, **Jane Young** - [manager@inveraray-castle.com](mailto:manager@inveraray-castle.com) with an up to-date CV and covering letter highlighting your relevant experience. Alternatively attend our Open Day.

**Closing Date for applications**  
10th February 2020

## INVERARAY CASTLE

### SEASONAL STAFF REQUIRED (MARCH – MID NOVEMBER)

### TEAROOM MANAGER/ INVERARAY CASTLE TEAROOM

We are looking to recruit an experienced, enthusiastic and extremely organised Tearoom/Café Manager.

Our ideal candidate should have at least 3 years' experience in a similar environment. They must be able to manage a small team and have excellent communication and customer service skills.

Competitive salary for the right candidate. Position:- Seasonal – 5 days out of 7 March – Middle of November

**Please send your current CV to:-  
Mrs J Young, Castle Manager  
Email: [manager@inveraray-castle.com](mailto:manager@inveraray-castle.com)  
Closing Date for applications  
10th February 2020**

# PUBLIC NOTICES

## Argyll and Bute Council

### PLANNING

These applications listed below may be inspected between 09:00-12.30 –13.30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, your Local Customer Service Point and by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk).

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND)  
REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT  
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING  
(LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
19/02636/PP	Erection of self catering unit	Land South Of Pine View Lodge, Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll And Bute
19/02480/PP	Demolition of existing boat house, erection of replacement boat house, refurbishment of existing jetty and installation of biodisc sewage treatment plant	Muckairn House, Taynuilt, Argyll And Bute, PA35 1JA
19/02512/PP	Alterations and extensions	Salen Primary School, Ardmore Road, Salen, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute, PA72 6JL
19/02631/PP	Erection of self catering unit and fence	Garden Ground Of Claremont, Glencruitten Road, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 4QA
19/02601/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land North East Of Brenna Cottages (Plot 3), Taynuilt, Argyll And Bute
19/02599/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land North East Of Brenna Cottages (Plot 1), Taynuilt, Argyll And Bute
19/02639/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse with attached garage and formation of vehicular access	Land South East Of Kilmore, Dervaig, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute
19/02609/PP	Creation of new access (including closure of existing access), erection of bridge over existing burn and formation of beer garden	The Taynuilt Inn, Taynuilt, Argyll And Bute, PA35 1JN
19/02600/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land North East Of Brenna Cottages (Plot 2), Taynuilt, Argyll And Bute
19/02629/LIB	Internal alterations to extend existing bathroom and form new en-suite shower room	Flat 3, 3 Argyll Street, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 5SG
19/02628/MFF	Installation of 12 x 90m circumference cages within 60m grid and feed barge (consolidation of two existing fish farm sites to form one) with no increase in biomass	Lismore North Fish Farm, Loch Linnhe, Isle Of Lismore, Argyll And Bute
19/02620/PPP	Site for erection of dwellinghouse	Land North East Of Dunmhairi, (Plot 2), Kilchrenan, Argyll And Bute
19/02552/PP	Erection of building to house biomass boiler, store house, visitor experience, flue and associated service yard	Bunnahabhain Distillery, Bunnahabhain, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute, PA46 7RP
19/02485/PP	Erection of 29 dwellinghouses installation of sewage treatment plant and formation of vehicular access. Formation of play park and football pitch	Land South West Of Lochgorm House, Bruichladdich, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute
19/02555/PP	Erection of distillery with associated maltings and vaulted maturation warehouse, visitor's centre with shop, restaurant and meeting facilities, tasting lodge and associated infrastructure including: sewage treatment plant and pumping station, new junction, access roads, car parking, tankfarms, SuDS pond, reservoir and sea water intake	Land South And East Of Farkin Cottage, Port Ellen, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Council's website.

### THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017 NOTICE UNDER REGULATION 21

Planning Application Reference Number: 19/02555/PP

Proposed development at: Land South And East Of Farkin Cottage, Port Ellen, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute. Notice is hereby given that an Environmental Impact Assessment Report has been submitted to Argyll and Bute Council by Speciality Drinks Limited relating to the planning application in respect of Erection of distillery with associated maltings and vaulted maturation warehouse, visitor's centre with shop, restaurant and meeting facilities, tasting lodge and associated infrastructure including: sewage treatment plant and pumping station, new junction, access roads, car parking, tankfarms, SuDS pond, reservoir and sea water intake

A copy of the EIA Report and the associated planning application may be inspected during office hours in the register of planning applications kept by the Planning Authority, at 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RD or by logging on to the Council's Website [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) and going through the Planning Application information system during the period of 30 days beginning with the date of this notice.

Copies of the EIA Report may be purchased from: Blyth and Blyth, Cornerstone, 60 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh, EH12 9EB at a cost of £150 for paper copies and £10 for cd rom.

Any person who wishes to make representations to Argyll and Bute Council about the Environmental Impact Assessment Report should make them in writing within that period to – Planning Services, Development and Infrastructure, Argyll and Bute Council, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD. David Love, Area Team Leader

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:  
[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

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## ONLINE ENROLMENT FOR 2020 PRIMARY 1 & EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE PLACES IN A SCHOOL

If your child will be five years of age on or before 28 February 2021, they are eligible to enrol for Primary 1.

Children born between 1 March 2016 and 28 February 2018 are entitled to a funded Early Learning and Childcare place.

The new session starts on 18 August 2020.

The P1 enrolment week for Highland schools is Monday 27 January to Friday 31 January 2020.

For Early Learning and Childcare places it will be Monday 10 February to Friday 14 February 2020.

To enrol your child, or for further information on completing the online form, the enrolment process, catchment areas, Gaelic Medium education, school transport and placing requests visit [www.highland.gov.uk/enrol](http://www.highland.gov.uk/enrol).

Please note that once you have enrolled your child online, the school will contact you to arrange the necessary induction for your child.

Please be aware that although you may wish your child to attend a school other than your local primary school, you must first enrol at your catchment area primary school and then make a placing request.

If however you do not have access to the online enrolment process, a paper copy of the form may still be completed at your catchment school office during enrolment week.

Please note that if you are enrolling in person at a school, you are required to take your child's birth certificate and proof of your address with you.

[www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk)



### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

### PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.hightland.gov.uk>; electronically at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, CHARLES KENNEDY BUILDING, ACHINTORE ROAD, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6RQ; or electronically at your nearest Council Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link [https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a\\_to\\_z](https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z)

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
19/05239/FUL	Ferry Cottage, Old Ferry Road North Ballachulish, Onich	Demolition of existing garage and erection of garage with holiday letting accommodation above
19/05374/FUL	3 Erracht Drive Caol, Fort William	Conversion of garage to form self-contained residential unit
19/05391/FUL	Land 455M East of Chapel House Glenfinnan	Retrospective application for the change of use of land to form a temporary compound
19/05635/FUL	Land 120M North Of, Ardlochy House Gairlochy, Spean Bridge	Formation of serviced house site (renewal of 16/03524/FUL)
19/05545/FUL	Fulton House Gordon Square, Fort William	Change of use from Offices to 12no Domestic Apartments
20/00036/FUL	Crochaorich, Achintee	Change of use of holiday letting unit to long term letting unit
19/05496/FUL	Land South of Chalet at Brentwood, Tomonie	Erection of house
19/05562/FUL	Nevis Range Development Co PLC Torlundy, Fort William	Installation of entrance sculpture and associated signage
19/05581/FUL	Bank Cottage Banavie, Fort William	Siting of 2 self-catering accommodation pods

Time period for comments is 14 days

ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX

Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)



## CLÀRACHADH AIR-LOIDHNE AIRSON CLAS 1 & TRÀTH-IONNSACHADH IS CÙRAM-CHLOINNE ANN AN SGOIL AIRSON 2020

Ma bhios ur pàiste còig bliadhna a dh'aois air no ro 28 Gearran 2021, faodar an clàrachadh airson Clas 1.

Tha làn-chòir aig clann a rugadh eadar 1 Màrt 2016 agus 28 Gearran 2018 air àite maoinichte Tràth-ionnsachaidh is Cùram-chloinne.

Tha an seisean ùr a' tòiseachadh air 18 Lùnastal 2020.

'S e an t-seachdain chlàrachaidh airson Clas 1 airson sgoiltean na Gàidhealtachd

Diluain 27 Faoilleach gu Dihaoine 31 Faoilleach 2020.

'S e an t-seachdain chlàrachaidh airson àiteachan Tràth-ionnsachaidh is Cùram-chloinne Diluain 10 Gearran gu Dihaoine 14 Gearran 2020.

Gus ur pàiste a chlàrachadh no airson tuilleadh fiosrachaidh mu bhith a' lìonadh an fhoirm air-loidhne, pròiseas chlàrachaidh, sgirean-sgoile, Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig, còmhdaill sgoile agus iarrasan àiteachan-sgoile, tadhailibh air [www.highland.gov.uk/enrol](http://www.highland.gov.uk/enrol).

Nuair a tha sibh air ur pàiste a chlàrachadh air-loidhne, curidh an sgoil fios thugaibh gus inntrigeadh a chur air dòigh.

Ma tha sibh airson 's gun tèid ur pàiste gu sgoil eile seach a' bhun-sgoil ionadail agaibh, thoiribh an aire gum feum sibh an clàrachadh an toiseach ann am bun-sgoil na sgire-sgoile agaibh agus iarras airson àite-sgoile a dhèanamh às dèidh sin.

Mura h-eil cothrom agaibh faighinn air-loidhne, faodar fhathast leth-bhreac phàipeir den fhoirm chlàrachaidh a lìonadh aig oifis na sgoile ionadail tron t-seachdain chlàrachaidh.

Thoiribh an aire gum feum sibh teisteanas-breith ur pàiste agu

## INVITATION TO TENDER



### Catering Services for Café Scientifique, SAMS Ocean Explorer Centre, Dunstaffnage, near Oban

SAMS seeks expressions of interest to tender for the catering provision of its café at the above venue. Café Scientifique is a furnished 35 seat café with serving area and small fully fitted kitchen. There is an additional outside hard standing area with seating for a further 25.

The café is currently the only catering provision for SAMS, and other users of the Dunstaffnage peninsular such as the Marine Science Park and Dunstaffnage Castle. The potential client base would therefore be from site staff, students and visitors to all the organisations including the OEC. Wider opportunities exist from the local residents, and the extensive number of walkers who make use of the coastline, beach and small woodland.

The OEC is open Monday to Friday all year with seasonally variable hours. The cafe is expected, as a minimum, to match the opening hours of the OEC but proposals are welcomed for longer opening hours, including weekends.

In addition to catering within the café, opportunities exist to provide hospitality catering ranging from light buffets to full meals, for SAMS events, if desired.

We are looking for a catering partner who will work with us to be innovative, creative, to enhance the OEC visitor experience and support SAMS values in minimising our environmental impact. SAMS would actively welcome proposals from local organisations who are either established in the hospitality arena or looking to develop a new business. Further information and full details of the proposal process can be obtained by contacting Ann Mackenzie, Compliance Manager, on 01631 559227 or by emailing her at [Ann.Mackenzie@sams.ac.uk](mailto:Ann.Mackenzie@sams.ac.uk)

All interested parties should submit their interest by 1400hrs on Friday 14th February 2020.

**Oban Times**  
PUBLIC NOTICES

**DALMALLY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY AGM**  
23rd January 2020  
7.30pm DALMALLY GOLF CLUB, DALMALLY  
Happy new year.  
We invite everyone from the community to get involved and help us plan next year's show.  
We hope to see many of you there.  
Tracey Peedle, Secretary

**To advertise in the Public Notices section please call 01631 568000**

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## ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES

LONG COPPER COACHMANS HORN - Vintage shiny copper coachman's horn, approx 4ft long, ideal display item for pub? Hotel? Country house on beam? Can email photo. Campbeltown, £35.00 Telephone 01586 554537

SET OF OLD RUSTY SCALES - Heavy set of rusty scales, vintage, ideal for painting black as decorative item. Can email photo, plus photo example of one painted. Campbeltown, £20.00 Telephone 01586 554537

OLD RUSTY SET OF SCALES - Ideal for painting black, as decorative item. Heavy and old. Like shop weighing scales. Can email photo. 2 available. This price for one. Campbeltown, £20.00 Telephone 01586 554537

GREAT WORLD WAR - A History - editor Frank F Mumby. Vol 1-4. Hardback blue covers. Coloured folding maps, dust covers, photographs, plates, £10.00 Telephone 01546 602563

A W MORRIS (REPRO) MIRROR - Over Mantle Ornate Mirror, beautiful

and elegant with slight wear.

86cm x 64cm Gold coloured, £35.00 Telephone 01546 830178 or 07946 554744

VINTAGE METAL SHEEP SHEARS - Very old black vintage metal, cast iron, sheep shears, approx 14" long, working order, ideal display item, clearing out shed. Email photo. Campbeltown, £25.00 Telephone 01586 554537

CAST IRON SPADE, 9" LONG - Old cast iron ornamental spade, with thermometer, approx 9" long, can email photo. Campbeltown, £15.00 Telephone 01586 554537

CAST IRON BRACKET AND DOORBELL - Vintage cast iron, wrought iron bracket, approx 8" X 8" with doorbell and clapper, wall mountable, needs assembling, can email photo. Campbeltown, £15.00 Telephone 01586 554537

CAST IRON WEIGHTS - 3 cast iron weights for old scales, various weight. Old and maybe rusty, in shed. Can email photo. Campbeltown, £10.00 Telephone 01586 554537

CAST IRON SPADE DOORKNOCKER -

Vintage ornamental doorknocker, cast iron, approx 7" long, D shape handle and blade. Good condition. Paint black? Can email photo. Campbeltown, £15.00 Telephone 01586 554537

QUALITY CEILING FAN, BLADES - Good quality, brand new ceiling fan with 4 blades and glass shades, never used or assembled. All fittings included. Can email photo. Campbeltown, £30.00 Telephone 01586 554537

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 07876 225665

LABRADOR CROSS BORDER COLLIE PUPS - Solid chocolate, solid black, chocolate merle and blue merle coloured, 12 weeks old, wormed up to date and microchipped. Call or text, £150.00 Telephone 07483 283098

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## FURNITURE

DESK - Mahogany with Queen Anne legs, 3 drawers. W 31" (79cm) D 17" (43cm) H 39" (100cm). (Ardrishaig), £15.00 Telephone 07900 862835

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VINTAGE CART WHEELS - and smaller implement wheels. Colourful garden display items, £30.00 Telephone 01631 564578

VINTAGE CHIMNEY POTS - in various sizes

## PHOTOGRAPHY

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## HUNTING & FISHING EQUIPMENT

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## LUGGAGE

SUITCASES - Medium navy expanding suitcase. Small black and grey suitcase. £15.00 for pair. (Lochgilphead)

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## GRADUATION



**LAUREN VICTORIA BUCHANAN**  
Graduated with a first class MSc in Environmental Science from the University of Aberdeen. Lauren is the eldest daughter of Kenny and Jacqui Buchanan, Oban, granddaughter of Diarmid and Jean Noel-Paton, Suffolk and Jim and the late Irene Buchanan, Girvan. Lauren is a former pupil of Rockfield Primary and Oban High School.

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## ENGAGEMENTS

**OWEN - GREENWOOD** - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Alan, son of Tom and Allena Owen, Kinlochleven to Fiona, youngest daughter of Stuart and Agnes Greenwood, North Berwick.

## DEATHS

**BRECKENRIDGE** - Jean Dorothy (née Stone) late of Port Appin. At Lorn and Islands Hospital Oban, on January 2, 2020. Beloved wife of the late Billy Breckenridge, and dear sister and aunt. Funeral at Appin Parish Church on Monday, January 20 at 10.30 a.m. followed by committal at Cardross Crematorium at 3.15 p.m. to which all friends are invited to either or both services. Family flowers only please.

**CAMERON** - Suddenly but peacefully at Belford Hospital, Fort William, with her family by her side, on Thursday, January 2, 2020, Rosemary Cameron (née MacKellaig), wife of the late Angus Cameron, The Old Store Onich. Funeral Mass was held on Tuesday, January 7 at The Good Shepherd Church, Kinlochleven and thereafter to Innis Na Birlinn Cemetery.

