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Loch Lomond Seaplanes ready for take off to Oban

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Seaplanes are returning to Oban, bringing with them a welcome tourist boom.

Owner and chief pilot David West of Loch Lomond Seaplanes is confident daily flights from Duck Bay to the town will take off again, adding thousands of visitors to Oban's yearly tourist tally.

March next year will see the start of at least two flights a day, three to four times a week, throughout the whole year, said Mr West.

'Every day for the past seven years since we stopped the Oban flights in the recession, we've been getting calls. Everyone's been asking for flights to Oban and now we're giving them what they want. We're done with hanging around for Brexit and we're making changes and expanding to meet customers' demands,' added Mr West, who runs popular air tours over the West Coast and Loch Lomond National Park.

The £3 million amphibian

plane, which boasts six inches more leg room than a British Airways economy seat, can carry 10 people, including the pilot, and will be landing at Oban marina at Kerrera before passengers use the regular ferry to make the short trip to and from Oban's North Pier.

'We'll see how it goes. Things could change and we could bring in even more flights. Details will be up on our website next week so people can start to book for next year.

Pontoons

'We won't be using Oban's pontoons because they get pretty stacked up in the height of the season. Although they'd be ideal, we'd need three or four spaces to land, so we'll use Kerrera and stay out of people's way,' added Mr West.

Until 2012, when the service was no longer financially viable, Loch Lomond Seaplanes were bringing around 6,000 people a year to Oban, including visitors from around the world and closer to home.

'People book with us from all over the world and direct from the States more and more. It's not just for high-end tourists, there's also a big bucket-list thing going on and we get families and friends clubbing together to make a trip with us.

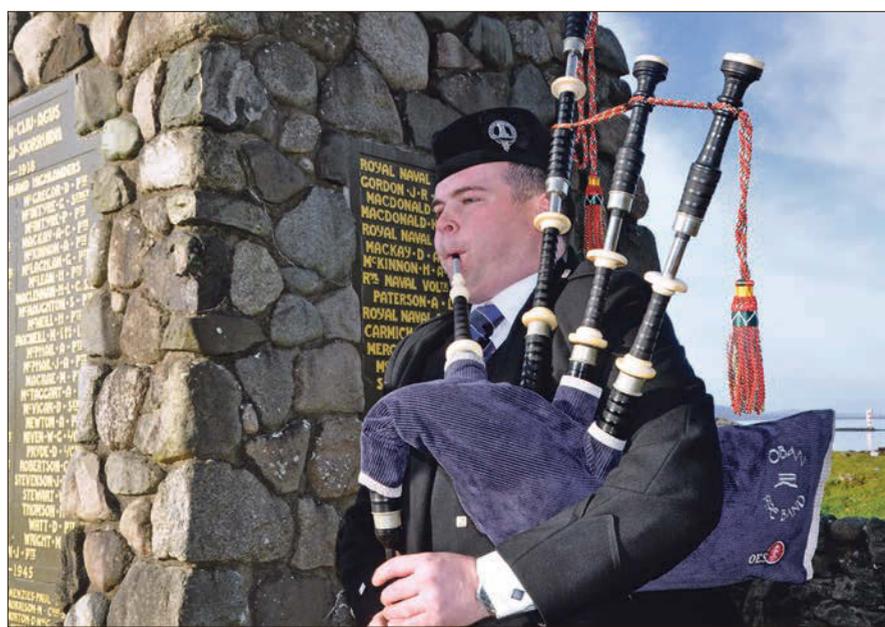
'We believe the way forward is to come back to Oban. It's going to be a great way for people to spend the day and it's great news for the town and businesses,' said Mr West, who will be looking to build in short-break packages with hotels and restaurants.

Mr West added that the attraction of seeing the planes fly over Oban and land in the bay would also draw more visitors to the town.

BID4Oban chief executive Andy Spence said: 'It's fantastic news for the town that the seaplanes are coming back. BID4Oban will be working with them very closely to make sure that it is a success.'

Next to benefit from the 'seaplane effect' could be Tobermory and the Isle of Bute, revealed Mr West.

Oban remembers ...



Pipe Sergeant James Rosie of Oban Pipe Band plays at the war memorial in Oban during the service of Remembrance. This year's parade, saved by Oban Sea Cadets and Councillor Jim Lynch after the demise of the town's Royal British Legion branch in February, was one of the biggest witnessed in recent years. For the full story and more photographs, turn to pages eight, nine and 10.


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Man jailed for stealing car from Christian trust who took him in

A man has been banned from driving for life and jailed for eight months after stealing a car and driving it while already disqualified.

Andrew Paul Ridsdale, 48, from 26 Mannville Terrace, Bradford, admitted stealing the car on November 5 from Craig Lodge – a 'house of prayer' that offers retreats.

Ridsdale was sentenced at Oban Sheriff Court on Wednesday November 6, where he admitted the offences, as well as driving without insurance.

Procurator fiscal David Glancy told the court: 'The vehicle is the property of Craig Lodge Trust in Dalmally – a charitable Christian trust offering refuge for people seeking spiritual guidance.'

'At some point of Monday of this week, the accused presented himself telling one of the helpers there he was homeless.'

Ridsdale was given a room for the night and at 2.45am a vehicle raised suspicions with a passing police car, as the driver cancelled the indicator and did a U-turn upon seeing the police.

The police officer followed the car's direction and within 10 minutes found it abandoned.

After tracing the car back to Craig Lodge, police were notified that the accused was no longer there and his possessions were gone.

At 4.45am a number of police officers observed a male walking in Ballachullish,



who matched the suspect's description.

He was arrested and admitted he had been driving.

In his defence, solicitor Kevin McGinness said his client had planned to return to Bradford the following morning, but woke up at 11.30pm and could not get back to sleep.

'He went downstairs and found himself in the laundry room, saw the rack of keys, and opportunistically took possession and stole the vehicle and drove it without insurance.'

Sheriff Patrick Hughes told Ridsdale, who had a long list of previous convictions, that he has never seen a record like his.

Sheriff Hughes said it was not only theft, but a breach of trust and a show of ingratitude.

Ridsdale, who was already serving a lifetime ban from holding or obtaining a driving licence, was again banned for life and sentenced to a total of eight months in prison.

Mum says thank you to Marie Curie

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Lismore candlemaker Hazel MacCormick has handed over a £400 cheque to Marie Curie in loving memory of her farmer husband.