**DUNCAN** - Isabel (Bibby). Following an unexpected injury fought with her amazing strength of spirit, Isabel (Bibby) passed away peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on January 10, 2020 in her 81st year, devoted wife of Billy, dearly loved mum of Val, Rainy, Linda

and Paula, cherished Nannie to Brian, Laurie, Kayden and Kearney, Great-Nannie to Paul and Cara, a much loved sister, auntie and mother-in-law to Willie, Colin and Ann. Sadly missed. A celebration of her life will be held at The Argyllshire Gathering Hall, Oban on Tuesday, January 21 at 1.00 p.m. Family flowers only. There will be a retiring collection in aid of the Scottish Air Ambulance.

**GORRIE** - Suddenly at his home, 5B Wilson Road, Lochgilphead, on January 7, 2020, Angus (John) Gorrie, in his 85th year, beloved husband of Catherine, cherished father of Charles, Gavin and Kathleen, dearly loved grandfather of eight and a much respected father-in-law. Dear brother, uncle and cousin to all the family, and a good neighbour, dear friend and former work colleague to many. Funeral service will be held at South Knapdale Parish Church, Achahoish, today, Thursday, January 16, 2020, at 12.00 noon, thereafter to Ormsary Cemetery.

**LIVINGSTONE** - Mary (née Black). Peacefully after a long illness, Mary passed away at her home Blackmill Cottages, Taynuilt in her 81st year on January 10, 2020. Devoted wife of the late Duncan Livingstone, much loved mother of Gregor and Stuart, mother-in-law of Claire, loving granny to Caya, Abbie, Rowan and Isla. Funeral service will be held on Wednesday, January 22 at 1p.m. at Muckairn Parish Church, Taynuilt. Family flowers only

with donations if desired to Alzheimer's Scotland.

**MACDONALD** - Peacefully at the Etive House Care Home on January 7, 2020, Duncan (Sammy) MacDonald, Tobermory, Isle of Mull, aged 90 years. Funeral service to be held at Tobermory Parish Church on Friday, January 17, 2020 at 11.30 a.m. Thereafter to Tobermory Beadoun Cemetery.

**MACDONALD** - Peacefully on Saturday, January 11, 2020, at Cradlehall Care Home, Inverness, Ewen MacDonald, 28 Clerk Drive, Corpach, Fort William, aged 74 years. Formerly MacBraynes and Corran Ferry Relief Engineer. Lifelong passion for buses and coaches. Much loved brother of John, brother-in-law, uncle and loyal friend of many. Funeral service on Wednesday, January 22 at 1.00 p.m. in Kinlochleven Parish Church, thereafter to Kinlochmore Burial Ground. All warmly invited. Donations for Cancer Research and Cat Protection welcome at the service or please forward to William T. Fraser and Son, Culduhel Road, Inverness.

**MACDONALD** - Peacefully, at Kintyre Care Home, Campbeltown, on Saturday, December 28, 2019, Catriona Henrietta, aged 72 years. Funeral arrangements to follow.

**MACTAGGART** - Isabella Paton 'Patsy' MacTaggart (née Dow), late of Inveraray and Eas a'Chleibh, died peacefully aged 92 in Inverness on January 10, 2020. Beloved mother of Kenneth and Andrew, dear

gran to Andrew Iain, Laura Ann, Alan Loughlin, Catriona Patricia and Ross MacPhedran, and great-granny to baby Ailsa. Sadly missed. Cremation in Inverness, and ashes to be interred at a later date in Glen Shira. Donations, if desired, to the Royal Osteoporosis Society may be forwarded to D. Chisholm & Sons, Funeral Directors, Huntly Street, Inverness IV3 5HP.

**McDOUGALL** - Donald, 25 Lynn Court, Oban, formerly of 26 Lochnell Road, Dunbeg, passed away peacefully, in A & E, Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on Friday, January 10, 2020, a beloved dad, stepdad, grampa and brother. Will be sorely missed. A Celebration of Life will take place at Oban Parish Church, Glencruitten Road, Oban, on Friday, January 17, 2020 at 1.00 p.m. thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery.

**MITCHELL** - David died peacefully at home in Salen on Saturday, January 4, 2020. Funeral to be held in Acharacle Church on Saturday, January 18 at 12 noon. Light refreshments will follow the interment in Acharacle Cemetery at Jill's, Ardshealach Lodge.

**MORRISON** - Helen Margaret (née Turnbull). Peacefully at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, on Thursday, January 9, 2020.

Helen, (of the Isle of Mull), beloved wife of the late Neil, dearly loved mother of Donald, much loved granny/nannie to Wee Ruairidh, Amanda, Ruairidh, Ryan and Claire, and loving great granny to Ellie and Zara. Funeral service at Daldowie Crematorium, on Friday, January 24, 2020 at 1.00 p.m., to which all family and friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please. Donations will be gratefully received in aid of The British Liver Trust or to The Transplant Unit, Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**CAMERON** - Gregor, Allan and Kirsty Cameron would like to thank all those who attended our mother Flora's funeral last month and are delighted to be able to donate £100 to Alzheimer's Scotland and Oban's Lion Club through their generosity. We would also like to express heartfelt thanks to all the staff at Etive House

Care Home who went above and beyond in their care of our mum and us as a family during a very difficult time. They did everything in their power so that we all had space, time and sustenance during mum's last days. Most importantly, mum's dignity, peace and comfort was of uppermost priority at all times and was maintained to the last. We cannot thank them enough and will never forget their professionalism and kindness.

## MEMORIAL SERVICES

**CLARK** - Iain Mackinnon Clark 1933-2019. Much loved father, grandfather, partner and friend. We will be celebrating Iain's life and memory at Stranraer Trinity Church at 2 p.m. on January 24, 2020. All welcome.

## MEMORIAMS

**CRAWFORD** - In memory of Jessie, died January 20, 1995, a dear mother and gran. Sadly missed.

- The family.

**CRUICKSHANK** - In ever lasting memory of Jimmy, loving husband, father and grandfather who left us on January 15, 1999 after a long illness bravely borne. Remembered with love.

- Kate and family.

**GALBRAITH** - In loving memory of George of Drumfingal, Dervaig, Mull, who died January 20, 1995.

- From Brenda and family.

**MACDOUGALL** - In loving memory of our dearly loved son Duncan, tragically taken from us on January 18, 2018. Always in our thoughts each and every day.

A golden heart stopped beating, Two smiling eyes at rest, God broke our hearts to prove to us, He only takes the best.

- Mum and Dad.

**MACINTYRE** - In loving memory of our mum Rose, who died January 14, 2019, a much loved mum, granny and great-granny.

A mother's love is ageless  
A crown she has won  
Today we mourn and honour her  
For all that she has done.

- Your loving family.

**MACMILLAN** - Treasured memories of David (Herc), beloved partner, son, brother and friend, who died January 21, 2016.

Loved and remembered every day.

- Janet, Dad, Margaret and all the family.

**MACRAE** - In loving memory of Len, dear husband, dad and grampa who died January 18, 2003.

Loved and remembered.  
- Kate and families xx

**ROBERTSON** - In loving memory of the late Mary Robertson (née Simpson) wife of the late Iain MacKinnon Robertson of 5 Rockfield Road, Tobermory who passed away on January 9, 2015. She is sadly missed and dearly loved by her daughter Marion and son Niall, sister Annie (Capewell) and all her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

- Niall.

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# Airline flies in to make sure islanders perform at festival

Seventy island pupils scheduled to appear at Celtic Connections tomorrow night (Friday January 17) will be flown by Loganair following fears that ferries will not be running in time to get them to their appearance in Glasgow.

Loganair came to the rescue following a plea by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's chairman of transportation and infrastructure Councillor Uisdean Robertson.

Performances will include 70 island pupils from the Dileab: Air a' Chuain project, Willie Campbell and Band, Ceitlin Liliadh and Pàdraig Morrison with the Sgoil Lionacleit Pipe Band, the Sir E Scott Choir from Harris, singers and musicians from Castlebay Community School in Barra and the Nicolson Institute in Lewis, as well as other island musicians including Iain 'Costello' MacIver and Neil Johnstone.

The chartered flight will make two trips to Glasgow on Wednesday, via Stornoway and Benbecula.

Kay Ryan, chief commercial officer at Loganair, said: 'We are delighted we've been able to help the children get to Glasgow. We know how important this event is for them after all the hard work they have put in and we hope they have an amazing time at Celtic Connections.'

Dileab project director Rhona Johnstone said: 'We are delighted that the young people from our Western Isles schools have been invited to perform at this year's



The islanders were flown to Glasgow yesterday (Wednesday) to ensure they could perform.

Celtic Connections festival at the Dileab: Air a' Chuain concert on Friday night to celebrate Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters 2020 and explore the rich connection we have to the waters and coasts surrounding our own islands.

'In addition to the main concert, our pupils from Castlebay Community School, along with Willie Campbell, have been asked to perform in the Coastal Connections Festival in a Day event taking place in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall on Saturday, January 18.

'Playing at a world renowned festival such as Celtic Connections is a tremendous opportunity for the pupils to showcase their talents

and we have immense pride in all our young people taking part.'

'Getting 80 pupils and staff to Glasgow in January was always going to be risky given the weather we so often get this time of year. We are extremely grateful to Loganair for their assistance to make sure that everyone gets down in time to meet up and rehearse together. We would also like to acknowledge the support received from ferry company Caledonian MacBrayne, which is one of the partners of the Celtic Connections festival.'

'CalMac generously sponsored our ferry travel, which we will still be using on the return journey, but have also been very helpful in providing assistance and advice

with regards to our travel position and have done all possible to help our situation during the stormy conditions.'

The concert follows on from the success of the previous Dileab events of 2018, the recording and subsequent launch of the EP of five songs which Willie Campbell was commissioned to write and the hugely successful concert in November 2019 in Ionad Spòrs Leòdhais where 60 young musicians from Lewis and Harris performed alongside Face the West, The Tumbling Souls and Skipinnish.

The concert will take place in the New Auditorium of the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall at 7.30pm.

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

It seems that Christmas and new year are barely behind us when Burns night appears over the horizon.

Burns penned some of the most beautiful love songs ever written, but also ranged from humorous and scandalous verse to inspiring anthems on the freedom and dignity of humankind. In all sorts of places and settings, some far from Scotland, his words have been recited year after year.

Like many people, his complicated personal life didn't always match up to his own highest ideals, but the lasting power of his words still moves and inspires people today.

Burns was no lover of the dry and judgemental side of the organised religion of his day. His poem Holy Willie's Prayer is a devastating parody of those who give the outward appearance of being religious without any of the honesty, love and compassion which should arise from true faith.

The woman in the poem To a Louse, sitting in church in all her finery unaware of the louse crawling over her head, reminds us to avoid any airs or graces lest our pride leads to a fall. Burns recognises our need to have a realistic view of ourselves, saying:

O wad some Pow'r the giftie gie us  
To see oursels as others see us!  
It wad frae mony a blunder free us,  
And foolish notion.

That is a profoundly Christian thought. Honest faith allows us to recognise ourselves as we really are. In each of us there is an individual made, loved and valued by God, combined with the capacity to fall flat on our faces.

Only a fool or a hypocrite would pretend otherwise.

Being honest about our own failings and weaknesses, while still seeing ourselves as people loved and valued enough that God gave His only Son for us, allows us to be self-aware yet still free to make new beginnings and changes when we need them.

**Richard Baxter, Fort William Duncansburgh MacIntosh and Kilmonivaig.**

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# Gareth Evans is new Loch

Gareth Evans has been confirmed as the new Lochside Rovers manager.

Gareth Evans replaces Brian MacCallum who managed the Oban side for most of last season when they did a cup double, lifting the HIS Sutherland Cup and the Bullough Cup, as well as finishing third in Mowi South Division 1.

This will be a second spell in charge for Evans, whose previous four-year tenure saw the club gather a Mowi South Division 1 success as well as lifting the Sutherland Cup and Bullough Cup.

Speaking after the appointment, Evans said: 'We had good numbers at training last week considering it was our first session of the year, so that's encouraging.'

'The first team takes priority, of course, and Stephen [Sloss] and Kenny [Wotherspoon] will meet shortly to decide what pool of players they will primarily work with. We'll then have a look at what overspill there is and which players are available to Lochside and take it from there. Of course, you always have first team injuries and suspensions throughout the season so nothing is set in stone.'

Evans will be assisted in the role by former Oban Camanachd President Duncan MacMillan. 'I'm pleased Duncan has agreed to help on the touchline,' he said. 'There are others we can rely on in that capacity too if the situation arises.'

It will likely be a transitional season for Lochside though. 'We'll field a side with an emphasis on youth, coupled with a sprinkling of experience,' confirmed Evans. 'Mowi South Division 1 will be a tough league next season and Bute in particular will be difficult opponents. We stood up to them a few years back but they have just had a season in the National and have experience on their side. What is important for us to begin with, though, is that everyone commits to training.'

'We have been blessed with success in all competitions in recent seasons but a top-half finish in the league would be a success in 2020 and you're at the mercy of the cup draws although we do always like to have a good run in the Sutherland.'

'Having said that, we mustn't forget the main purpose of a second team and that is to provide a pathway for the younger players and be a feeder club for the first team.'

'Daniel Sloss, Craig Easton, Blair MacFarlane and Ross Campbell are all recent examples of how well that has worked and there are others in the pipeline. Youngsters like Calum MacMillan and Daniel Pearson were blooded by Lochside at the end of last season, and they will get more game time, although we will have to do that gently alongside their commitments in youth matches at their age level.'

It won't all be youngsters, though, as Evans added: 'We'll again be able to rely on experienced guys like the ever-green Iain MacMillan whilst

we'll have Evan MacLellan back. He's been dogged by injury but he'll start again with Lochside and I don't think it will be long before he is knocking on the first team door.'

'Charlie Spreadbury also makes a welcome return after a bad thumb injury and he's a good stick player with plenty of skill so he's a great addition.'

Lochside have already lined up pre-season friendlies against their Glasgow Mid Argyll and Newtonmore counter-parts next month and Evans may look to add one more match to complete his side's preparations for the new season.

Lochside Rovers would welcome any young players wishing to play in a youthful team. 'If they come along and train then they'll get a game,' said Evans, as he sets about his second stint at the Lochside Rovers helm.

## Oban Camanachd Sixes

Oban Camanachd were disappointed to have to cancel their annual sixes tournament which was due to take place at Mossfield last Saturday.

Despite several players being unavailable, eight teams and almost sixty players were due to take part but the forecast of adverse weather conditions led to the club taking an early decision to postpone the event to minimise any inconvenience and it was called off late on Friday afternoon.

Event organiser Daniel Cameron hopes to reschedule the tournament perhaps for this coming Saturday or maybe even for the summertime.

## Balla' AGM

Ballachulish held their annual general meeting at their clubhouse on Friday January 10.

Morgan Smith and Alan Clark will continue to manage the Ballachulish squad, which finished a creditable second in Mowi South Division 1 last season.

Training is already underway with sessions taking place on Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings.

## Inaugural John Millar Memorial Trophy matches

The inaugural John Millar Memorial Trophy matches took place at Silversands on Sunday January 5.

The event remembers Aberdour stalwart John Millar, who passed away last May.

The games took the form of Aberdour under-28s versus over-28s in both women's and men's categories.

The women went first when Raine Cooper's first half penalty gave the under-28s a first half lead but Lisa MacColl levelled after the restart so



Gareth Evans returns as Lochside Rovers manager.

the contest finished 1-1.

In the men's match, Aberdour over-28s ran out 4-2 winners. Ross Brown proved his worth with a hat-trick for the over-28s with Martin Cameron getting the other. Angus Thorburn countered from the penalty spot with David MacKenzie also netting.

Rosie Mulligan and Andy Murray were the match referees.

Aberdour passed on their thanks to Margaret Millar and family for donating the trophy in John's memory and her sons Alasdair and Andrew were on hand to make the presentations.

## Strathglass plan for new season

New Strathglass first team manager Allan MacLeod has set his team a challenging pre-season programme.

The Strath first and second teams travel south to face their Aberdour counter-parts at Silversands on Saturday February 8.

A week later, the Cannich-based club have a double-header against neighbours Lovat and the venue will be confirmed nearer the time, depending on the weather conditions.

On Saturday February 22, the Strathglass first team make the short journey to the Bught Park to play fellow Mowi National Division side Inverness whilst their seconds take on the Caberfeidh second team at Cannich.

The pre-season programme comes to a head on Saturday February 22 with the annual derby clashes against Glenurquhart. The Strathglass and Glenurquhart first teams contest the MacDonald Cup at Blairbeg whilst the clubs' second teams meet for the Ali Bhan Cup at the same venue.

## Kyles hail Barney's contribution

Kyles Athletic hosted a special club night in the Royal Hotel, Tighnabruaich on Saturday December 28 2019.