Hazel has been selling her lavender-scented candles to raise awareness of the support and care the charity gives across Oban and Argyll.

The mum-of-two, whose farmer husband John died from cancer last year, is selling her hand-poured Soy candles to help boost the charity's funds as a thank you.

On what would have been



Hazel MacCormick hands over a cheque for £400 to Marie Curie fundraiser Lillian Kermode.

her husband's 50th birthday on August 15, she officially launched the special Gift of Love candle in his name. John was diagnosed with a terminal brain tumour in February 2016 and lost his battle just 15 months later. Marie Curie nurses helped bring the

family comfort during his final months.

The fundraising candles, costing £8, with half of the proceeds going directly to Marie Curie, will be on sale at Christmas markets, including the Oban Winter Festival.

Hazel said: 'I've had a

massive response to the candles both online and at the markets and agricultural shows that I have attended. I have had the privilege to meet many people who have had similar experiences to myself and everyone singing the praises of Marie Curie. They really do bring light to the darkest hour. It really brought it home to me just how many families have been touched by cancer.'

Fundraisers will be collecting at Tesco on Thursday December 12 and in Homebase, Lidl, Aldi and Superdrug on Saturday December 14.

More inspections for Benderloch wall

BEAR Scotland engineers are to decide how a crumbling retaining wall at Benderloch should be fixed.

There were fears that cracks appearing in the wall below the Sustrans cyclepath near Benderloch viewpoint were putting the busy A828 at risk of collapse.

Previously, both Transport Scotland and BEAR Scotland said the wall was not their responsibility but, after a report was carried out by council

officials, a way forward has now been made.

The council report recommending remedial work was sent to Transport Scotland.

This week a spokesperson for BEAR Scotland said: 'Following discussions with Transport Scotland, it has been agreed that the section of wall in question, as an integral part of the A828 cycleway, is best maintained as part of the trunk road network and will fall under our responsibility

moving forwards. Our initial inspections have determined that there is no risk to the A828 trunk road or the cycleway, however prior to any future remedial work we'll erect some signs at the wall as a precaution to advise beach-users to avoid the structure for safety.'

Ardchattan community councillor Willie Barnett said: 'This shows how the community and some committed individuals and our

ward councillors can bring about a positive result.

'Thanks to Transport Scotland for adopting the damaged wall.

'Also thanks to Councillor Elaine Robertson who formally kicked off the inquiries with the district council and followed it through to the end. Lewis Morrison, who previously was the chairman of the community council, was extremely active in bringing this about.'

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School's playground funds reach halfway



Distillery raises cheer for Pudsey

Distillery workers in Oban are putting on charity tours this Saturday November 16 in aid of Children In Need. If they sell all 48 adult tickets at £12.50 each, it means they will raise £600 for the good cause, says Bill Griffiths, pictured right, who is one of the organisers. Oban Distillery manager Callum Rew, left, said he was delighted to fully support the event. To get tickets for the tours starting at 11am, 1pm and 3pm, call Mr Griffiths on 07881 705648.

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Funds for a new playground at Dervaig Primary School are almost halfway there thanks to a 'phenomenal' response.

The ambitious appeal was launched just over a year ago to raise the £22,000 needed for a revamped fun zone and the community has embraced the challenge.

From stargazing nights to ceilidhs, pancake mornings to raffles – the Parent Council's appeal has touched hearts and generous pockets.

Mull Rally events got into gear to help raise funds and a £2,500 award from Mull's Waterfall Fund was also a big boost, said Parent Council chairperson Tracy Mayo.

She added: 'The whole community has been phenomenal with their amazing support.'

'They're really making this happen. The children, the parents, grandparents, families,



Youngsters from Dervaig Primary School rest their legs on their fundraising walk to Calgary.

businesses, past pupils, event organisers and so many others – they are all doing a great job. Thank you all.

'The new playground will be an investment. It's not just for today or tomorrow. The equipment we're looking at will have a lifetime of about 25 years.'

Earlier this month Mull binman Colin Morrison named the playground project as one

of the charities to benefit from his 2020 calendar sales, and back in March the school's 25 youngsters brought in more than £2,000 from a sponsored walk – the older children walked all 13 miles from Tobermory to Calgary.

The playground's dated castle and submarine were so battered by the elements they became unsafe and had to be removed, making way for the

plan to create a new outdoor learning space that will include wooden shelters – one to read in and the other as an undercover play area which could double up as an outdoor classroom right next to the school building.

Some of the eco-style play equipment would stay out while some of it could be packed away out of school time. 'It's the Lego of the wooden world. They'll be able to build and make things themselves out of it,' said Tracy.

'We're hoping to make a start and put something in soon for the children to play on so they can see what's coming. They're being very patient and are good at improvising,' she added.

There is some climbing equipment on the wishlist – but not too high.

To help, go to the funding page at dervaigprimary-school.co.uk

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Unpaid work for Oban man

A man has been ordered to carry out 240 hours of unpaid work for assaulting his former partner.

Lee Campbell, 33, of 12 Burnside Court, Miller Road, Oban, continues to deny the charge, but was sentenced to a community payback order on Wednesday November 6.

Campbell was also found guilty of behaving in a threatening or abusive manner by shouting and swearing at police and uttering homophobic remarks.

On top of the unpaid work element, Sheriff Patrick Hughes gave Campbell a 12-month social work supervision order and a one-year conduct requirement, prohibiting him from contacting the complainer.

Campbell's solicitor, Donna Sagewood, said he had an unhealthy relationship with alcohol, but is proactively seeking help.

She also highlighted that his offending has decreased significantly since 2013 and said his passion for his job has helped him maintain his employment for the past four years.

Sheriff Hughes said he appreciated that he continues to deny the assault charge, but had to proceed on the basis that he was guilty.

Sheriff Hughes was satisfied that there was an alternative to custody.

'I am required by law not to impose a custodial sentence if there is an alternative,' he added.

Seil skiffie Sue helps organise coastal row

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Former Cambridge Blue and Great Britain rower Sue Fenton from Seil is co-director of the first relay expedition attempting to circumnavigate more than 1,800 miles of the Scottish coastline in an open-top boat.