The event gave thanks for the marvellous contribution Kyles Athletic stalwart Barney Crawford has made over many years of dedication to the club.

Barney Crawford has served Kyles Athletic at every level over the years and he was given a presentation caman to mark his contribution.

His dedication to bringing young players through the Tighnabruaich club was described as being 'simply amazing' and the esteem in which the club's young players hold him is testament to that. A Kyles Athletic spokesman said: 'The term legend is thrown about far too easily in sport today but Barney is a true Kyles Athletic legend.'

Kyles Athletic also hosted their New Year Dance at the Kames Community Hall.

## Gill goes again at Kinlochshiel

Kinlochshiel have confirmed that Johnston Gill remains as first team manager for next season.

Gill will again be assisted by Melvin Gill and Doe MacRae. The 2017 Mowi Premiership champions finished sixth in the top flight last season although they did decide to give game time to several of their promising youngsters over the final third of the season.

Kinlochshiel have also confirmed



Kyles Athletic 'legend' Barney Crawford pictured after his presentation at a special club night held in the Royal Hotel. Photograph: Kyles Athletic

# side boss

three pre-season friendly games. They will play Fort William on Saturday February 8 and Glenurquhart a fortnight later.

'Shiel will round off their pre-season programme against Glasgow Mid Argyll on Saturday February 29. The venues will be determined by the weather and which pitches are playable.

These early season matches should present the opportunity for new signing Rhuaireadh MacDonald to make his debut. MacDonald has joined the club from Glengarry after skippering Ewen Cameron's side to a second place finish in Mowi North Division 1 in 2019 when they ran champions Newtonmore seconds all the way to the final day of the season. 'Shiel will also hope that Keith MacRae has put his injury difficulties behind him ahead of the new campaign.

The club will also confirm the name of their new pitch at Balmacara during the pre-season.

Ross MacDiarmid is the new Kinlochshiel second team manager, replacing Willie MacRae, who stood down from the Mowi North Division 1 side at the end of last season.

## Skye Camanachd plan for pre-season

Skye Camanachd first team co-managers Kenny MacLeod and Allan MacLeod have confirmed their pre-season programme ahead of the new shinty season.

Skye get their preparations underway when they host the seventh John MacKinnon Memorial Sixes at the Portree High School all-weather pitch on Saturday February 8. The event, which starts at 10am, remembers Skye Camanachd Vice President John MacKinnon, who died in December 2011 as the result of a tragic accident at work.

The Mowi National Division side follow that up with three consecutive away matches; all against Premiership opposition.

The Islanders travel to the Dell to play Mowi Premiership champions and Artemis Macaulay Cup holders Kingussie on Saturday February 15 before heading for Castle Leod to face Caberfeidh a week later.

The Skye squad will round off their pre-season programme against Lovat at Balgate on Saturday February 29. The competitive shinty season starts a week later on Saturday March 7.

Skye Camanachd are also on the look-out for a new second team manager ahead of the 2020 shinty season. Former co-managers David MacInnes and Daniel Morrison stepped down at the end of last season and the club are keen to have a replacement in place as soon as possible.

Anyone interested should speak to any board member or contact the club by e-mailing skycamanachd-

shinty@gmail.com.

## Bain stays on at GMA

Glasgow Mid Argyll have confirmed their coaching team for the 2020 shinty season.

Mark Bain and Neil McLay will again take charge of the first team for their Mowi Premiership campaign following their promotion from the National Division at the end of last season.

Bain and McLay will continue to be supported by former Kingussie player Rory Fraser, who will provide individual player analysis and coaching advice.

Physio duties will be undertaken by Brian Slattery, who will provide fitness coaching and advice on injury rehabilitation.

Last season was a good year for GMA as they secured a second place finish, behind champions Fort William, in shinty's second tier, earning a return to the top flight, whilst they also lost narrowly to the Fort in the Liberty British Aluminium Balliemore Cup final which took place at An Aird.

The Glasgow side has put together three first team pre-season friendlies so far and they head for Mossfield to play Oban Camanachd on Saturday February 15. The sides met at the same venue last pre-season with Oban Camanachd winning 5-1. Next up, GMA welcome Inveraray to Yoker on Saturday February 22 before travelling north to play Kinlochshiel on Saturday February 29.

Angus MacInnes and Nick Lavin will manage the Glasgow Mid Argyll second team who will again be competing in Mowi South Division 1.

The women's section of the club will be coached by David Docherty with support from Ross Brown who was recently part of the Scotland coaching team.

GMA's pre-season training commenced at Hillhead Sports Club on Monday January 6. The club training remains open to shinty players from all other clubs who are living or working in the greater Glasgow. Contact can be made via GMA's Facebook page or by emailing Neil McLay at neil@m2ltd.co.uk

Glasgow Mid Argyll are keen to add to their playing squads for all teams for next season and would be delighted to hear from any players or indeed volunteers who would like to join the club.

## New Camanachd Association appointment

The Camanachd Association has confirmed the appointment of Rory MacKeachan, who will be covering for Development Officer Katie Drain's maternity leave.

Continued on page 52

# **new** SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £2150

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You may hand it into any of our offices - The Oban Times, Lochavullin, Oban; The Lochaber Times, High Street, Fort William; The Campbeltown Courier, Main Street, Campbeltown; The Argyllshire Advertiser, Argyll Street, Lochgilphead or the Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

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**Continued from page 51**

Kingussie defender Rory MacKeachan, who will captain the first team for the 2020 shinty season, has represented the North at U14 and U17 level and has also been recognised by Scotland at both U17 and U21 level. He was also a key part of the Kingussie squad who lifted the Mowi Premiership and Artemis Macaulay Cup last season.

Rory MacKeachan's contact details are: mobile - 07594260888 and e-mail - rory.mackeachan@shinty.com

## Scotland University squads announcement

The Scotland University squads have been announced for the annual shinty/hurling/camogie matches against Irish opposition.

The men's and women's matches take place at the University of Limerick on Saturday February 22.

First up is the shinty/camogie encounter which throws-in at 3pm. Ardnamurchan have five players in the squad with Kate Bradley, Annie MacDonald, Hannah Whillis, Joanne Ford and Claire Ford all selected whilst there are also places for Glengarry's Aoife Tangney and Badenoch's Mairi Stewart.

Scotland University Women's Squad from: Kate Bradley (Heriot Watt University), Annie MacDonald (City of Glasgow), Alice Scott (St Andrews University), Hannah Whillis (Edinburgh University), Mairi Stewart (Robert Gordon University), Aoife Tangney (Robert Gordon University), Joanne Ford (Dundee University), Riona Sedgewick (Edinburgh University), Orla McCarthy (Strathclyde University), Alaina MacLennan (City of Glasgow), Kirsty McArthur (Glasgow University), Tara McClelland (Napier University), Elyn Marwick (Glasgow University), Claire Ford (Dundee University), Shaina Archibald (University of Highlands & Islands), Ainslee Thistlewaite (St Andrews University), Caitlin Lorretto (Edinburgh University), Stella Fraser (Napier University)

Next up is the shinty/hurling encounter which throws-in at 5pm. The Scots have named a strong squad with Kingussie's Calum Grant, Newtonmore's Iain Robinson, Fort William's Calum Shepherd and Ross Macrae from Kyles Athletic all part of the travelling pool.

Scotland University Men's Team from: Matthew Young (Glasgow University), Andrew Morrison (Strathclyde University), Calum Grant (Heriot Watt University), Jonnie MacAskill (Strathclyde University), Nathan Whear (Edinburgh University), Ruairidh Ralston (Glasgow University), Calum Shepherd (Strathclyde University), Duncan Gorman (Napier University), Finlay Ralston (City of Glasgow College), Jack Berg (Edinburgh University), Iain Robinson (Abertay University), David McDougall (Heriot Watt University), Daniel Lamont (Heriot Watt University), Liam Arnott (Glasgow Caledonian

University), Ross Macrae (Strathclyde University), Cameron Maxwell (Strathclyde University), Callum-Dean Morrice (Heriot Watt University), Jan-Hendrik Ewers (Glasgow University)

The coaches for the trip are Niamh Donnelly, Ross Brown, Paul MacArthur and Stuart Reid.

## Mrs Jenny MacDonald, Maryburgh

Members of Caberfeidh shinty club and the wider shinty community were saddened to learn of the passing of Mrs Jenny MacDonald, Maryburgh on Thursday December 26 2019.

Jenny MacDonald was the widow of the late Tommy MacDonald, a past president and secretary of the club and member of various Camanachd Association committees. She was also mother of the late Jennifer, who had also been the Caberfeidh secretary for a number of years.

She will be greatly missed by all the members at Caberfeidh Shinty Club.

## Jon Gallacher, Glasgow

The shinty community was shocked to hear of the sudden passing of Jon Gallacher.

Jon Gallacher was the founder member of the popular Facebook pages, The World of Shinty and Central Scotland Shinty. He was also a qualified Camanachd Association match official and a former coach and chairman at Glasgow Gaels.

Jon was also involved in the setting up of Glasgow Kelvin Camanachd and was a great supporter of youth shinty in the central belt.

The Camanachd Association passed on its condolences in a statement saying: 'The Camanachd Association is

saddened to hear of the passing of Jon Gallacher, former Camanachd Association official. Jon officiated at the highest level within our sport and was a linesman at the 2015 Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup final when Lovat defeated Kyles Athletic 2-1 at Mossfield.

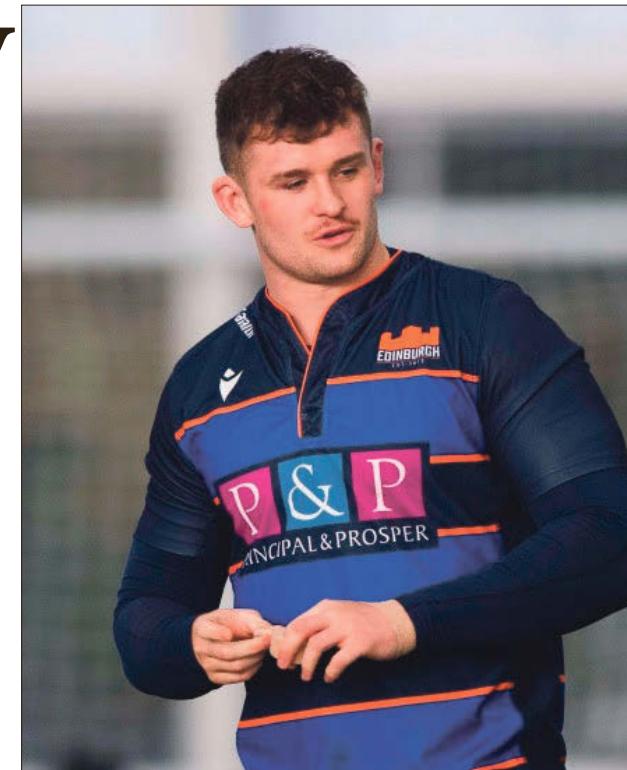
'We are all upset to hear of the tragic turn that Jon's life took over the past few years and wish his family peace at this troubling time.'

## Billy Nimmo

Former Camanachd Association referee Billy Nimmo, passed away suddenly on Tuesday January 7.

Billy was also Camanachd Referees Association secretary/treasurer for more than 10 years, a role in which he was ably assisted by his wife, Isabel.

# Edinburgh Rugby re-sign Magnus Bradbury



**Magnus Bradbury.**

Oban's international back-row Magnus Bradbury has become the latest player to commit his future to Edinburgh Rugby after putting pen-to-paper on a new deal.

Bradbury, 24, has been a stalwart for the capital club since breaking into the first XV as a teenager and now re-signs following a stellar year that saw him establish himself as a Scotland starter at the Rugby World Cup in Japan.

Bradbury – who has featured in nine matches so far this season – said: 'I'm really happy to have been given the opportunity to re-sign with the club that I've spent my whole career with.'

'It's a great place to be and it's brilliant to be part of a team that is so driven to succeed and compete at the highest level.'

'Edinburgh is an exciting place to be at the moment and I'm looking forward to seeing the results that this team can produce moving forward.'

Head Coach Richard Cockerill added: 'Magnus has developed into a really strong, international calibre back-row and he'll be a big player for this club in the years to come.'



**Magnus in action for Scotland.**

## RUGBY

He penned a new three-year deal prior to the 2017/18 season, before making his 50th appearance for the club against Ulster in April 2018.

After missing out on the initial 31-man Scotland squad for the 2019 Rugby World Cup in Japan, Bradbury was called into set-up as an injury replacement for clubmate Jamie Ritchie, and ended the tournament with three pool stage appearances against Samoa, Russia and Japan.

## RUGBY

Bradbury returned to club action in October 2019 as Edinburgh beat Scarlets 46-7 at BT Murrayfield and has since featured in nine matches, including the recent 61-13 win over Southern Kings that saw the capital side move to the top of Guinness PRO14 Conference B.

Now in his sixth season with the club, Bradbury has scored nine tries in 74 appearances.



Oban Lorne RFC. Photographs: Stephen Lawson

# Good away win for the Green Machine

Cumnock	17
Oban Lorne	34
Tennent's West Division 2	

Last weekend Oban Lorne travelled to Ayrshire to play Cumnock RFC. This was the first meeting between the two teams for a number of seasons.

Oban battled through the treacherous conditions on the roads to arrive at the new facility at Cumnock, which has two full-size 4G rugby pitches – another amazing surface to play on. This brings to three the number of teams in the league playing on synthetic surfaces, with Strathaven and Clydebank also playing on 4G.

The Green Machine started the game well and were enjoying long spells of possession, just lacking a bit of composure to get the final pass away.

After a sustained period of pressure inside the opposition 22, Oban conceded a couple of penalties and found themselves five yards out from their own goal line.

The home pack secured the lineout and attempted to maul the ball over the line only to be knocked back by the Oban defence time and again. Cumnock did well to continue to recycle ball and were rewarded with the opening try of the game when they managed to ground the ball after another hard carry. Cumnock 7 Oban 0.

Oban responded well and went straight back at the home team. Continued pressure brought an attacking lineout inside the 22 and after a couple of bounces by the forwards the ball was fed out to the backs. Ferg McCoss stepped inside a

tackle and managed to get the offload away to big Calum MacLachlan to take the ball in and score under the posts. The kick was converted by Vasil Borisow to bring the scores level with no further scoring in the first half.

The second half continued in the same vein as the first with Oban continuing to dominate territory and possession and Cumnock only really threatening on the back of Oban mistakes. A soft penalty for not rolling away in the tackle allowed Cumnock to retake the lead 10-7.

Oban came storming back and were rewarded with another score from Stanley Lister, who burrowed his way over to retake the lead 12-10.

Oban extended their lead to 19-10 when awarded a penalty five metres from the Cumnock line. Graham MacEachen, who had an

excellent game at scrum half, took a quick tap penalty and fed Owen McDonald and the big doctor crossed in the corner for a well-taken score, again converted by Borisow who was playing at stand off.

Cumnock responded again and brought the game back to within two points with another converted try when they had a succession of pick-and-goes close to the Oban line.

## Contrast

Entering the last 15 minutes of the game and the contrast between the teams was evident with Oban trying to play with width and speed and Cumnock playing the power game with lots of driving play from the forwards.

Oban extended their lead when they were awarded a penalty five metres from the Cumnock line. Graham MacEachen, who had an

## RUGBY

Into the last 10 minutes and Oban finally managed to cut free as they had been trying to all game. Big Calum MacLachlan was the catalyst with another barnstorming run up the middle of the pitch with almost half the Cumnock team attempting to tackle the big prop.

With quick ball generated and fed wide, this brought Oban deep into the home team's danger area and, when another quick ball was fed out the line, Lorne Sinclair outpaced the home defence to score a great try to take the lead to 27-17 and secure the all-important bonus point for the Green Machine.

The final nail in the coffin for Cumnock came in the last play of the game when Oban danger man Craig Wright picked up a loose ball on his own 10-metre line and got on the outside of the home winger and raced away to score under the posts. The try was again converted by Borisow with the last kick of the match for a well-deserved 34-17 victory for Oban.

This was an important result for the Oban men who had a couple of below average performances at the end of last year.

Next week Oban Lorne welcome the league leaders Strathaven to Glencutten, looking to avenge the defeat in last year's fixture.

Strathaven have had a strong start to the season and will be a tough team to beat but hopefully last week's result will fill the team with confidence.

It would be great to have a big crowd along to support the boys in their first home fixture of 2020.