Funding of more than £11,000 has come from the Year of Coast and Waters events fund managed by EventScotland, beating off stiff competition from other applicants, and the rest is being matched by St Ayles' Skiff enthusiasts and crowd-funders, all adding pulling power to the challenge that could involve around 350 skiffies and their four oared boats from up to 70 clubs as far apart as Greta to Orkney.

'If the tides and wind are with us, then it'll be a doddle but we're not elite athletes, just communities of all ages connecting with each other and our coastal heritage.

'It's going to be fantastic! Each



Sue Fenton pores over the maritime charts.

section, with all its different clubs, will have a start and finish date so it's up to the crews when they do it. It gives them wiggle room for inclement conditions. Each crew will have about 10 miles to go,' said Sue.

Working out safe passages and poring over maritime charts is a huge part of planning ahead and when land gets in the way between

baton-handovers, eco-savvy organisers have come up with a watertight plan.

'The East Coast goes in a straight line but the West Coast gets more complicated. We are going to try to link the offshore clubs by using sustainable transport - horses, runners and bicycles to pass the baton on,' said Sue. Out on the wa-

ter, skiff crews will also be turning filmmakers capturing footage on GoPros for a film destined for ocean and outdoor festival screens and will also be doing their bit to save the planet - taking water samples for micro-plastics.

The ambitious relay, starting from Greta in April and ending six months later at Loch Tummel, will be part of the Year of Coast and Waters 2020 celebrations and marks the 10th anniversary of the Scottish Coastal Rowing Association (SCRA).

May will see the start of the Argyll section, with the Mid-Argyll Rowing Club coming through Crinan then up the coast to Oban, taking in Craignish. They hope to have a skiff ready by then, said Sue. Other clubs in that section include Seil, Luing, Oban, Mull, Iona, Tiree, Appin, Glencoe and Fort William.

The expedition's progress can be followed on a dedicated website and RowAroundScotland Facebook page.



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Winter Festival magic

Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

editor@obantimes.co.uk



Winter is well and truly here now, so it's time to embrace it and get the woolly hats and gloves out and the fire on. I'm starting to get excited about Christmas too – six weeks today, and there is so much to look forward to before that.

I've got a busy weekend ahead helping at Oban Winter Bricks, the Lego exhibition, in St Columba's Cathedral Hall, which was amazing last year. I'm astounded at what can be produced with a few wee bricks stuck together and I can't wait to see what's on show this year. It's definitely not just for children.

On Sunday, I have a very relaxing afternoon planned attending the Christmas flower arranging demonstration in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, titled Season of Magic. I always enjoy watching the flower arrangements appear as they are breathtaking and with luck I might win one.

WHERE IS THIS?



The afternoon tea is always second to none as well and, with the proceeds going to Friends of Oban Hospice, it rounds off the afternoon knowing it's all for a good cause.

These are only what I'm doing this weekend, but with the start of the Winter Festival, the choice of how to spend your weekend is endless. In fact, too many for me to include here, so grab yourself a copy of the programme which is in shops all over town or have a look online and see what takes your fancy.

The photograph last week was taken at the Rockfield Centre last year, this week's is slightly more difficult and might keep you guessing.

Have your say on Dunbeg proposal

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



People interested in what could be coming next as part of the major Dunbeg development plan are being invited to have their say at a public meeting tonight (November 14).

The meeting is the first of two being held by Link Group Ltd before more plans are put to Argyll and Bute Council.

The consultation session starts at Dunbeg Primary School at 4.15pm and runs until 8pm. The second meeting, on December 5, will run between the same times.

Listed under prospective mixed use are shops and services, a hotel, pub, takeaways, community facilities, a new primary school and a roundabout on the A85.

Both public events will include a presentation of the possible development with an



opportunity for discussion.

Comments can also be sent to DM Hall, The Mill, Bridge of Allan, Stirling, FK9 4JS or email paul.houghton@dmhall.co.uk before December 19.

Comments sent in at this stage are not representations to planners – an opportunity to do that will happen only if Link Group Ltd goes ahead

with submitting a formal planning application.

In January this year, The Oban Times reported that construction work on phase three of the Dunbeg Development Corridor Masterplan officially got off the ground with a sod-cutting event at the site, which will feature 600 new homes.

Listed under prospective mixed use are shops and services, a hotel, pub, takeaways, community facilities, a new primary school and a roundabout on the A85.

The project, approved by Argyll and Bute Council in May 2017, is being supported by the Scottish Government with £35.5 million from the Affordable Housing Supply Programme.

The plan is to put Dunbeg on the map as a sought-after location, transforming that area into a family-orientated, vibrant and sustainable rural place.

HAVE YOUR SAY
email us at editor@obantimes.co.uk



Ian Blackford

SNP candidate for Ross, Skye & Lochaber

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PUBLIC MEETING

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Bill Leech and Fergus Gillanders from Oban War and Peace Museum and Gordon and Jane Thomson. 17_t45_WarMuseum01

Museum welcomes special visitor

A couple from Grantown-on-Spey received a shock when they walked into the Oban War and Peace Museum on Tuesday morning, writes David McPhee.

Little did they know, they were the museum's 700,000th visitor.

Gordon and Jane Thomson were gifted a quaich, donated by The

Iona Shop, to mark the milestone.

The couple, who were in Oban for a short holiday, said they were 'shocked' to receive the silverware.

Bill Leech, the museum's curator, said it was 'amazing' to hit the 700,000 figure. He added: '33,000 people are expected to have come through the door be-

fore the end of November. It is all volunteer-run and we are dependant on our "Watch Keepers".

'We are celebrating our 25th anniversary next year, on the back of the Oban War Exhibition, which was only going to be temporary. We have changed our title and home a few times, but we are still going.'

On-street parking woes in Oban

by David McPhee
dmcph@obantimes.co.uk



On-street parking in Oban has been an issue since the new parking charges came into play last year.

The lack of free parking and no long-stay provision has resulted in drivers leaving their vehicles in residential areas to the dismay of fed-up residents.

Now the problem has again been raised by residents living near Oban High School saying the difficulties are being exacerbated due to teachers and pupils parking outside their homes, instead of in the school's car park.

Willie Rodger issued plea to people on social media, saying: 'Will the folk using Sinclair Dr, Quarry Rd and Miller Rd for free all day parking please spare a thought for the residents of the area? If you must park there, at least do it with some consideration.'

'I know this sounds like a "first world problem", but some of us aren't that mobile and walking causes excruciating pain so ending up parked a kilometre from home isn't just an inconvenience, it's detrimental to health and wellbeing.'