Craig Wright scored the final try of the game.

## INDOOR ATHLETICS



Action from the Lochgilphead Sports Hall Athletics competition in 2017. 06\_a04athletic02

## Under starter's orders

The annual Mid Argyll leg of the Sports Hall Athletics competition will be held on Sunday January 26.

The competition is promoted by Mid Argyll Athletic Club, based in Lochgilphead, and will be held in the games hall and gymnasium at Lochgilphead Joint Campus.

This winter's event marks the 26th anniversary since the first competition was held in November 1994.

This will be the first of four area events being held in Argyll this winter promoted by Mid Argyll Athletic Club with support from Mull Athletic Club, Campbeltown Running Club and Atlantis Leisure in Oban.

Dates for the events in Campbeltown, Oban and Mull have still to be confirmed and will take place in late February and March. Successful athletes from the area competitions will qualify for the Argyll final at the Atlantis Leisure centre in Oban on Sunday March 29.

Specialist equipment is used for various running, jumping and throwing events, bringing the excitement of track and field athletics indoors in a warm and dry environment.

The Mid Argyll competition will start at midday on January 26 with entries taken from 11.30am.

There will be awards for the overall winners in each age category and medals for all competitors. Age groups start at under seven, then under nine, under 11, under 13, under 15 and under 17. Age is taken as on September 1 2019 and an entry fee of £2 per competitor will be levied or £5 for families of three or more competitors.

Mid Argyll Athletic Club meets for training indoors every Monday evening at Lochgilphead Joint Campus from 6.30pm to 7.30pm for primary school ages up to P6 and 7.30-8.30pm for primary seven ages and all high school ages. The minimum age for the first session is seven years.

New members are welcome and also any new parents interested in coaching.

## SHOOTING

## Tarbert club on target

The first competition of the new year at Tarbert Gun Club also served as the January leg of the club's winter league.

A full house of 12 teams turned out and the early shooters had to put up with windy conditions which made the clays dance. Later teams scored higher as the wind eased.

Ronald Jenkins' lads increased their lead in the team event, securing three wins in a row.

Results: Class A: 1 John Paton, 2 Matthew Peden, 3 Ally McDonnell. Class B: 1 Jack Campbell, 2



Billy Bergart, 3 Bob McColl. Class C: 1 Roy Laird, 2 Shaun Doy, 3 John Cupples. Class D: 1 Charles McEachen, 1 Ian Smith, 2 Stef, 3 John Smith.

OT

**BADMINTON**

Some members of Cowal Badminton Association with the new equipment.

## Badminton club makes a racket with new sporting equipment

The Scottish Salmon Company (SSC) has provided the Cowal Badminton Association with funding towards new sporting equipment following its latest round of Community Fund awards.

Founded in 2017, the SSC Community Fund provides valuable funding to groups that promote health and well being within their communities. Nominated by John Stirling, vice president of the club and Marine Operative at SSC's Ardyne site at Toward, Cowal Badminton Association received a £250 donation to cover the costs of rackets and shuttlecocks for its new practise nights.

Cowal Badminton Association was founded almost 100 years ago, arranging competitive badminton tournaments and providing coaching to young people and adults in the area. The club plays a vital role in bringing the community of Dunoon together by offering weekly social events that are inclusive to all.

Development coordinator at the Cowal Badminton Association Craig Anderson said: 'The funding from The Scottish Salmon Company has enabled us to purchase new rackets and tubes of shuttlecocks.'

**ADULT FOOTBALL**

## Results and fixtures

Last Saturday's results: Scottish Amateur Cup, fifth round - Oban Saints 5, Renfrew Town 1; Greater Glasgow Premier League, Division Three - Oban Saints 1, Kirkfield United 2; Scottish Amateur League, Jimmy Marshall Cup, first round - Claremont 3, Dunoon 3, Claremont win 5-4 on penalties; Glenburn Athletic 1, Lochgilphead Red Star 1, Red Star win 5-4 on penalties; Neilston 9, Tarbert 1; St Convals 3, Campbeltown Pupils 3, Campbeltown win 5-4 on penalties.

This Saturday's fixtures: Central Scottish AFL Division 1B - Cambusnethan Talbot v Oban Saints; Greater Glasgow Premier League Division Three - Oban Saints GG v Boswell; Scottish Amateur League Premier Division One - Dunoon v Neilston; Lochgilphead Red Star v Campbeltown Pupils; Premier Division Two - Cardross v Tarbert.

**OBAN SAINTS YOUTHS**

## Results and fixtures

Last Sunday's results: Under 13s 5, Cambuslang 4. Scoring for Saints were James Muir (2), Kai MacKechnie (2) and Rhys Millar. Knightswood 8, Under 14s 0; Under 15s 3, Carmunnock 1. On target for Saints were Andrew Nicol (2) and Kyle Cooper. Under 17s v Cambuslang postponed.

This Sunday's fixtures: Busby v Under 13s; Under 14s Glasgow Boys; BSC Glasgow v Under 15s; Westercommon v Under 17s.

# Five star Saints ease through to the last 16 of Scottish Cup

Oban Saints	5
Renfrew Town	1

Scottish Cup – 5th Round

Oban Saints eased through to the sixth round of the Scottish Amateur Cup with a convincing 5-1 victory over Renfrew Town of the Glasgow and District Saturday Morning League at Oban Community Pitch last Saturday afternoon.

Strikes from Craig MacEwan, Willie Gemmell and Dene Cassells, added to a brace from Lewis Cameron, saw Saints comfortably through to the last 16 of the Scottish Amateur Football Association's blue ribband competition.

**Headaches**

Holidays, injuries and suspension left co-manager Willie Gemmell with a number of selection headaches, but he was at least able to share the agony with other half Donald Campbell, who was home from his sojourns in Warwickshire for a short weekend break.

Heavy rain forced a switch of venue from the grass pitch at Glencruitten to the all-weather surface at Oban High School where Saints kicked off with the stiff breeze.

As the first half wore on Saints began ramping up the pressure on the Renfrew goal and eventually made the breakthrough in the 25th minute.

Ross Maitland's perfectly weighted through ball sent Matty Kelly into the box where his cutback from the left was sent back across the keeper by leading goal scorer Craig MacEwan and into the net via the inside of the post.

Saints came close to doubling their advantage straight from the restart when Kelly popped up in the box again, this time on the right, but saw his decent effort blocked by Stuart Connolly.

Renfrew keeper Ross Dougall made the first of a number of good saves getting down well to his left to push a 36th minute Lewis Cameron shot behind for a corner kick. Cameron's delivery was met on the six-yard line by Willie Gemmell, who was frustrated

at their backs attacking the Dalintart end.

Making a rare starting appearance, the evergreen Ross Maitland smacked the Renfrew Town crossbar in the second minute after cutting in from his wide left berth and unleashing a fierce right-foot shot which left goalkeeper Ross Dougall rooted firmly to the spot.

Lewis Cameron, Craig MacEwan and Willie Gemmell all had efforts off target before Renfrew striker Chris Burke repeated the feat with a wayward overhead kick which failed to trouble Jamie Strachan.

Making his home debut standing in for the suspended Graham Douglas, recent signing Strachan made a routine 20th minute save from a speculative Adam Williams shot after Chris Burke had flicked-on a Ross Dougall clearance.

As the first half wore on Saints began ramping up the pressure on the Renfrew goal and eventually made the breakthrough in the 25th minute. Ross Maitland's perfectly weighted through ball sent Matty Kelly into the box where his cutback from the left was sent back across the keeper by leading goal scorer Craig MacEwan and into the net via the inside of the post.

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James Ford skips away from Stuart Connolly.

to see his goal-bound header blocked inadvertently by David Beaton with Gemmell hooking a difficult chance on the rebound wide of the target.

Ross Dougall acrobatically tipped a 39th-minute Craig MacEwan lob over his crossbar with Dene Cassells glancing the outside of Dougall's

got their wires crossed and the skipper's pass back rolled past the big keeper and, to gasps of relief from the large crowd who had braved the elements, inches wide of the post.

Saints started the second half brightly and Ross Maitland forced Ross Dougall into an early save after racing through the inside right channel on the end of a Craig MacEwan through ball.

Dougall was in action again two minutes later plucking a looping Craig MacEwan header from a Ruaridh Horne right wing cross out of the air.

Dougall produced another excellent save to deny Craig MacEwan in the 50th minute after MacEwan had kept alive a partially-cleared Willie Gemmell free-kick and jinked into the Renfrew box on the Saints right. From the resulting corner kick Matty Kelly shot inches wide of Dougall's left hand post.

**Notebook**

Second half substitute Steven Mitchell became the second Renfrew player to find his way into referee Gerry Reid's notebook when he was penalised for handball



Jamie Strachan.



Willie Gemmell hooks this effort wide of target.

# e through to last



**Renfrew keeper Ross Dougall gathers this Lewis Cameron corner kick.** Match report and photographs: Derek Black

on the corner of the Renfrew box in the 53rd minute. Lewis Cameron's delivery from the Saints left was met by a firm downward header from Willie Gemmell which bounced over the despairing grasp of Ross Dougall for Saints' third goal.

#### Unstoppable

Three minutes later the bookings tally increased to three when Martin Donald's late challenge on Willie Gemmell was punished with a free-kick and a yellow card. Gemmell rolled his free-kick short to Lewis Cameron 30 yards out, who thundered an unstoppable drive into the net off the underside of the crossbar for the goal of the day.

James Ford replaced David Beaton, who had put in another energetic performance wide on the right, for the closing half hour.

Experience made way for youth when Ross Maitland was replaced by Aaron McKay in Saints' second change of the afternoon.

James Ford robbed Stuart Connelly on the edge of the Renfrew box and slipped in

Craig MacEwan, who successfully wrong-footed Ross Dougall but sent his clipped right-foot effort inches wide of the keeper's right hand post.

Saints introduced Gavin Forgrieve in place of Matty Kelly in the 70th minute and the youngster was quickly involved in a good move on the right with Willie Gemmell and Ruaridh Horne, which set up Lewis Cameron for a hat-trick chance which he unfortunately lifted over the crossbar.

Further changes followed with Matt Rippon and Fraser MacFarlane replacing Willie Gemmell and Ruaridh Horne.

#### Good save

Ross Dougall's busy afternoon continued with another good save, this time dropping smartly to his right to stop a Fraser MacFarlane shot from the edge of the box.

The visitor's perseverance

was rewarded in the 89th minute when Scott Maitland was dispossessed midway inside the Renfrew half and a swift counter attack was rounded off with a crisp



**Craig MacEwan wrong foots the keeper but puts this effort wide.**

left-foot William Johnstone strike for a deserved consolation goal.

The scoring didn't end there as James Ford had his dancing feet whipped away from him in the Renfrew box in the 91st minute. Skipper Dene Cassells strode up confidently to smash his second successful penalty kick of the season into the bottom corner giving Ross Dougall no chance.

Referee Reid, who had a good game, brought proceedings to an end shortly after the restart inching Saints ever closer to the holy grail of a Hampden Park

## FOOTBALL

Scottish Amateur Cup final appearance.

#### Last 16

Teams through to the last 16 so far are: Tollcross Thistle, Sandys, Merpro, Lauriston Thistle, East Kilbride YM, Menzieshill, Fintry and Oban Saints. Four games were called off due to the weather and four other games require replays.

Saints return to league action on Saturday with a trip to Dalziel Park, Motherwell to face Cambusnethan Talbot. Kick-off is 1pm.



**Martin Bonar wheels away after netting the equaliser for Saints GG.**

Oban Saints Greater Glasgow team suffered their first league defeat of the season when they lost 2-1 to a very good Kirkfield United at the Oban Community 3G Pitch.

The score was 1-1 at half time but

the visitors tied up all three points with a goal in the second half.

Despite the defeat Saints remain in second place in Division Three, one point behind Kirkfield but with two games in hand.

The team are at home again this Saturday when they take on Bosswell at Oban Community 3G Pitch with a 2pm kick-off.

Referee in charge is Michael McGeechan.



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## WEATHER

### Thursday

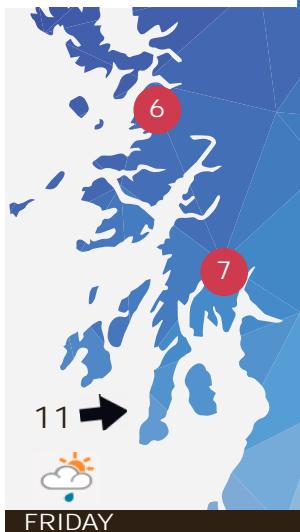
Light rain showers and a fresh breeze  
Temperatures 5°C to 8°C.

### Friday

Light rain showers and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures 3°C to 7°C.

### Weekend

**Outlook**  
Saturday Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze  
Sunday Light cloud and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures 6°C to 7°C.



**FRIDAY**

## TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday January 16, 2020** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

<b>Thur</b>	03.30	0.8	09.27	3.7
	16.17	1.3	21.59	3.3
<b>Fri</b>	04.25	1.0	10.23	3.5
	17.18	1.5	23.02	3.1
<b>Sat</b>	05.26	1.2	11.34	3.3
	18.27	1.6	**.**	**
<b>Sun</b>	00.29	3.0	06.34	1.4
	13.12	3.2	19.42	1.6
<b>Mon</b>	02.00	3.1	07.48	1.4
	14.37	3.2	20.55	1.6
<b>Tues</b>	03.09	3.2	09.02	1.4
	15.43	3.3	21.54	1.5
<b>Wed</b>	04.00	3.4	10.07	1.3
	16.30	3.4	22.42	1.3

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**

Five star Saints through to last 16 of Scottish Cup

Edinburgh Rugby re-sign Bradbury

# Bob pulls out of Abu Dhabi event due to hand injury

After his stunning debut season on the European tour, Oban's Bob MacIntyre was due to dust off his clubs this week for his opening appearance of the 2020 season.

**'If I can play Augusta and I walk away at the end of the year, I can walk away having done everything I wanted to do in the game.'**

Bob was ready to tee up in the HSBC Championship in Abu Dhabi today (Thursday) where he was hoping to pick up where he left off last year.

But on Wednesday morning, he announced his

decision to withdraw from this week's Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship due to a niggling hand injury.

The 23-year-old made the decision yesterday morning after feeling he is not ready yet to make his first appearance of the 2020 season on the European Tour.

Bob said: 'Really disappointed to have to pull out of this week's @ADGolfChamps, but I need another week to get myself back to full fitness before launching my 2020 @EuropeanTour campaign. This is a great event, so it's frustrating to miss out this year.'

Bob was due to go up against a very strong field, which includes world number one Brooks Koepka, as well as world numbers seven and



**Bob MacIntyre.**  
Photographs: Bounce Sports

## GOLF

10 in Patrick Cantlay and Tommy Fleetwood.

Ahead of his decision yesterday, Bob had told The Oban Times: 'I have only really set out one goal and I am shooting for the stars. That is simply to make the top 50 in the world.'

'I am trying to play all the big events in the world to boost my world rankings.'

'If I can play Augusta [where the Masters will be held] and I walk away at the end of the year and can't play another round of golf, I can walk away having done everything I wanted to do in the game.'

# LOCHABER TIMES

## & OBAN TIMES

No 8494

Thursday 16 January, 2020

[www.lochabertimes.co.uk](http://www.lochabertimes.co.uk)

95p

## Storm Brendan batters Lochaber



# Community unanimously rejects Ballachulish plans

by Richard Mason  
[rmasone@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:rmasone@obantimes.co.uk)

Ballachulish Village Hall was packed with concerned villagers last Tuesday at a meeting to discuss the building of 48 holiday properties on the peninsula.

People voiced their objections during the public meeting and the unanimous decision in the hall was against the development.

In December it was announced that Crieff Hydro and Ossian Developments, which owns separate parts of the peninsula, had plans to create one- and two-bedroom luxury holiday homes.

As soon as the meeting began there were strong opinions expressed against any sort of development from villagers who frequently use the area and do not want it spoiled.

Most want the land to be left as it is and maintained to a higher standard, and the possibility of a community buy-out had a lot of support.

Chairman of Ballachulish Community Council Kevin

Smith said his view was not that of the whole community council, but a community buy-out would need a clear vision and someone to lead it.

He said: 'The following area is zoned for commercial and tourist development; the community seems to be against any development. This raises the issue of a developer going for planning consent and Highland Council passing the plans.'

**'We should – if the community desires – go for the whole area.'**

'We should – if the community desires – go for the whole area involved and put it to commercial uses, workshop units or other, on the peninsula opposite the Arch for benefit of the community.'