Some comments highlighted Oban High School teachers

'The teachers have to stop parking at Miller Road'

and pupils parking there.

At the May meeting of Oban Community Council, Councillor Roddy McCuish stated: "The teachers have to stop parking at Miller Road. They have a car park with 185 spaces there."

Speaking to The Oban Times, Mr Rodger added: 'I park in Sinclair Drive and on

occasion we have teachers or pupils parking there but it's mainly folk who work further into the town who take up all the available spaces, leaving nowhere for the residents to park, not to mention random folk parking up for anything up to a fortnight and heading off towards the ferry.'

Mr Rodger said there had always been a few people parking there, but it has become worse since the Lochavullin car park started charging.

He added: 'I've put in an application to get a disabled spot but it takes ages.'

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'We will remind staff that parking is available in the school grounds.'

Replying to Mr Rodgers directly, Oban High School said: 'We are sorry to hear this is still happening. All staff will be reminded not to park in residential car parks.'

Waverley on the road – corrections

In last week's issue of The Oban Times, there was an issue with some of the times and dates of events organised by The Paddle Steamer Preservation Society, owners of Waverley, to support the Save The Waverley

appeal. The first event is in Helensburgh tonight, Thursday November 14, at 7pm, in the Commodore Hotel, with a talk on the Craigendoran Steamers and a large-scale model of PS Jeanie Deans on display.

Next is Inveraray, sponsored by Inveraray Inn. This event will take place

in the Inveraray Inn on Saturday November 23 from 11am-5pm.

Last in this tour is Oban, at the CalMac Ferry Terminal, on Saturday November 30, from 11am-4.30pm, with Waverley Souvenir sales, appeal merchandise, and including the large-scale model of RMS King George V.

Woman receives community payback order after admitting wilful fireraising in Oban

A woman who has been behind bars for more than seven months after setting fire to the common close in an Oban block of flats has been told she will not have to spend any more time in custody.

Jacinta Maclean-Black set fire to a pile of clothes and footwear outside a flat in a Miller Road block, where she previously lived, on April 1.

The fire quickly spread to the close, endangering the lives of people living there.

But when she appeared in court for sentencing on Friday, the 24-year-old was told she would be spared any further time in jail because she had already served the equivalent of a significant custodial sentence.

Maclean-Black poured accelerant over the items, which were piled outside a flat in the block occupied by two people, and set light to them.

As well as putting the lives of those in the flat, and the whole block, at risk, the fire also left the common close, flats within the block and the electricity supply badly damaged, as well as the clothes and footwear destroyed.

As well as a charge of wilful fireraising to the endangerment of life, Maclean-Black also admitted a separate charge of putting the lives of two young children at risk as a result of her actions.

At a hearing at Dumbarton Sheriff Court on Friday, Maclean-Black's solicitor said his client, had been assessed by social workers as 'very positive and optimistic for the future of this young lady'.

He told Sheriff William Gallacher: "There has been a very substantial improvement in this young woman – it really is night and day compared to April 2, when

she was first remanded. She has suffered with mental health issues and has struggled without support.

'These issues have now been diagnosed.'

The lawyer said Maclean-Black planned to move to the Falkirk area on her release from custody, and said support and accommodation would be available for her there.

Sheriff Gallacher imposed a community payback order which will see Maclean-Black supervised by social workers for 30 months. He also made it a specific conduct requirement for Maclean-Black to attend any mental health treatment required of her by her supervisor or clinicians.

Maclean-Black's punishment will be monitored at Falkirk Sheriff Court, where a review hearing will be held on January 31, 2020.



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Aid worker returns from mercy mission

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Aid worker John Murphy is back from the disaster zone Bahamas where he has been helping mend broken lives.

The maintenance man from Taynuilt spent one month on the hurricane-hit island of Abaco, co-ordinating and delivering emergency supplies but said the utter devastation he witnessed there made it feel more like a year.

Mr Murphy was in the Bahamas as part of an international disaster relief team organised by Christian charity Samaritan's Purse in response to the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian.

'It looked like a nuclear bomb had gone off. There was nothing left, it was just blown apart. Only 10 per cent of the houses were left. I didn't spend one dollar while I was there, there was absolutely nothing to spend it on.'

The charity uses funds pre-supported by Christian-giving to get volunteers out to where they are needed when disasters strike. In the past five years, John has served in Nepal after an earthquake, war-torn Iraq and in the Greek Islands helping refugees.



John Murphy.

Aid workers were being fed by charity World Kitchen, which was also feeding the disaster survivors.

'It was rice, tuna and chicken, tuna, rice and chicken and as many combinations of it that you could imagine, but we were grateful for it,' added Mr Murphy, who was working 14 to 16 hour days, seven days a week. His role was as logistics manager, responsible for moving aid, co-ordinating helicopters and planes to get help to where it was most needed, keeping track of deliveries and taking supply orders.

Cholera had been threatening but, thanks to a supply of fresh drinking water, an outbreak has so far been avoided, he said.

Even though he is home, the devastation he saw and stories he heard from survivors will stay with him.

'There were gusts of 243mph at some points. One man told me how he had been praying in the church when the roof blew off, then the walls and then the rest of the church. He and others were left clinging onto whatever they could. I won't forget those stories.'

Reunited in Taynuilt with wife Louise, he is re-adjusting to normal life again.

'It can be a bit overwhelming at first coming back from a place so utterly devastated and where so many lives have been ripped apart. It can be very emotional, but it's good to be home. I was only away for a month but it felt like a year,' he said.

Louise said: 'It's good to get my best friend back. It's a strange mix of emotions when he's away. I'm enormously proud of the amazing work he does but hope he won't be called away for another while, giving us time to get his kit washed and bag packed again!'

To support the work of Samaritan's Purse go to samaritans-purse.org.uk to make a donation.



John said the island of Abaco was devastated by the hurricane.

Quick hit hopes for congested Tobermory

Quick hits and short-term fixes for Tobermory's parking problems were discussed at a positive working group meeting in the town, writes Kathie Griffiths.



Mull councillor Mary-Jean Devon, pictured, said everyone came away feeling council officers had listened to them at Friday's meeting.

Yellow lines and signs, including one banning campervans from parking in the Main Street were just some of the ideas suggested so far to tackle the busy tourist town's congestion in peak season times.

Timelines and expectations about solutions were also voiced, with top roads and parking officers from Argyll and Bute Council due to report back within three weeks on what can be done and with what budget before the 2020 season starts.

'It was a very positive meeting, we all came away feeling

the council was listening to us. We should hear back in the next two to three weeks what short-term fixes and quick hits can happen and what we can spend on the budget.

In the meantime, we are working out what our priorities will be,' said Councillor Devon.

The working group, set up in September to find a way of freeing up the saturated Main Street includes council infrastructure officers, police and community representatives. It followed warnings from town leaders that Tobermory was 'in crisis' and was 'waiting on an accident to happen'.

The entrance to Ledaig car park has also been flagged up as being dangerous and in need of improvement.

GETINTOUCH
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Married life takes off at Oban airport



Pilot Danny Fleming and bride Lizzie Farrell were joined by family and friends for their wedding celebration at Oban Airport last month. Danny, a member of Connel Flying Club, posted this message on the airport's Facebook: 'Thank you so much for making it possible.' The airport replied: 'Glad the weather was kind to you on your special day, it looked fantastic.' Photograph by Chloe Burns.

Cheesy potato and ham bake



Ingredients

- 700g potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 650g baby leeks, thickly sliced
- 500g ham, all visible fat removed, roughly chopped
- 4 medium eggs, lightly beaten
- 120g Red Leicester, grated

Method

1. Preheat your oven to 200°C/fan 180°C/gas 6. Boil the potatoes in a large pan for 10-12 minutes, adding the leeks for the final 2 minutes. Drain well and transfer to a baking dish. Add the ham and toss well.
2. Season the egg lightly with salt and freshly ground black pepper and pour over the potato mixture. Scatter over the cheese and sprinkle on a little more black pepper. Bake for 35-40 minutes, or until golden and set. Divide between 4 plates to serve.

Shorten your shopping list with an easy-make family bake

- 6 Syns per serving
- 1 hour 5 minutes
- Serves 4

Deduct 6 Syns if using Red Leicester as a Healthy Extra 'a' choice.

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OT

Communities gather to r

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Hundreds turned out in freezing sunshine on Sunday to remember lives lost in war.

Oban High School Pipe Band led the proud parade from the Corran Halls to the war memorial on the Esplanade, lined by the poppy-wearing crowd of all ages.

From uniformed Rainbows to Scouts, armed forces cadets to the fire service, police, the masons and local councillors, the long procession formed an impressive line.

Offshore, the crew of Oban lifeboat stood on the deck of the Mora Edith MacDonald with heads bowed during the two-minute silence.

The first wreath was laid by Neil Matheson, the new Deputy Lord-Lieutenant of Oban and surrounding area.

Sunday's service was led by Oban Sea Cadets chaplain, the Reverend Peter Park, who praised the community for supporting this year's Remembrance parade.

The parade and poppy day

was saved thanks to the Sea Cadets and Oban councillor Jim Lynch, who formed an Armistice Day committee after the event was at risk of not going ahead due to the Oban Royal British Legion closing in February this year.

Councillor Lynch said: 'I'm delighted it's gone ahead. There must have been about 400 people. The parade and appeal is a vital part of remembering. The support of the community, organisations and businesses is a guarantee that we will keep it happening.'

St John's Cathedral in Oban hosted a Remembrance Eucharist. On display was a drum head carried through the South African Boer War by Princess Louise's Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders 1st battalion. The drum head was discovered 23 years ago in the cathedral's cellar. The cathedral also has a plaque remembering the men of HMS Jason, a minesweeper sunk by a mine off the Coll coast on April 3, 1917.

The night before, many of the men had attended an evening

service at St John's and 25 were lost in the sinking.

Respects were paid at war memorials across the area, wide and far, including Appin, Taynuilt and Killin.

A Remembrance service was also organised by the Royal British Legion (RBL) Scotland Easdale Branch at Balvicar War Memorial on Seil. The Reverend Alastair MacLachlan led the service, the piper was DJ MacDougall and RBL standard-bearer was Donny Reynolds. As well as a wreath being laid on behalf of the RBL, wreaths were laid by the community and school children with a good number of islanders attending. Before the start of the service, crosses were also laid on the four recognised Commonwealth War Graves in old Kilbrandon cemetery. A service was also held in Kilbrandon Church by the Rev MacLachlan.

Over on Luing, at its Kilchattan War Memorial, a service was led by Easdale RBL chairman John Alexander and branch secretary Jean Alexander. Mr Alexander



Oban Pipe Band joined forces with Oban High School Pipe Band to lead the way to the war memorial in Oban on Sunday morning.

is also a Church of Scotland reader. The service was well attended by the community.

Mrs Alexander said: 'We are grateful to David Payn from Easdale Island who played the Last Post and Reveille. Michael Fothergill from Luing fire service was standard-bearer and wreaths were laid by Sandy Shairst on behalf of the legion. Ian Cruickshanks laid a wreath on behalf of the fire service and Michael Barlow, chairman of Luing Community Council, also laid a wreath. A good number of the community attended and a service also took place in Kilchattan Church.'



Sea Cadets collect for this year's Poppy Appeal in Oban.



Right, Oban standard bearer.

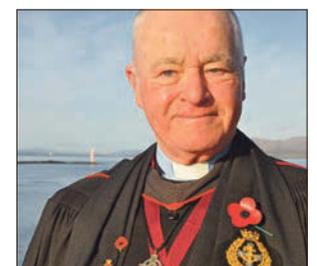


Pictured at Appin Parish Church on Sunday are piper Jamie MacGregor, the Reverend Dr Iain Barclay, minister of Appin and Lismore, Appin lead volunteer firefighter Ian MacCorquodale and Robert Black, formerly of Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

Photograph: Euan Paterson



Deputy Lord-Lieutenant for Oban and the surrounding area Neil Matheson lays the first wreath.



Above, Oban Sea Cadets' chaplain, the Reverend Peter Park, led Sunday's Remembrance at the war memorial.



Left, Killin remembers.

Photograph: Ron Allner

Get in to the Christmas spirit with festive cocktails at

Bar Rio

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Remember their war dead



Provost of St John's Cathedral, the Very Reverend Margi Campbell with the Boer War drum head found in its cellar 23 years ago.

Right, Seil remembered at a special service on Sunday.