I got the impression that the community members left the meeting as being finished, but as we were only talking to one developer, the other

owner may have a completely different stance.'

Laurence Young, who runs Ossian Developments, was at the meeting and, despite the strong feeling against the project, he is hoping to show the community what it can gain from the project.

He said: 'We really valued the strong turn-out at the meeting on January 7 and it's helpful to get community input on preferences for the area. We haven't yet had the chance to present to the community on the merits and advantages of our proposals – this meeting has long been set for January 26. Respecting the community views, we are now reviewing the situation.'

Mr Young mentioned that the Ballachulish Community Action Plan for 2016-2021 calls for making more of the waterfront, working with tourism businesses to extend the potential of Ballachulish and making the most of the environment and heritage.

To this end, he is welcoming

Continued on page six.

### Ingrid puts her Message in a Bottle



Lochaber musician Ingrid Henderson was on the shores of Loch Shiel on Sunday when she braved the wild weather to help promote Scottish Natural Heritage's initiative for 2020, the Year of Coasts and Waters. As part of a programme of events, Ingrid has created a special composition entitled 'Message in a Bottle', inspired by the movements of ocean currents. Full story, page two. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

  
**HIGHLAND CINEMA**

**THE HIGHLAND CINEMA  
IS RECRUITING!**

*See inside for details...*

LT

# Music star Ingrid is inspired by the ocean for composition

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

One of Lochaber's finest and most accomplished musicians and composers, Ingrid Henderson, is steeped in the lore of the sea.

Hardly surprising, when listening to her describe the various sides of her family's involvement with boats and the ocean.

'I've always been drawn to the sea. Growing up in Mallaig, with my great-grandfather and grandfather on the maternal side running mail boats to the Small Isles and Knoydart, and then boat builders on the Henderson side, it's probably not a surprise really that the sea has played such a large role in my life,' she told the Lochaber Times this week.

And now Ingrid, who lives with her husband and family in Glenfinnan, has drawn on that personal history for inspiration and coupled it with research alongside Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) for her latest composition which will have its premiere in Glasgow on Saturday.

A well-known member of the popular Glenfinnan Ceilidh Band, she was commissioned by SNH to create Message in a Bottle, a new musical composition inspired by the movements of ocean currents.

The audio-visual perfor-



**Glenfinnan-based composer Ingrid Henderson.**

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

mance with music, song, Gaelic language, film and animation blends together Ingrid's creative talent and inspiration with SNH's wealth of scientific knowledge and research to mark 2020 as the Year of Coasts and Waters.

Ingrid's piece takes as its starting point the true story of a message in a bottle placed in the sea by a young boy from Armagh in 2008 and washed up on Canna some 10 years later.

It grows to explore the incredible journeys of marine wildlife and seabirds, communities' dependence on the seas over time and the exchanges of

language and culture around the coast, while highlighting the impact of climate change on the world's oceans.

Message in a Bottle will premiere at Celtic Connections' Coastal Connections day in Glasgow Royal Concert Hall on Saturday before touring festivals around Scotland.

Ingrid explained: 'I'm delighted to be working with SNH to help celebrate the Year of Coasts and Waters with this special composition.'

'Growing up in the west coast fishing port of Mallaig, the themes of the year and the piece are very close to my heart. The connection of communities to

the sea was all around me when I was younger – the gain from booming industries but also the loss both in terms of people and also environmentally.'

'The influence of the sea is also so prevalent in the songs and music of the Highland and Islands, with stories of love and loss, great voyages and tragedy.'

The commission is one of several special SNH events and projects to celebrate Scotland's coasts and waters and their wildlife during the themed year and raise awareness of the importance of healthy oceans.

Becky Shaw, SNH rural development adviser, explained: 'We're thrilled to be collaborating with Ingrid for this special performance which is sure to be a highlight of the Celtic Connections Coastal Connections day.'

Message in a Bottle also features musicians Anna Massie, Megan Henderson and Conal McDonagh with visuals from Somhairle MacDonald and animation from Cat Bruce.

As well as Ingrid, Coastal Connections Day will present musicians from more than 20 islands, coasts and peninsulas including Tiree-based Skerryvore, Oban-founded Capercaillie, Hebridean super-group Daimh, North Uist's Julie Fowlis, Orkney roots groups Gnoss and Fara, fiddler Gillian Frame from Arran, and Ceol Nan Eilean from Benbecula.

## VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER

# Popular tourism roadshow returns



Find out what you need to know at our tourism roadshow.

The world of tourism may have been transformed by online opportunities, but when it comes to business relationships, nothing beats face-to-face communication.

That's why we are once again bringing key players from the tourism industry around Lochaber to meet with tourism businesses and answer their queries in person.

This is a great chance for accommodation and activity providers to

have informal face-to-face chats with staff from VisitScotland, the Scottish Tourism Alliance, TripAdvisor, Freetobook, Expedia and Lamont Design as well as discuss their business needs with Lochaber Chamber staff.

The relaxed drop-in sessions will be held at key points around Lochaber and are free to attend. These sessions are open to everyone – simply choose the roadshow stop that is

most convenient for you.

**Wednesday, February 5:**

■ Isles of Glencoe Hotel: 9am to noon  
■ Strontian Hotel: 2pm to 5pm

**Thursday, February 6:**

■ Astley Hall, Arisaig: 9am to noon  
■ Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William: 2pm to 5pm

We trialled this approach for the first time last year and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

That's why we are delighted to once again bring tourism industry representatives out on the road to talk directly to our tourism businesses.

This is what Lochaber Chamber of Commerce is all about – providing local support and opportunities to make life easier for businesses.

See [www.lochaber-chamber.co.uk](http://www.lochaber-chamber.co.uk) for event details or call us on 01397 705 765 to book over the phone.



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# Bears are necessities of life for Acharacle's Lynn

by Nic Goddard  
[fot@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:fot@obantimes.co.uk)

A mild-mannered librarian is a perfect superhero alter ego according to comic books and action movies, but Ardnamurchan librarian Lynn Waddell does not don a cape or fly when getting involved in her unexpected acts of heroism.

When she is not issuing books to borrowers, Lynn spends her spare time rescuing bears.

The Lochaber Times caught up with Lynn at her home, where bear-related pictures and paw prints on the walls, and a shelf full of bear books – all in the correct order, of course – show her passion and love for these creatures, which sadly often suffer dreadful treatment at the hands of humans, to learn more about how she has spent nearly a decade saving bears.

'It all began back in 2010,' Lynn said. 'I was waiting for an operation and I was really nervous and not sleeping well. So I often found myself up in the middle of the night channel hopping on the TV to find something to distract me. I stumbled across a documentary about bear bile farming and after about 20 minutes I went to wake my husband so he could watch too.'

The show was about the practise of draining the bile ducts of bears, which are kept in dreadful conditions for use in traditional Chinese medicine (TCM).

Lynn continued: 'I'd never heard about it before but by the end of the programme I was working out how to get involved in helping.'

She became a fundraising volunteer with Animals Asia, a charity which for the past 25 years has been working to raise awareness of bear bile farming for TCM use, as well as cat and dog farming for food.

Then out of the blue she was contacted by someone who was concerned about a pair of bear cubs in Albania, which were chained up outside a restaurant to entice passers-by to stop and take photographs.



Lynn with a rescued bear cub at a sanctuary, left.

The restaurant owner said that the cubs were getting too big so he planned to kill them and get some younger cubs.

Despite finding a space for the bears in a wildlife refuge in Canada, Lynn was unable to find a way of transporting them there.

The logistics of a bear rescue are immense. There are hurdles every step of the way beyond simply getting them out of the hands of the person who has taken them

## We found an alternative home for them in Romania'

from the wild.

'When I realised that flying these bears to Canada was not going to be an option, we found an alternative new home for them in a sanctuary in Romania.'

'We managed to confiscate them, using contacts within the Environment Ministry in Albania, then we organised to transport them by road to Romania.'

'The bears travelled in crates, accompanied by a vet. I was getting updates every step of the way and finally

at 5.30am I got the call to say they had arrived safely. We opened the Champagne then and there.'

Since that first rescue, Lynn has been involved in many more, including Sonia, the dancing bear in Albania; hunting training camps and oligarchs' private zoos in Russia; abandoned travelling circus bear cubs in Poland, and displaced bears losing their habitat due to illegal logging practises.

But not all have the happy ending of those first cubs, Marco and Maria.

Lynn added: 'It can be very harrowing at times. Some of the bears have been so badly mistreated that they have to be put down, but at least their suffering has ended. A rescue is such a rollercoaster of emotions.'

There are thought to still be more than 1,000 bears in Europe alone being kept in cages, in unsuitable conditions and used as tourist attractions.

'There are simply not enough refuge spaces to take them all, so often I am involved in just making life better for the bears where they are.'

'That can mean assisting with funding to build bigger

pools, trees, proximity to other bears and no human contact means they regain some of their wild natural behaviours in large forest enclosures.

While the rescue operations and help for bears is coordinated from Lynn's home in Acharacle, she is quick to explain that she is never working alone: 'It takes a village to save a bear.'

'A whole army of people get involved, from bringing food and water to the bears, donating and raising awareness, and reporting bears being kept.'

Lynn has already taken four trips out to Romania to the sanctuary to visit bears she has rescued, including those first cubs Marco

and Maria, and says those encounters, along with meeting other people who work with bears, have been some of the highlights of her life.

'Who would have thought that that a middle-of-the-night TV show would have changed my life like this?' she said.

'Along with my library work and general work with bear charities, I am always waiting for the next call about a bear who needs my help.'

For more information about bear bile farming, visit [www.animalsasia.org/](http://www.animalsasia.org/)

Lynn works with Hauser Bears: [www.hauserbears.com](http://www.hauserbears.com), and Bears in Mind: [www.bearsinmind.org](http://www.bearsinmind.org)



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# Nether Lochaber council in plea to minister over two-mile A82 stretch

by Mark Entwistle  
markentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Nether Lochaber Community Council (NLCC) has kicked off the new year by beseeching the Scottish Government to intervene over the heads of roads authorities concerning a two-mile section of the A82 between Corran Ferry and Onich Bay.

Council secretary Iain Jenner has written to Scottish transport secretary Michael Matheson regarding safety fears on this stretch of the trunk road.

Mr Jenner tells Mr Matheson: 'NLCC formally requests that your office investigates these issues, and does not delegate them to representatives of Transport Scotland [TS], nor to those of its operating contractor BEAR.'

'It is our position that the

issues described below are a result of a culture of collective failures within both organisations over time, and as such require independent scrutiny.'

Mr Jenner says that in 2010 this particular two-mile

**'It is only by great fortune that no-one has been killed'**

section of the A82, which was classed as high priority, was resurfaced.

And he tells Mr Matheson the reason for the letter is three-fold: firstly, since that resurfacing operation in 2010, four corners in this section of the A82 have required secondary operations either to replace the original work or to add anti-skid measures.



One of the abandoned cable drums.

Mr Jenner says the reason for all these secondary operations is the number of

vehicles leaving the road, losing control due to surface conditions, and crashing and overturning through fences, hedges or walls into neighbouring croft land or gardens on either side of the carriageway.

Mr Jenner goes on: 'NLCC has kept a tally over the years, recently updated by three vehicles leaving the road near Oak Cottage in the space of a few days.'

'One of these destroyed a garden wall for a third time, and another broke a telegraph pole.'

'Our most accurate figure currently is 58.'

'By contrast, we are aware of only one vehicle losing control on the carriageway in the section of the A82 where

resurfacing work has not been carried out.'

'Most of these accidents have taken place in a 40mph limit area, or in locations where it is difficult to pro-

**'There have been concerns over speeding for years'**

gress along the road in excess of 40mph despite having a higher limit.'

'There have been concerns over speeding for many years, raised by NLCC with TS and BEAR repeatedly, but it seems statistically unlikely that this number of vehicles losing control on a short section of

trunk road can have taken place unless there was some defective element either with working methods or materials used during the 2010 resurfacing operation.'

Along with the letter, Mr Jenner has also included photographs taken last week showing two telephone cable/conduit drums, abandoned in a fast-flowing stream adjacent to the A82, 50m south of Nether Lochaber Village Hall, causing flooding problems for a local property.

Mr Jenner said the presence of the first drum was first reported to BEAR in 2016 and as recently again as last month.

The second drum has appeared in the interim, and Mr Jenner says the lack of action given the length of time since the first being reported is unacceptable.

NLCC, he says, also has great concern at the number of repeated maintenance issues, particularly flooding, potholing, damage to culverts and blockages that happen on the A82 between Corran Ferry and Ballachulish Bridge, where the greater number of local residents live.

'It is only by great fortune that no-one has been killed or seriously injured by the conditions of the A82 in our villages, and while we accept that management of the trunk road network is a complex and demanding task, we do feel justified in asking for an intervention to better guarantee the safety of residents and visitors here,' Mr Jenner told Mr Matheson.

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## WHAT'S ON

Crocheting classes are continuing to run every Wednesday from 5.30pm to 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@highlifehighland.com

The next outing for the Nevis Hillwalking Club will be to Gleann Dubh Lighe to do Streap and three Corbett tops. This is a long hike of more than 18 kilometres in

distance and 1,340 metres of ascent. For more information, contact the club secretary on 01397 701783 or the website on [www.nevishillwalking.club](http://www.nevishillwalking.club).

Friends of Nevis Bird Ringing are holding an event at the Glen Nevis Visitor Centre on Sunday January 19 from 9am to 3pm, subject to weather. Experienced British Trust of Ornithology bird ringer John Owen will be on hand to help people see the birds up close, then watch them be released. All welcome.

Lochaber Sensory Care

will hold an outreach clinic at Ballachulish Abbeyfield Care Home, on Monday January 20, from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

Lochaber Environmental Group continues this round of bike repair classes on Wednesday January 22, for the next three weeks. The classes teach basic maintenance and repair, including how to keep your chain running smoothly, puncture repair, and adjusting and repairing your brakes and gears. For more information and to register, email [kate@lochaberenviro.org.uk](mailto:kate@lochaberenviro.org.uk)

# Crafters get working to help Australian wildlife

by Nic Goddard  
[fort@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:fort@obantimes.co.uk)

It is really easy to feel powerless when we hear about disasters and the plight of those suffering, writes Nic Goddard.

Not everyone is in a financial position to make cash donations and, even if you are, that can still feel quite removed from actively helping.

The fires raging in Australia have various levels of help required both now and in the longer term, for people and for animals.

The 'call to arms' for practical help to assist in supporting the wildlife injured, homeless and orphaned by the fires has been one which really spoke to people here on the other side of the world as something practical we can do to help right here, right now.



Some of the items crocheted by Nic Goddard to aid injured animals in Australia.

The idea that an entire swathe of wildlife, many species of which we are familiar with but perhaps have only even seen in zoos, if at all, could potentially be wiped out is heartbreaking.

So when my neighbour posted on social media with links to a Facebook group of UK

crafters helping Australian wildlife promising to be a local collection point for crafters last weekend, I was quick to sign up, rummage under the bed in the spare room for yarn and grab my crochet hooks.

I've spent the past week trailing a couple of balls of



yarn, crochet hook in hand, muttering stitch counts under my breath everywhere I've been.

I've crocheted while

supervising youth club (several teenage boys at Ardnamurchan High now know the difference between knitting and crochet with

one of them telling me: 'That's sick. I really, like, respect that. Yeah, well done', which I think is good), while on the phone, while on a Skype call, while watching TV and while listening to podcasts.

So far I have made pouches in various sizes to house orphaned joeys, nests for injured birds and bush babies, and am currently working on hanging cocoon-style nests which I think will be used for koalas and bats.

Fellow crafters are making similar items using their knitting or sewing skills.

I've already handed over my first batch of items to my neighbour and I see from social media that UK crafters' efforts have already started arriving in Australia and are being put straight to use in wildlife sanctuaries and rescue centres.



Flyers on the new restrictions have been handed out recently to users of the recycling centre in Fort William. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

## Recycling vehicle restrictions not aimed at domestic users

Leaflets handed out to users arriving at the recycling centre in Fort William triggered a backlash with fears that the new vehicle restrictions might encourage fly-tipping of waste.

From February 3, Highland Council will introduce changes at Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC), including the one in Fort William's Ben Nevis Way.

These changes will be introduced in two phases with the first focusing on the vehicle restrictions which will commence on February 3.

Phase two will place restrictions on the amount of construction and demolition

waste permitted into the sites and will be implemented later in the year.