Below, Luing remembers.



The Last Post was Matthew Huston.



The Sea Cadets helped organise the event.



Oban councillors and community councillors paid their respects.



Guides, Brownies, Rainbows and Scouts were all represented on the day.



Armed forces cadets were well turned out.

Easdale helps pupils understand 'place in history'

Exactly 100 years on from the first observed silence of Remembrance, more than 70 community members, teachers, students and parents gathered on Monday November 11 at Easdale Primary to observe this silence once again, writes Britt Doughty-Godchaux.

The service marked the culmination of weeks of research, learning and sharing of stories about local experiences in past conflicts. According to Royal British Legion member Ron Hetherington: 'You have to make it real so they're not just names on a wall.'

Students connected with



Youngsters helped research stories.

local service-people and historians to uncover stories of Seil in wartime. Among them, Colonel Tim Sinclair, historian Helen Glennie and Donny Reynolds, former

member of the RAF. Mr Reynolds, who served as standard-bearer in Monday's service, proudly recounted how one student had become his assistant. Mr Reynolds explained: 'These kids are the future.'

From the head teacher of 1919 who had served in the First World War and returned, to today's head teacher, Judith Frost, Easdale school history made the words on the children's Scottish poppy badges that much more poignant: 'Lest we forget.' 'We will not forget,' said Ms Frost to those gathered. 'The children will use their place in history to make a better future.'

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OT

Mull remembered...

by Stephanie Cope
editor@obantimes.co.uk

We pulled our jackets closer as MV Loch Linnhe docked at Tobermory on Saturday (November 9). Despite the bitter wind, 15 onlookers awaited the casting of a poppy wreath into the Sound of Mull at 1pm.

As we put to sea, local organiser Andrena Duffin spoke about the 'Flower-class' corvettes. During the Second World War Battle of the Atlantic, these nimble vessels protected convoys against submarine attack. Many corvettes passed through the Royal Navy's Anti-Submarine Training School in Tobermory, under the watchful command of Admiral Gilbert Owen Stephenson. Stevenson is famed for being firm with his men. Yet, touchingly, Mrs Duffin recalled his apparent delight in teasing the local children.

As we levelled with Rubhanan Gall, all ascended to the upper deck. The engine idled and the horn signalled



Mull Remembers was held at the Tobermory Harbour Building, Taigh Solais. All photographs: Stephanie Cope

two minutes of silence. Following a reading from War Memorials Officer Maj (LF) James McWilliam, a poppy wreath was laid mid-channel to honour the Atlantic convoys. Caught in the low beam of the winter sun, the petals glowed crimson as they slid from view.

Many attendees were linked to the Argyll and Sutherland

Highlanders Regiment. Most had lost relatives to conflict. Affected by the 1947 Palestine War, during which he worked with maxillofacial casualties, Poppyscotland seller Col (LF) Ken Walker now advocates mental health support for service personnel and their families. He has spent a decade fundraising for Combat Stress, a charity dedicated to

this cause. Asked why he has maintained involvement with the wreath-casting service for 20 years, Col (LF) Walker responded: 'As veterans, we have this comradeship that stays forever. You never lose it.'

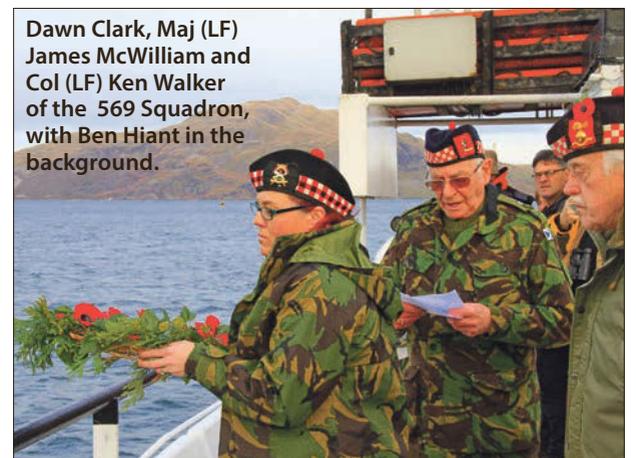
Returning to Tobermory, Maj (LF) McWilliam handed me his inventory of local war memorials. Leafing through its pages, I was struck afresh by the silent columns of names – and filled with sadness that there were so many.

At 7pm that evening, a Mull Remembers event took place at Tobermory Harbour Building, at Ledaig car park.

I joined Mary-Jean Devon, Councillor for Oban South and the Isles, in a bustling Harbour Building foyer. She explained that following the success of last year's First World War centenary event, Tobermory High School students were keen to restate their message of remembrance, inclusivity and peace.

The school pipe band opened with a welcome from senior leaders Mairi and Daisy. Throughout the service, war-time photographs illuminated Taigh Solais.

Former Marine Alastair James MacLeod recited For the Fallen, followed by The Last Journey, which was performed by the school's singing



Dawn Clark, Maj (LF) James McWilliam and Col (LF) Ken Walker of the 569 Squadron, with Ben Hiant in the background.



Wreaths laid at Tobermory War Memorial; Sgt Millie Clark, promoted last year for services to poppy selling, keeps a close eye on both national security and sandwiches; and CalMac supported the mid channel wreath-laying service by offering free passage to attendees.

group. As Caleb read the closing lines of All Quiet on the Western Front, the timeless smiles of young men lit the whitewashed walls above.

Coisir og Mhuile, conducted by Janet Campbell, sang an emotional Chi mi Muile, and Mull's Natural Voices Choir delivered Danny Boy with gentle, dignified candour.

Perhaps the most moving words were spoken by Jack Degnan, former teacher of Kintra's Private Robbie McLaren, who died fighting in Afghanistan during the summer of 2009. This beautifully-written tribute, composed for a man of just 20, shone bitter-sweet with affection, pride and the very highest regard.

After recounting their 2018

visit to Ypres, and delivering a poignant reading of Lament, Tobermory's young people spoke the names of Mull's fallen. The horn of the RNLI's Elizabeth Fairlie Ramsey marked two minutes of silence, before Holly, accompanied by the pipe band, performed Going Home. The Reverend Liz Gibson gave a vote of thanks, closing the service with a prayer.

I'll finish with the thoughts of Connor, joint deputy senior leader, who recently visited the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum. Waiting together at Taigh Solais, I asked what he had taken from this visit. He said: 'As a generation, we need to learn from history to avoid repeating it.'