The measures were agreed by the council's Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee in August to help the local authority deliver savings of around £300,000 over two years.

Carron McDiarmid, executive chief officer communities and place, said: 'In Highland we manage 22 per cent more waste per person than the Scottish average. In addition, the recycling centres have experienced a 50 per cent increase in waste in the past decade, costing up to £2.4

million in handling and treatment costs. Restrictions already apply at HWRC regarding the disposal of commercial waste and the introduction of the new restrictions aims to maximise the availability of facilities to householders while preventing commercial misuse.'

From February 3, the following vehicles will not be permitted entry to HWRC with waste: Trailers with more than one axle or greater than 2.4 metres (eight feet) in length; vehicles with a gross vehicle weight of 3.5 tonnes or greater; tippers and flatbed trucks of any weight and plant vehicles.

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PR on a Budget, Tue. 25 Feb, Mull

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# Feeding stags puts people at risk of harm

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

A number of residents in Kinlochleven have raised concerns that the feeding of two well-known deer stags is putting not only the animals at risk, but possibly children as well.

The two animals have become something of local celebrities, migrating between the play park on the village's Park Road and the area behind the old Post Office.

But now the community council is asking people, however well meaning, to refrain from feeding the animals amid fears for not just the welfare of the stags but the risk to youngsters from parasites

carried by the animals. 'While we are not immune to visits from deer, the feeding of them is a recent phenomenon and one we should try to dissuade well-meaning and thoughtful individuals from doing so,' said the community council.

'We are not helping the deer; we are not supporting them to lead a natural existence. We may, in fact, be putting them in jeopardy.'

'Let's not forget while these animals are being fed – and therefore encouraged to stay in the play park, for example – we could be putting the lives of the children who play there at risk. Lyme's disease is a very real threat to all who use the play park.'

'Feeding the deer in public

spaces is putting them at risk too. One of the stags attacked the Christmas tree and tangled his antlers in the lights. This has never happened before, so it could be argued that our interference could be to blame.'

The council added that if the stags started to pose a more serious problem then they could end up being shot.

The issue of the deer was raised at the council's first monthly meeting of the year last week, when it was agreed to collate information on the health implications of Lyme's disease.

This week it appeared that the stag with its antlers draped in Christmas decorations had managed to finally divest itself of them.



The meeting saw a big turn out pack the hall.

## Ballachulish residents come out against peninsula plans

Continued from page one

other potential ideas for use of the land.

Mr Young continued: 'There were some interesting views expressed at the meeting around community enterprise, youth engagement, interpretation of historic sites and employment.

'While some folk were keen on simply "wilding", there was a strand that looked to activity on the site that might create different types of employment (apart from tourism) and develop the natural attractions of the site for tourist enjoyment.'

While one holiday accommodation owner told the meeting that the area needed no more places for people to stay, Davina Melton, who runs Glencoe Independent Hostel, was the only voice at the meeting to speak in favour of at least part of the development.

She said: 'I am in favour of some development, but not as it is proposed with the 48 properties. About a third of that would be much better and only on the smaller part of the peninsula, the land owned by Crieff Hydro.'

'While the consensus was unanimous in the hall, I have

spoken with people who were not there who have a differing view and I feel that if this goes to a ballot, the result would not be quite so black and white.'

Mrs Melton also mentioned that for a development of such a large scale, the owners would find it difficult to recruit staff.

'We find it difficult to fill all the roles we need and do not have nearly the same size of development as this,' she said.

'Even the Kingshouse Hotel [in Glen Coe] is not fully staffed yet and when Brexit happens our European friends will be much more difficult to come by.'

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Lochaber Showstoppers held its first meeting of 2020 last Thursday, with the evening proving to be a great success in bringing in new members.

Prior to the pre-audition information night, the committee had put out a call for young people in the area to join the group, as it begins preparations for its next production – The Sound of Music.

### Singing

More than 30 people attended the meeting at the Nevis Centre, with ages from seven to 70, 10 of whom were children joining the group for the first time.

The meeting gave members new and old a chance to get to know each other as they looked over the different roles available and took part in singing training.

The group also gave thanks to chairwoman Aileen Hornby, who has stepped down from her five-year



Aileen Hornby has stepped down as chairwoman.

tenure at the head of the committee to focus on her young family. Sheena Coull has stepped in as interim chairwoman.

Singing practise for The Sound of Music will take place today, Thursday January 16, and next week,

Thursday January 23, at the Nevis Centre from 7.30pm to 9.30pm.

The final auditions will be held on Thursday January 30, so there is still time to take part. The Showstoppers would also welcome anyone willing to support backstage.

# Co-op promises to pay its fair share of flooding costs

by Mark Entwistle  
markentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

The Co-op has confirmed to the Lochaber Times that it stands ready to pay its fair share of the costs to resolve the persistent flooding problem which has been affecting Caol's car park for months.

Last week the Lochaber Times reported on how a lack of proper maintenance and inability to approve work was being blamed for flooding. Caol people say the drains require to be cleared and some grates need to be repaired and replaced.

However, the two national companies that part-own the land, Co-op and Ladbrokes, had so far apparently been silent on requests from the Caol Regeneration group for help.

With the recent persistent



rain there has been no sign of any of the water draining away and some people are now avoiding using the area for safety concerns owing to missing drains.

Company secretary for Caol Regeneration Linda Campbell told the Lochaber Times last week the organisation was ready to proceed with repairing the drains

having sent out tenders to tradesmen and with all the money in place from the council.

But she added: "There are three landowners we need

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

permission from to begin fixing the drains and letters were sent out to all three in July 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 Ladbrokes, despite repeated attempts from different parties to contact them."

However, she added that a reply had since been received from Co-op and things seemed to be moving along on at its end.

The Lochaber Times contacted the Co-op ahead of publication to try to get this confirmed but the company was unable to provide a definitive statement before the paper went to print, while Ladbrokes was unavailable for comment. However, a Co-op spokesperson contacted the Lochaber Times on Friday to say: "As a community retailer, Co-op is committed to playing its part in local life, and will pay its fair proportion of the costs – enabling the public money to be utilised elsewhere to benefit the local community.

"The Co-op does not own the land, however, and therefore it is the landlord – not the Co-op – which would need to approve or carry out the works. The Co-op will contact its landlord to urge it to resolve this issue as quickly as possible."

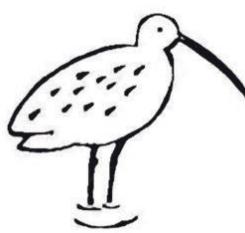
## A Cry For The Wild

HOLLY GILLIBRAND

fort@obantimes.co.uk

### The education system is failing

My generation will be the future custodians of the living world, but many schools do not help to foster a connection between us and nature. To me, it seems they even hinder it.



For around six hours a day, five days a week, we are made to sit quietly behind our desks ingesting fact after fact.

This strict and narrow system not only does nothing to nurture a love of the natural world, but it actually harms our learning – studies have found that spending time outdoors enhances cognitive function and psychological wellbeing.

Instead of harnessing this massive opportunity, schools create a wall between learning and nature. Even in subjects such as biology, which focus

on how living systems work, teachers rarely attempt to take our learning beyond the classroom or engage pupils with what is around us.

Imagine the possibilities that could be opened up if we looked outside the box; if we could learn in different ways instead of the single frigid mindset that keeps teenagers bored, frustrated and, in many cases, struggling.

A study found that in 2009, only one in 10 children in the UK regularly spent time in nature compared to 40 per cent in the 1970s.

A lack of exposure to green spaces has been linked with an increase in mental health issues, lower achievement in school and less developed social skills in young people.

More than half of children in the UK are unable to identify a stinging nettle, 82 per cent failed to recognise

an oak leaf and 65 per cent could not name a kingfisher.

I am currently in high school and I think there is one class that stands out from the rest, and this is because of the teacher, rather than the subject.

This teacher understands that a lesson on the outdoors should be taught in the outdoors. In S1, when we were learning about river currents and water safety, we went down to the River Lochy to swim; when we were doing geology, we went to look for different kinds of rocks; when we were learning about sphagnum moss, we waded, sometimes waist deep, through a bog.

I have this teacher again for S3. A few weeks ago, while we were studying glaciers, we left school for two hours to walk up a hill. We didn't have to take notes; we weren't ordered to stay on the path. We were allowed to explore, to learn at our own rates and to enjoy the beauty of a landscape shaped by glaciers. We need more of this type of learning. We need to rewild the child.

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# Storm Brendan lashes Lochab

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Fort William and the wider Lochaber area bore the full brunt of Storm Brendan this week, as gale force winds gusting up to 80mph and high seas lashed coastal areas.

Highland Council and its partners issued a warning on Monday afternoon after it was predicted that sea levels would see a 1.2m rise due to a storm surge, peaking with the high tide around 8pm later that day.

In Fort William that resulted in the popular Crannog Seafood Restaurant, which overlooks Loch Linnhe, being partially flooded. Thankfully, the damage was not as severe as the business has experienced in previous floods.

Speaking on Tuesday morning, company director Lorna Finlayson said: 'Although it seemed dra-



matic, it wasn't as extreme as 15 years ago, with very

little water ingress this time. The pier itself has suffered

some damage with displaced planks, and the affected areas are cordoned off. The council

The damage to the popular Crannog Seafood Restaurant – left and right – was not as bad as experienced in previous floods.

Photographs: Abrightside Photography

was very helpful providing weather warnings and sandbags in advance of the storm.

'We are still assessing the damage to the Crannog outbuildings, however, the interior of our restaurant is intact so we will be back up and running as soon as possible.'

The pier is owned by Highland Council which is responsible for its maintenance and will hopefully be effecting repairs as soon as possible.

Fort William's Westend car park overlooking the loch was also deluged with about two to three feet of water at the peak of the tide and wind for approximately an hour, while a number of the dinghies parked up in the nearby Lochaber Yacht Club (LYC)

boat park went for a sail by themselves.

According to the LYC Facebook page damage to the boats was minimal, with dinghies ending up tightly packed into one end of the dinghy park area.

The local authority had warned residents, particularly those in Fort William, Caol and Corpach of the impending possible flooding.

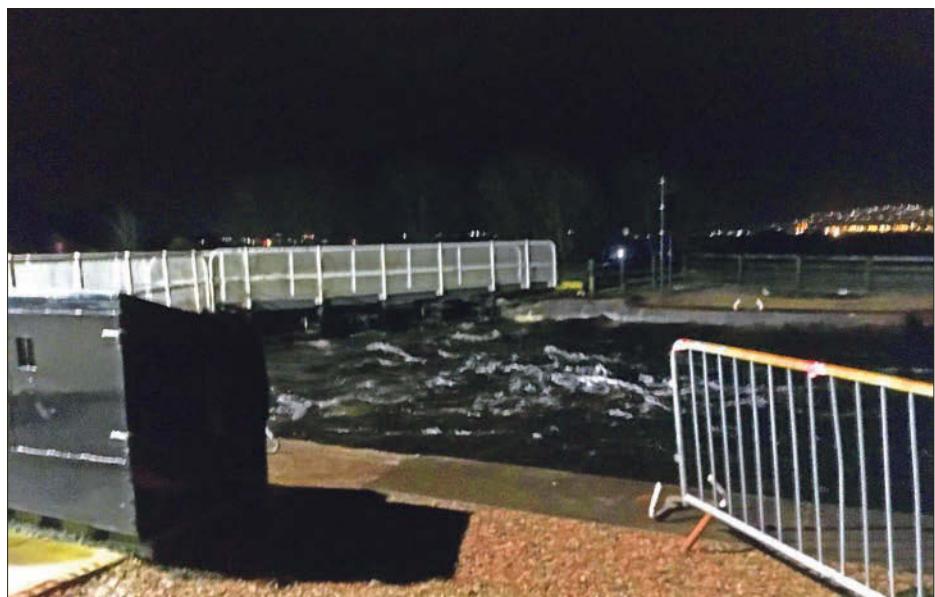
However, there were no issues at the Caol foreshore as sea water did not breach the seawall onto Erracht Drive. The Corpach basin had sea water over the top of the Loch Linnhe sea wall, but this soon subsided with no damage or further issues.

Some localised road flooding occurred and the Lochyside/Caol road was closed for two hours until 10pm.

Also affected was the A861 near Resipole on the Ardnamurchan Peninsula and a section of the A82 in the Invercoe area.

## TAX RETURN DEADLINE 31 JANUARY 2020

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Flood waters at Neptune's Staircase, Banavie.



Fort William's West End car park was hit by two or three feet of flood water at high tide.

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# Water causing localised flooding



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LT

# Walkers celebrate end of coastal path project

by Mark Entwistle  
markentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

The first phase of a £1 million project to develop a 40km coastal path from Stornoway all round the Point peninsula has received the ultimate stamp of approval – from local walking groups.

Groups such as the Women For Mission walking group from Garrabost Free Church are now choosing to walk circular routes taking in the Braighe, the historic Eaglais Na h-Aoidh (Ui Church) and the village of Aignish thanks to the project, which shored up the coastline and built a new path.

Work on the first phase of the Point and Sandwick Coastal Community Path was carried out in November and December 2018. Development of the coastal path is likely to be split into



five phases, with fundraising for the second phase at an advanced stage.

The £114,000 first phase – funded by £57,000 from LEADER with the remainder coming from the profits from Point and Sandwick's Beinn Ghrideag wind farm – secured 100 metres of coastline and also the Ui Church's

graveyard wall, which was under extreme threat of erosion.

It also repaired a damaged culvert near the Aignish grazings, so the route is now totally dry.

Catriona Dunn of the Garrabost Women For Mission group said the new coastal path had made a big

difference to their experience of walking in the area.

'It's pleasant underfoot. It's easy to walk on and parts of it weren't before. It was grassy and muddy in parts, especially where the culvert was. You wouldn't even attempt it in winter,' she said.

It is a different story now, she said, with the group

**Women For Mission group and friends, on the circular walk with a section along the completed first phase of the coastal path.**

Photograph: Sandie Maciver/SandiePhotos

walking it regularly, all year round – most recently on the Saturday before Christmas.

'I think it's really pleasant because you're walking along the coastline and you're seeing the views and the seals – there was a heron as well – and what's been done to the church.'

The Women For Mission group usually meets to go walking together once a week and agreed the group gave them all a physical, social and psychological boost.

Donald John MacSween, general manager of Point and Sandwick Trust, said the wind farm charity was pleased to have played a part

in creating such valuable infrastructure.

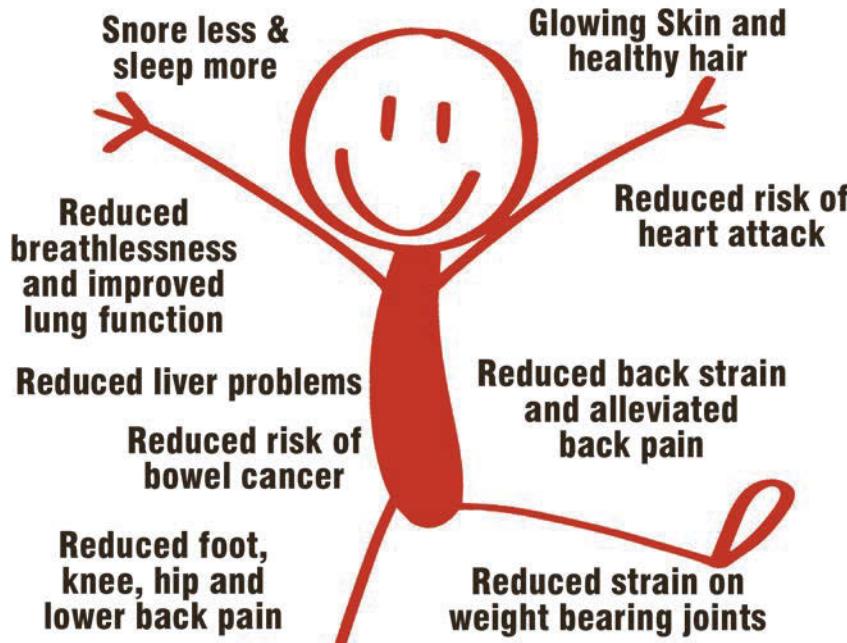
'Getting out and about for an easy stroll in our area is now much easier along this completed part of the coastal path. It is good to see more and more people locally out walking – the easiest and cheapest exercise available all year round, if suitably clad,' he said.

For those unfamiliar with the area, the route which has been made accessible by completion of the first phase of the coastal path is on OS Explorer Map 459, Central Lewis and Stornoway.