The procession approaches the Western Isles Hotel, which was given over to the command of Admiral Stephenson during the Second World War.



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Night climbers wanted to help Oban charity

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A dad who experienced the loss of two baby girls is calling for people to join him on a night climb of Ben Nevis.

Andrew Simpson, who is a co-founder of Anam Cara Fasgadh providing respite accommodation for bereaved families, will be climbing 1,345 metres above sea level the weekend before Fathers' Day 2020.

Funds raised from the hike will go towards Anam Cara Fasgadh opening its first respite caravan at Tralee Bay. The ultimate aim is to have a network of holiday homes and hopes are that the Tralee one will open next year.

The Big Steps for Small Feet hike has been organised by another of the charity's trustees, Michael McGuire from

Fort William, in memory of his stillborn son Kyle.

It aims to raise funds for 10 charities working to support bereaved families every day. As well as Anam Cara Fasgadh, the others are Bliss, Child Bereavement UK, The Lullaby Trust, Sands (Stillbirth and neonatal death charity), Sands Lothians, Star for Harris, Twins Trust, Together for Short Lives and Tommy's.

Andrew, who lives in Appin with his wife Susan and daughters Charis and Niamh, will set off up Ben Nevis with his fellow walkers on the evening on Saturday June 13, 2020, just after sunset and should be at the summit to experience the sunrise. Only moonlight and torches will light their way.

A team from Not Just Desserts at Barcaldine has

also signed up to raise funds for Anam Cara Fasgadh.

Andrew's wife and fellow charity founder Susan said: 'It's a very exciting collaboration for us.

'We've already been approached by other charities wanting to get involved if we do another hike in 2021.

'The more walkers we get signed up, the more the charities will benefit. Each charity needed at least 10 walkers and Anam Cara Fasgadh has surpassed that so far but we still want to hear from more people to come and join us so we get a full team.'

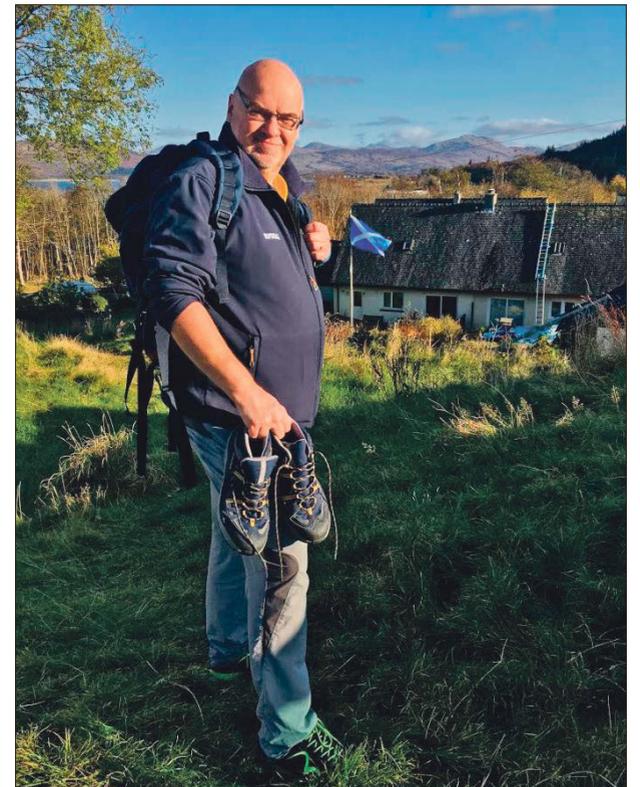
A line-up of other fundraising events are also being planned for next year, including a spring ceilidh at The View in Oban.

'It's heads down so we can bring in funds and grants so we can hopefully open

our first respite caravan at Tralee next year,' said Susan.

Reaching the top will be celebrated with a team breakfast.

Interested in taking part? Find out more by visiting discoveradventure.com/challenges/big-steps-for-small-feet



Andrew Simpson is looking for fellow walkers to join him on the fundraising climb next year.

Oban venue set to benefit from six-figure refurbishment

It is going to be a busy festive period for The View, with the Oban venue set to benefit from a six-figure refurbishment, writes David McPhee.

The View will close early next year in order for the development to be carried out, which will see the existing dance floor and kitchen area transformed into four spaces that can operate semi-independently.

This will include recessing the front windows to form a covered balcony; relocation of both bars and stage area; formation of a dedicated function room with a standing capacity of 230; as well as the reinstatement of a kitchen.

Daniel MacIntyre, Drew Walker and Andrew Buchanan took over The View 18 months ago. The Oban men now want to make the most of all of the space within and open the venue seven days a week.

Speaking about the development, Daniel MacIntyre said: 'We'll continue to run our popular ceilidh and club nights, but we are actively collaborating with others to create new remarkable products and services that will ensure our venue becomes a



One of the plans for The View, Oban

destination of choice for locals, our business community, visitors, events and wedding organisers.

'Our work with community groups and charities will also continue, as we're passionate about adding to our running total of £7,500 raised for local and national causes.'

The plans have been supported by the town's tourism and business industries.

Andrew Spence, chief executive of BID4Oban, said: 'The property is an important asset to the town and the proposed plans will enhance and improve the ambience for all users.'

Linda Battison, director of Oban and Lorn Tourism Alliance, added: 'The View is

a popular and well-run visitor attraction which encourages visitors to stay longer and spend more. I am supportive of any business that wishes to invest and expand.'

The planning application to form a covered terrace in The View has received one objection from an immediate neighbour.

On top of their own plans, Daniel, Drew and Andrew are keen to enhance Oban's reputation as a holiday destination outwith the summer months.

'We cannot change this in isolation, so our own plans need to dovetail with other businesses, including Oban's Business Improvement District, Oban a University Town initiative, and OLTA.'

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OT

BBC Alba funds will see Gaelic youth programmes

BBC Alba is one of six UK broadcasters to have secured funding from the new Young Audiences Content Fund (YACF), which is managed by the British Film Industry and made possible with up to £57 million of government funding.

Money is in place for two live action specials for eight- to 11-year-olds in Scottish Gaelic, helping to ensure this key cultural community is celebrated in young people's programming and young Gaelic-speaking children are reflected on screen.