It begins at Grid Reference 483 321 (the parking area at the Point end of the Braighe, near the Aignis Farm Raiders Monument) or from GR 492 320 (the Old Knock School, now home to Buth an Rubha, Cafe Roo and the Point and Sandwick Trust offices).

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## Forbes welcomes new powers for council on short-term lets

After last year's study by the Scottish Government revealed almost one in every five dwellings on Skye is now run as an AirBnB, local MSP for the island Kate Forbes has backed an announcement that Highland Council will be given new powers to licence and limit the number of short-term lets.

The number of short-term lets in Scotland, and especially in the Highlands, has risen dramatically in recent years and in some areas locals are finding it increasingly difficult to rent homes to live in.

Other Highland hotspots included Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh (10.73 per cent of all dwellings), Caol and Mallaig (10.70 per cent), Aird and Loch Ness (9.87 per cent), Fort William and Ardnamurchan (9.74 per cent), and Badenoch and Strathspey (7.56 per cent). The national average was 1.2 per cent.

Speaking in Holyrood last week, Housing Minister Kevin Stewart outlined the Scottish Government's plans to establish a licensing scheme for short-term lets and a review of the tax paid by the



**Lochaber MSP Kate Forbes.**

properties – as well handing councils the power to introduce 'short-term let control areas' where the number of AirBnB properties can be restricted through planning permission.

Ms Forbes, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, said: 'The past few years have highlighted the need in the Highlands for balance between the economic benefits of tourism and the impact on local communities. The pressure on housing, employment and infrastructure, alongside the significant economic boost of tourism, has required a new approach to regulation.'

'In the Highlands, short-

term lets such as AirBnB have undoubtedly restricted the number of properties available for those in need of home in which to live.

'This is exacerbating the pressures on housing, due to the historic prevalence of second homes and high prices. Building more homes is part of the solution, but so also is looking at managing the current demands better.'

'The proposals announced by the Scottish Government will give Highland Council new powers to control the number of short-term lets in the community and ensure they make a fair contribution to the services they use.'

# Winter piping workshop programme is 'fantastic'

by Mark Entwistle  
[mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk)

Star piper Glenn Brown, who is travelling to Stornoway next week for the Lewis and Harris Piping Society's second winter recital and workshop, said he is very much looking forward to it and has spoken about the 'great work' the piping society is doing in keeping the music alive.

Brown, a Canadian who won the piobaireachd competition at the prestigious Glenfiddich competition in October, will be playing in the Caladh Hotel in Stornoway on Saturday (January 18), at 7.30pm, with tickets available at the door.

He will be taking workshops during the day and is the second piper to be giving a combined workshop and recital this season, following Callum Beaumont who did it on November 9.

Brown, a native of Ontario who now lives in Scotland, has played in Stornoway before, having taken part in the invitational Pipe Major Donald Macleod Memorial competition twice.

He said: 'I am very much looking forward to coming up to Stornoway for the recital/workshop on the 18th as it's such a beautiful part of the world with the friendliest of people.'

Part of what we as pipers look forward to about competing at the Donald MacLeod Memorial is the people and their appreciation for the music, the love of the instrument and the love for the man himself. How much he contributed to piping throughout the world is just unbelievable.'

Brown would have qualified for this year's Donald Macleod competition by virtue of his



win at the Glenfiddich, but is unable to make it as he is a groomsman at fellow piper Callum Beaumont's wedding in Melbourne on the same day – April 3.

Brown added: 'The work that the Lewis and Harris Piping Society is doing is just so great for piping in that part of the world and beyond.'

'These workshops/recitals

Canadian piper Glenn Brown hails from Ontario but now lives in Scotland.

will hopefully continue in future.'

'Unfortunately, I'm unable to compete there this year as I'll be a groomsman at Callum Beaumont's wedding. Hopefully, I'll be asked to take part in future years, but I'm thankful to have been asked to take part in the workshop/recital.'

Anna Murray, also senior piping tutor for Comhairle nan Eilean Siar for the Loch a Tuath area and the Nicolson Institute, said: 'There's so much interest in piping with the young players today – it's really essential that they get to hear these top class players.'

'They were so inspired at the last recital, meeting Callum. The workshop was fantastic and he was so lovely

to them but their reaction in the evening when they watched him play and heard what he could do with a set of bagpipes – their jaws hit the floor, they couldn't believe their ears.'

'When you're teaching, you can say to the children, "go and listen to this person or that person" but it's no substitute for them actually being in the same room and hearing the top grade pipers.'

'After they've heard such amazing playing, they don't need to be asked twice to practice when they get home, which is great. They're just so enthused.'

'They are really looking forward to the next recital. It's fantastic that the recitals are happening again and that it's a series of recitals.'

Tickets for the recital will be £10, £8 concession, and under-16s get in free.



Willie Campbell, front left, has been writing and performing original work for the project since 2018. Photograph: Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

## Islands pupils at Celtic Connections 2020

A one-off performance at Celtic Connections in Glasgow will fit in with the Year of Coasts and Waters and have original songs on this theme.

The Dileab: Air a' Chuan project brings together school pupils from across the Western Isles to celebrate traditional music with professional musicians.

Performances will include 70 island pupils, Willie Campbell and Band, Ceitlin Lilidh and Pàdraig Morrison with the Sgoil Lionacleit Pipe Band, the Sir E Scott Choir from Harris, singers and musicians from Castlebay Community

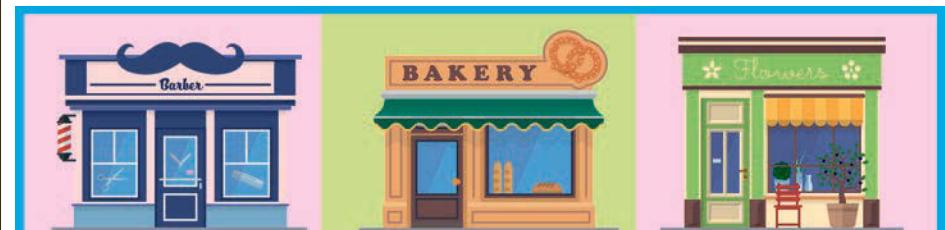
School in Barra and the Nicolson Institute in Lewis, as well as other island musicians including Iain 'Costello' MacIver and Neil Johnstone. Linda Macleod from North Uist will host the evening.

The concert follows the success of the previous Dileab events of 2018, the recording and subsequent launch of the EP of five songs which Willie Campbell was commissioned to write and the hugely successful concert in November 2019 in Ionad Spòrs Leòdhais where 60 young musicians from Lewis and Harris performed alongside Face the

West, The Tumbling Souls and Skipinnish.

Rhona Johnstone, musical director and project coordinator, said: 'This promises to be an absolutely fantastic evening. Our programme has been designed to fit in with Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters 2020 and will include two new commissions from Willie Campbell.'

The concert is in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall at 7.30pm tomorrow (Friday January 17). Tickets can be purchased at [celtic-connections.com](http://celtic-connections.com) or from the venue on 0141 353 8000. [www.dileabalegacy.com](http://www.dileabalegacy.com)



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# LETTERS

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## Great response to devastating fires across Australia

The scale of the devastation in Australia from the still out-of-control wildfires is simply staggering.

The human cost of the disaster is enormous, with thousands of houses destroyed, people left homeless and lives lost. The smoke generated by the bushfires is now causing significant air pollution and is thought to pose a risk to people's health.

As has also been well-documented, Australia's unique wildlife has suffered hugely, with some estimates suggesting that perhaps as many as a billion animals may have died.

In Lochaber, crafters have responded brilliantly by knitting and crocheting items that will help orphaned and injured animals to recover from the depredations they have had to endure.

We thank them all and urge more of you to join in.

## Thanks to emergency services and engineers

Storm Brendan raged across Lochaber and the Western Isles area this week, bringing with it considerable disruption.

Roads were closed, schools were shut, ferries were cancelled and damage was caused. There was significant inconvenience for some islanders who were unable to travel to or from their homes.

However, while the vast majority of us were able to shelter from the storm in our own warm abodes, spare a thought for the emergency services and staff from the power companies.

These stoic souls venture out despite the weather to ensure the rest of us are safe, have power in our homes and to clear up the mess caused.

We all owe them a debt of gratitude for their efforts.

## Working towards flexibility at Dail Mhor

I was disappointed to read the letter from Alan Thomson (Challenge NHSH on failure to provide essential facilities, December 26 2019), which follows previous letters from him of a similar nature.

Mr Thomson is well aware the community councils' working group is fully committed to reinstating full-time residential care facilities at Dail Mhor, as soon as it is possible to do so, and that we restate that commitment to NHSH colleagues every time we meet. He is also aware that changes in care commissioning and statutory registrations have meant that it is not currently possible for Dail Mhor to deliver this service.

Dail Mhor is currently providing a wider range of services, and with far greater flexibility to accommodate differing needs, circumstances and requirements, than it was immediately prior to the 2017 closure. While the working group continues to work towards a viable way to provide full-time residential care, we would not wish that to come at the expense of these other services, since they are serving a greater need within the community.

Small-scale, dedicated residential care facilities are no longer viable, and are effectively being discontinued nationally. The only realistic opportunity for reintroducing full-time residential care is if it can be delivered alongside other similar services in multi-functioning and flexible service provision, which is what we are continuing to work towards at Dail Mhor.

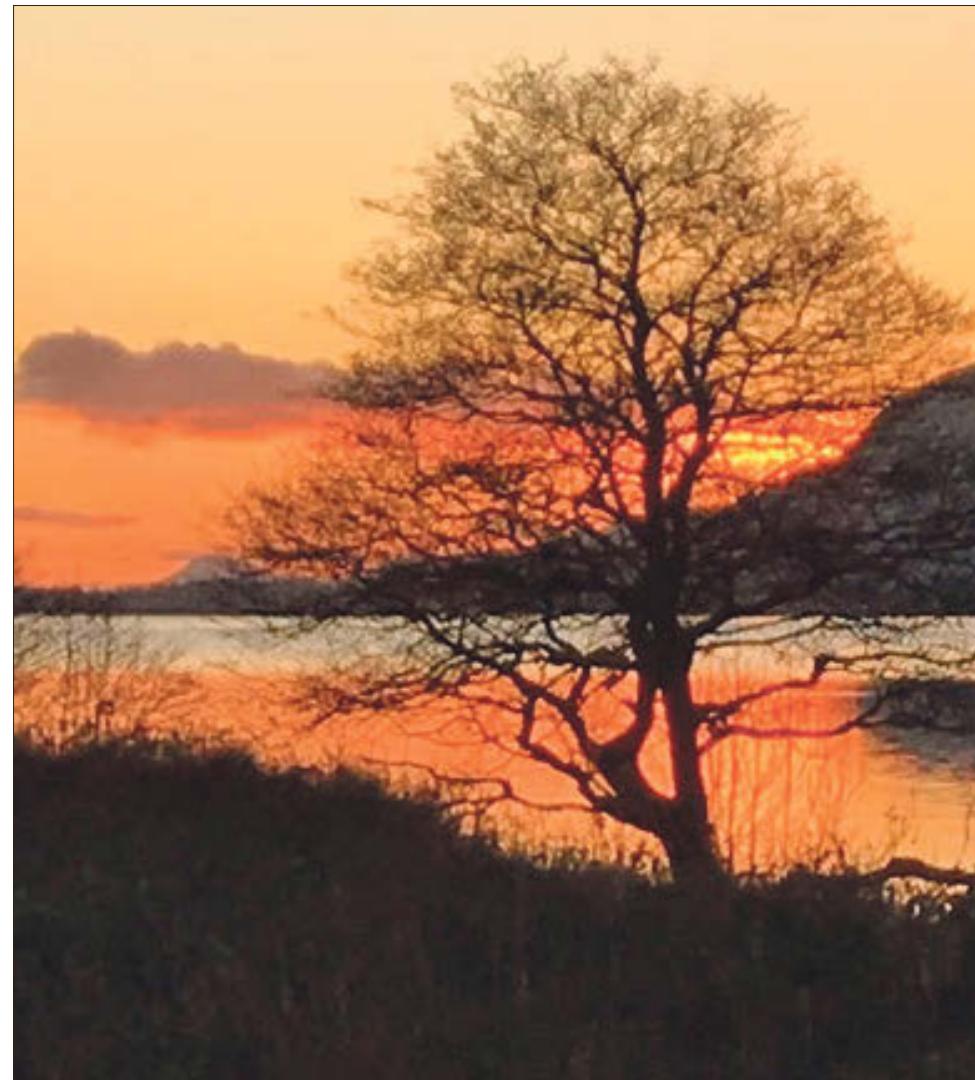
We appreciate that it must be extremely frustrating for people who need a service other than the ones currently provided, but if we have any hope of ensuring a future for Dail Mhor, it must be developed in a way which is economically viable and serves the greatest need, and that is what we are doing.

Joanne Matheson,  
Acharacle.

## No new laws, enforce the ones we have

I should like to make an appeal to all MPs, MSPs, councillors and all lawmakers that in 2020 they make no new laws. At the beginning of this new decade they should improve the laws they already passed. I would even like them to go further and reduce the

## YOUR PICTURES



number of laws that are in existence. I am not against all laws; what I fear is that instead of addressing the issues, legislators believe that extending what are regarded as crimes will change society for the better. They are wrong.

We know that parking on pavements is wrong; 'upskirting' is horrifying; smoking in a car in which there are children is unacceptable; dropping litter is shameful; driving

through a red light is dangerous. What we need is the range of social and cultural influences that help us feel that we should behave in a positive way. In the 1950s, '60s and '70s the majority of people regularly attended churches and religious organisations. In these environments people developed feelings of what was right and wrong. Positive behaviour was also developed by participat-



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# DISTRICT NEWS

## SKYE AND LOCHALSH

### Lochalsh charity awarded £14,612 by Health Lottery

**Counselling Care:** Skye and Lochalsh has been awarded £14,612 for its Café Chat project from People's Health Trust from money raised by Health Lottery Scotland.

Café Chat has been providing members in the community an opportunity to meet on a weekly basis to try out new activities and create a space where people who are socially isolated can come together to make new friends and learn.

The vital funding has enabled the project to provide an enjoyable activity every week for those who are in need of companionship. Activities on offer include tai chi, yoga, gardening, quizzes, a book club, spinning and weaving classes.

The willow weaving class proved to



The weaving class was popular.

be very popular. This provided Café Chat members with an opportunity to learn about the craft, and to weave fish and baskets made out of willow grown on the island.

Diane Van Ruitenbeek, who coordinates the project, said: 'It has been really great to see how enthusiastic the community is to get stuck in and try out the new activities we have been offering.'



Lochaber MindFit recently held a course on suicide awareness called Safetalk to raise perceptions of suicide and enable conversations with other people about how they are feeling. A number of the Lochaber MindFit volunteers took part as well as others from the community. Martyn's Monday Club from Oban and Mind the Men from Glasgow were also present.

'Some of our members have dementia and having a regular community group to come to is vital for their health and wellbeing.'

She added: 'Café Chat has helped to bring the community together to support one another. Many of the activities on offer have been suggested by our members and we have worked in partnership with other local organisations to provide a varied programme.'

'We have also arranged excursions to neighbouring towns and visitor attractions. It's been fantastic to be collaboratively working together to promote what is on offer to residents.'

Martin Ellice, joint managing director of The Health Lottery, said: 'It is great to see just how important Café Chat has been for residents in need of some extra support and companionship.'

'There is a great sense of community with this project, which is very heart-warming.'

### Trust changes date of Riverside Walk clear-up

#### KINLOCHLEVEN

Owing to a Met Office warning of high winds and heavy rain, the Kinlochleven Community Trust decided to change the date of its Riverside Walk event to January 18.

The clear-up was originally scheduled for Saturday January 11, but due to a yellow warning for rain through Friday night and into the afternoon, the decision was taken to change the date.

It will now take place from 10am to 2pm this Saturday and lunch will be provided on the day at the Leven Centre.

A representative from the trust said: 'We apologise for any inconvenience caused but we need to think of the safety of our volunteers.'

The Riverside Walk has been widely used by walkers from the



Riverside Walk.

able to make it on the day. We will be providing them with equipment that we have purchased from funding that we required from Paths for All.

'We will also be providing lunch for the volunteers too. Depending on how many people turn up will determine how much of the path gets tidied up. It may have to be completed over another one or two weekends. However, it will be constant maintenance throughout the year.'

The trust is always looking for volunteers to help with the likes of path maintenance, composting and cleaning up the community.

If anyone who is not already a volunteer and would like to take part, they can contact the KCT office on 01855 831779 or admin@kinlochleven.co.uk

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## New Lochaber Probus Club holds first meeting

Probus is the Latin word for probity – honesty, decency and strong moral principles. It is also the name of a club for professional and business people, mainly retired or semi-retired to meet and share views.

Lochaber's first Probus Club held its inaugural open meeting in the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William, on Thursday of last week, attracting a group of interested people to gauge their views on whether or not to proceed further.

Formed by two retired Fort William businessmen – David Anderson, who spent his career as an optometrist in Fort William, and David Robertson, who worked in the insurance sector – the answer came back as a definite 'yes', with meetings now scheduled for every fortnight. The Lochaber group will be registered as Scotland's 57th club.



The first meeting of the new Lochaber Probus Club – attendees included organisers David Anderson, right, and David Robertson, third from the right.  
Photograph: Iain Ferguson

Mr Anderson said: 'We plan to meet twice a month for lunch, with hopefully a guest speaker once a month.'

'David Robertson and I are looking forward to developing this new exciting venture.'

'We have been very encouraged by the responses that we have

already received from those who feel the Probus has a unique place to support this sector of the retired population which is often overlooked.'

Contact with the club can be made through its Facebook page, Lochaber Probus Club, or via the Alexandra Hotel.

Tiree has suffered throughout its history from the lack of a good natural harbour.

To a large extent, it still does but this year a new pier at Milton Harbour has greatly improved the berthing capacity and safety for the island's fishing fleet.

This type of long-term investment in a tangible and permanent asset is exactly the kind of project that will reap benefits far into the future.

As Storm Brendan put his immense power behind the high spring tides that happened to coincide with his tempest wrath this week, the value of this investment is already showing its worth. In these conditions, the previous pier would have been two to three feet under water, posing a risk to any boats tied alongside.

However, even at the peak of the high tides on Monday and Tuesday, there was still plenty of pier showing above the waves, keeping the boats safely on the outside of the pier and

not getting bounced, battered and wrecked on the top and edge as was always the risk previously when spring tides and gales combined.

When my father started lobster fishing in the early 1970s there was no pier at all at Milton. However, he managed to seek funding from the Highlands and Islands Development Board and in 1972 a small concrete pier was built by D A Gillespie, father of the Skerryvore brothers.

As the fishing fleet grew, it was clear that more berthing capacity was needed and in 1984/85, after many years of perseverance and with many knock-backs and stalls, funding was again secured and a higher three-berth pier was built and the harbour

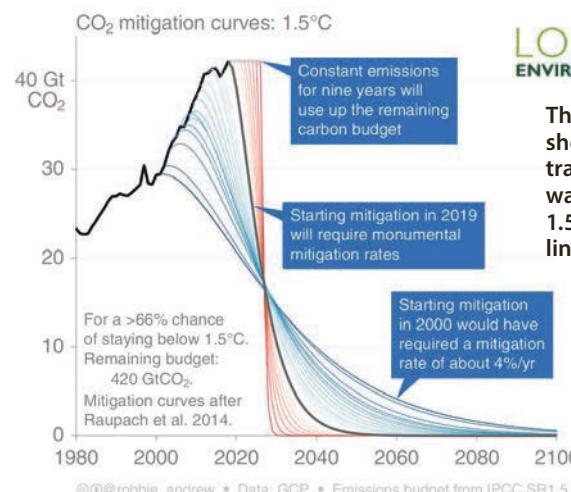
bed was also dredged to lessen the tight tidal constraints.

When I was home last week, it was with great pride that I stood on the new pier. The sense of positivity and hope of a bright future was amplified further by the arrival of a new boat to the harbour. Iain Lamont's Cygnus 26 is a very welcome addition to the fleet and is yet another pertinent piece of evidence as to the value of this small harbour development.

From a tiny pier in 1972, five boats now work safely from Milton, with room for more. That represents a lot of jobs and potential revenue for a small island such as Tiree. Congratulations to all who were behind this latest step forward for Milton Harbour.



The figure shows emission trajectories to limit warming to below 1.5°C. The different lines show the reductions required if emissions had peaked each year between 2000-2026, with 2019 in grey.



## This is the decade for action

Welcome to 2020, the start of a new decade, and our last chance to take action. It is time to take our heads out of the sand and wake up to the climate and ecological crisis.

It has not been a great start, with fires incinerating around 11 million hectares in Australia to date, and killing more than one billion animals. Further north, severe flooding has left hundreds of thousands homeless in Indonesia's rapidly sinking capital, Jakarta.

Last decade was the earth's warmest on record, and 2019 was the second warmest year on record, testament to how greatly human-caused global warming is impacting the planet. In 2019, earth experienced the warmest month (July), lethal heatwaves in Europe, fires and near-record melting in the Arctic, a deadly monsoon in India, three highly destructive tropical cyclones, and Australia suffered its hottest and driest year on record.

While some of these events may seem very distant from Lochaber, we are not, and will not be, immune from the impacts of global warming because we are interconnected through global food supplies, global trade and global peace.

Time is running out. Atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) levels contin-

ue to increase, reaching 412 parts per million in November 2019, and we have relatively little of our global carbon budget remaining for warming to be limited to 1.5°C to meet the Paris Agreement targets, and to prevent climate breakdown. We now have around 340 Gt CO<sub>2</sub> – or eight years of current emissions – that can be emitted before the world passes 1.5°C warming.

Every year that passes without reducing emissions puts the 1.5°C target further out of reach. If emissions had peaked and begun to decline after the year 2000, the 1.5°C target would have been much easier to achieve, only requiring reductions of around three per cent per year. By contrast, limiting warming to below 1.5°C starting NOW, will require a 15 per cent cut each year to 2040.

A recent article in the Guardian highlighted the political, collective action that is required to fight the crisis, and provided ideas on the many ways people can get involved. For example, have you considered changing your shopping choices to reduce your carbon footprint, or lobbying your workplace to carry out an audit and reduce its carbon emissions?

This is an emergency and the time to act is now!



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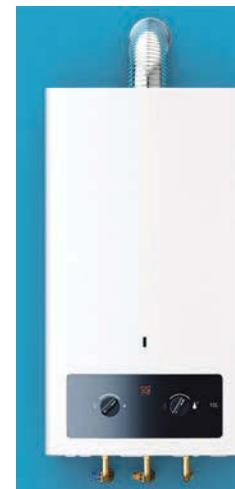
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## FOOTBALL

## Calum MacLean returns to hot seat at Fort William

Calum MacLean was announced as Russell McMorran's successor as manager of Fort William FC last night (Thursday).

MacLean has a wealth of Highland League experience both as a player and previous manager and the Claggan Park club believes he will bring out the very best in its young, talented squad.

'We are in the process of building his backroom team which will include the short term appointment of current coach Jamie Macgregor and first team player John Treasurer, who is battling back from a long-term injury,' the club added in an online statement.



Calum MacLean.

## SLT game called off

South Lochaber Thistle's Greater Glasgow Division One home game against Helensburgh was called off last Saturday when 'Burgh could not raise a team.

This Saturday SLT travel to Cambria at Stepps. Kick-off is 2pm with referee Peter Leslie in charge.

## Saints through to last 16

Oban Saints eased through to the sixth round of the Scottish Amateur Cup last Saturday with a convincing 5-1 victory over Renfrew Town of the Glasgow and District Saturday Morning League.

With Glencruitten unplayable the game was switched to the Oban Community 3G Pitch. Strikes from Craig MacEwan, Willie Gemmell and Dene Cassells added to a brace from Lewis Cameron saw Saints comfortably through to the last 16 of the Scottish Amateur Football Association's blue ribband competition.

The final is due to be played at Hampden Park on Sunday April 19.

## GOLF

## Bob is out of tournament

After his stunning debut season on the European tour, Oban's Bob MacIntyre had planned this week for his opening appearance of the 2020 season.

However, he has pulled out of the HSBC Championship which starts in Abu Dhabi today (Thursday) as he said on social media he needs another week to get fit.

He misses a very strong field, which includes world number one Brooks Koepka, as well as world numbers seven and 10 in Patrick Cantlay and Tommy Fleetwood. With a \$7m prize fund and significant world ranking points up for grabs, Bob had been hoping for a strong showing to help him close in on his goal of reaching the world's top 50 by the end of March.

Bob is currently ranked 65th and a good performance next week in the Dubai Desert Classic will go a long way towards that goal and a place in the US Masters in April.

## LOTTERY NUMBERS

## Lochaber club lotteries

**Ballachulish Shinty Lottery:** This week's shinty lottery numbers were 4, 11 and 18. No winners this week, so it's £400 draw next week.

**Caol Community Centre Bingo Club Lotto:** Numbers for January 5 were 1, 13 and 18. No winners so the prize fund is £500 next week.

**Caol Regeneration Lotto:** Numbers for draw on January 9 were 4, 6 and 8. No winners so the jackpot is £400 for today's draw, January 16.

**Fort William Golf Club Lotto:** Last week's numbers were 5, 6 and 17. No winner so £400 is available for today's draw.



Warriors of this year's traditional New Year Glenfinnan shinty match. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

# Heavy rain fails to dampen spirits at Glenfinnan shinty match

Heavy rain didn't stop play on Saturday as hardy Glenfinnan folk marked the Auld New Year with their traditional, annual shinty match, *writes Ally Entwistle*.

A respectable four inches of rain in the previous 24 hours ensured the pitch was suitably waterlogged for the event. But the locals are used to a drop

of rain, so players teamed their camans with wellies and waterproofs.

### Spray

In a closely-fought game spanning the generations, it was difficult to follow the play from the amount of spray generated by the enthusiastic players.

On a couple of occasions,

the ball had to be pulled out of the ground, having been trampled into the muddy mass.

Referee Ingrid Henderson was light on the whistle and allowed the game to flow, resulting in some creative play.

The six spectators, including a Labrador dog, were treated to some hearty tackles and



The pitch conditions make the match a bit more of a challenge for these young players.

Action from some of the younger players in the traditional New Year Glenfinnan Shinty match.

## SHINTY

long shots at goal, resulting in plenty of spectacular slides on the sodden grass.

## Happy

As the rain continued to beat down, the game ended in a respectable 1-1 draw, a result which all were happy to leave the field to celebrate.

# Dalgety named Glengarry Shinty Club players' player of the year

Nick Dalgety has been named as Glengarry Shinty Club players' player of the year for 2019 following a special meal in Fort Augustus at the weekend.

The fast and prolific goal scorer was a popular

choice with everyone and was presented with The Johnnie MacDonald Memorial shield by Alan MacDonald, in the absence of Mrs Jean MacDonald, who was unable to attend.

Alan, a well-known past



Nick Dalgety, left, holding the shield with Alan MacDonald centre and Glengarry's chairperson Scott Bremner right looking on.



Nick Dalgety, left, holding the shield with Alan MacDonald centre and Archie Johnstone.

player himself, is Glengarry's oldest supporter and never misses a game.

Archie Johnstone came through as the most improved player for season 2019, starting the season

## SHINTY

very strong and although out for a few weeks with a hand injury came back just as strong proving himself a worthy winner.

# SSDT legend Schreiber to return as guest of honour for 2020

The star guest of the 2020 Scottish Six Day Trials (SSDT) has been confirmed as past winner and American World Trials Champion Bernie Schreiber.

When the SSDT returns to Fort William for another year this May, it will welcome the Los Angeles-born Schreiber as the guest of honour.

Schreiber has been riding trials since the age of 10. In the late '70s he influenced the development of a new riding style by adding floating pivot turns and bunny hops and in 1979 he went on to win four of the 12 world rounds and became the youngest ever World Champion.

But it was 1982 when Schreiber fulfilled his lifelong ambition of winning the Scottish Six Day Trials, which up until that point, and even to today, had been won by European riders.

Retiring in 1987 with a record of 20 world wins and 48 podium appearances, it is safe to say that Schreiber is no stranger to the sport.

Schreiber said: 'I'm honoured to attend the Scottish Six Day Trials in 2020. It's a real privilege to be guest of honour at the 110th edition

## SIX DAYS TRIALS

which marks my first return to beautiful Fort William since winning the event in 1982 on SWM.

'When looking back on the highlights of my trials career, the traditional and historic SSDT event remains the crown jewel in the sport of trials.'

'It was always a test of reliability and lifetime ambition to win the event, but being the first [and still the only non-European to win] holds a special place in my heart.'

'This year will mark a very happy place to be, with friendly people in a friendly country of tradition and rich trials history. A very special thanks to the Edinburgh and District Motor Club for this invitation and their continued support to the sport of trials.'



American rider Bernie Schreiber is a legend for SSDT fans.

Photograph: Giulio Muri/Fontes



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## WEATHER

### Thursday

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

### Friday

Light rain showers and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures 3°C to 7°C.

### Weekend Outlook

Saturday  
Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze  
Sunday  
Light cloud and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures 6°C to 7°C.



FRIDAY

## TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday January 16, 2020 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Thur	03.30	0.8	09.27	3.7
	16.17	1.3	21.59	3.3
Fri	04.25	1.0	10.23	3.5
	17.18	1.5	23.02	3.1
Sat	05.26	1.2	11.34	3.3
	18.27	1.6	**.**	**
Sun	00.29	3.0	06.34	1.4
	13.12	3.2	19.42	1.6
Mon	02.00	3.1	07.48	1.4
	14.37	3.2	20.55	1.6
Tues	03.09	3.2	09.02	1.4
	15.43	3.3	21.54	1.5
Wed	04.00	3.4	10.07	1.3
	16.30	3.4	22.42	1.3

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

## Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist

Moderate

Oban to Coll/Tiree

Moderate

Kennacraig to Islay

Moderate

**Stop Press:** New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd

## INSIDE THIS WEEK:

Heavy rain fails to dampen spirits at Glenfinnan shinty match

Calum MacLean returns to hot seat at Fort William

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# New manager looks to positives despite defeat to Formartine

Formartine Utd	5
Fort William	2
Highland League	

New Fort manager Calum MacLean says his side needs to go shopping for a striker, after watching his new charges go down 5-2 against Formartine Utd on Saturday.

The Breedon Highland League game was due to be a home match played at Claggan Park but pitch conditions saw it switched to Formartine's ground at North Lodge Park at Pitmedden.

**'We really need more players, in particular up front – we need a striker who can score goals. We need to do a bit more attacking.'**

It is still early days for MacLean and his backroom staff, as they only met the playing squad at training on Thursday night.

After Saturday's bruising encounter with a powerful Formartine outfit, MacLean said he was still impressed by what he saw.

'We got to have a good look at them and our guys are very good technically. But Formartine are a very good side, big and strong, so it was

a tough game. But there is a lot for us to work with and we have a lot of potential in our players,' he told the Lochaber Times this week.

'But we really need more players, in particular up front – we need a striker who can score goals. We need to do a bit more attacking.'

As for tomorrow night's game (Friday) against Clachnacuddin – being played at Highland Rugby Club's ground due to the Christmas Eve fire at Clachnacudin's Grant Street Park – MacLean says it will be another tough game.

'It will be another hard one. I saw them play when Fort beat them 1-0 at Claggan and it was all end-to-end stuff. They're a good side. Then again, there are no easy ones in this league, but we need to start building up some points from our games.'

MacLean's hopes must have been raised at least slightly on Saturday, when after just two minutes of play, an amazing finish from Fort's Roddy Kennedy saw the Lochaber visitors take a 0-1 lead against the hosts Formartine.

Sadly it was a bit short-lived with the home side equalising four minutes later.

On the 21-minute mark, Formartine netted their second to take a 2-1 lead. But the hosts were not having it



Graeme Rodger, Formartine, and Fort's Jordan Morrison tussle for the ball.

Photograph: Phil Harman.

all their own way, and got a scare eight minutes later when Fort's Jordan Morrison was through on goal after bouncing on a stray ball from a defender only for the linesman to flag it as offside.

And it was Morrison again who tormented the home defenders with a 25-yard cannonball of a drive that just

skipped the bar by inches.

The fact Fort went into the interval trailing by only one goal was thanks to keeper Mateusz Kulbacki with a great stop just before the half-time whistle.

But five minutes after the restart, the hosts slotted goal number three, with number four following it into the Fort

net five minutes later to make it 4-1.

The hosts got their fifth goal on the 78-minute mark and Fort got a consolation second two minutes later when Ross Gunn's effort found the net.

Clachnacuddin v Fort William FC, at Canal Park, Inverness, tomorrow will kick-off at 7.45pm.

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