This comes as the YACF announces its first slate of production and development awards, indicating the significant positive impact it is having on the sector. In just six months, the fund is co-funding a mix of nine series and specials, across six broadcasters: Channel 5, ITV, BBC Alba, S4C, TG4 and Sky.

Police were 'desperate' say Oban climate rebels

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Oban rebels say the Metropolitan Police were 'desperate' when they banned a mass climate protest in London last month.

More than 400 Extinction Rebellion (XR) activists from round the UK were arrested during the four-day ban in London last month that has now been ruled unlawful by the High Court.

There was only one arrest from Oban, but that happened before the ban, implemented under Section 14 of the Public Order Act and covering the whole of London, came into effect at 9pm on Monday October 14, lasting until 6pm on Friday October 18.

Those who were arrested and not charged with other offences can now sue the



Met for false imprisonment and may be entitled to compensation.

The landmark judgement follows a judicial review into the legality of the Met's attempt to shut down all Extinction Rebellion protests during most of the second week of the autumn rebellion.

People from Oban were among those who joined the Extinction Rebellion protest in London.

Act. The decision to impose the condition on October 14, 2019, will be quashed.'

A spokesperson for XR Oban said: 'The increasing numbers of people joining the rebellion makes policing difficult. The Section 14 ban has correctly been proved to be illegal. It was a desperate attempt to contain this peaceful and legal demonstration.'

'Perhaps the police would be better employed asking that the government listens to the people and their concerns rather than trying to stop something that will not be going away. This issues affects all of us, the damage to our planet and impact on our climate is predicted to

escalate and soon. We have nowhere else to go so we must act now.'

The spokesperson added: 'Extinction Rebellion believes that the government's inability to give this matter the urgency it demands means there is no choice now but to rebel. At the heart of this rebellion is the principle of non-violence and the desire to create new and more effective structures for how we make decisions and move forward.'

'Millions of people are concerned and therefore attracted to these values and the need for urgent action. In fact a recent YouGov report stated that the environment is now the second most important issue for 18- to 24-year-olds. No wonder. Their lives will be massively impacted by the changes which are coming, unless action is taken now.'

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Santa will be visiting Rockfield on November 24.

Elves help out Santa...donate a gift for an adult or child

Santa's Elves at The Rockfield Centre are hoping people can help them by donating Christmas presents for those who are less fortunate.

The elves will be at the community centre huts on Saturday November 16 from noon to 4pm. They have asked for as many gifts as possible, large or small, marking donations suitable for a child or an adult.

There will be the chance to meet the elves and have some fun, post your Santa letter and take part in children's activities on the day. Refreshments and deli-

cious homebaking will be available.

Lyn Connelly from The Rockfield Centre said: 'This is a chance for the generous people of our community to spread their Christmas spirit by donating a gift to those less fortunate, in the run-up to Santa arriving at the grotto at Rockfield on Sunday November 24.'

'I am hoping Oban will rally round yet again and offer a great response to this event.'

Oban Communities Trust will distribute the gifts through local support agencies.

CalMac helps educate about remembrance

Poppyscotland has drafted in ferry operator CalMac to help educate a new generation of young Scots about remembrance.

For the past six months, Poppyscotland's Bud truck – a mobile museum – has been inspiring schools, youth groups and the wider public across Scotland to learn more about the history and heritage of the poppy.

CalMac is helping them bring veterans' stories to young audiences across its 49 island and remote mainland locations.

Poppyscotland's head of fundraising Gordon Michie said: 'We would like to express our sincere thanks for the support CalMac is providing to Poppyscotland. Reaching remote parts of Scotland is a key objective of Bud and this new partnership with CalMac will ensure that those living in island communities can share their stories of reflection and hope, and learn more about the history and heritage of the poppy.'

Bud was funded by £731,200 from the lottery and a £730,000 by the Chancellor using LIBOR funds.

Project Kraken aims to keep coastline safe

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Marine workers, sailors and skiffies around the Argyll coast and the rest of the UK are being asked to be the eyes of a major enforcement operation tackling serious criminals.

Project Kraken, covering more than 11,000 miles of British mainland coastline plus its islands, wants water-users to be on look-out, reporting anything suspicious that they might spot.

Unusual

Boats arriving at unusual times or to isolated locations, a nervous crew, people making attempts to signal or guide boats offshore, large cash payments offered for maritime equipment and people being somewhere they should not be are just some of the activities being flagged up to would-be watchers.

Last month, members of Border Force were at a skiff gathering on Loch Tummel, attended by Seil and Loch Awe skiff clubs as well as others across the whole of Scotland, including Uist and Orkney, to raise awareness.

The National Crime Agency and the National Police Chiefs' Council are also part of the joint law enforcement targeting maritime threats to the UK.

'No matter how trivial it



Water users are being asked to keep an eye out for any unusual activities spotted along our coastline.

may seem, if it looks out of the ordinary, we want to know about it,' said a Border Force spokesman.

Types of crime range from people smuggling to drugs. So far, other than routine awareness raising, there have been no Project Kraken arrests or seizures in the Argyll and Bute area.

Anyone who does see unusual or suspicious activity should report it to police on

101 or anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 and quote Kraken.

People are warned not to approach individuals or groups directly. In an emergency, they should call 999.

YOURSTORY

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Inspectors find strength but room for improvement at Lochnell

Lochnell Primary School and pre-five nursery unit needs additional support and time to carry out improvements, according to an Education Scotland inspection.

The check-up, which took place on September 9, also found a number of key strengths.

The school recently appointed a new head teacher, who was due to start on Monday November 11.

The key strengths of the school outlined in the report are: 'The positive and caring relationships between children, their peers and all staff. Children are proud of their school and are confident talking about their experiences.'

'The strong teamwork and dedication of staff in the school and nursery. This has helped create a welcoming, nurturing and calm environment where children are happy and motivated to learn.'

'The effective partnership works between staff, parents and the wider community to enhance children's learning



A new head teacher was due to start at Lochnell this week.

experiences. This is contributing to good levels of attainment and achievement for children in the school.'

The following areas that would benefit from improvements were: 'The need for clear strategic direction and improved approaches to leadership at all levels across the school and nursery.'

'Develop robust approaches to evaluating the work of the school and nursery supported by effective planning, tracking and monitoring.'

'Develop approaches to learning and teaching to ensure that all children are suitably challenged and make

the best possible progress, leading to continued improvements in attainment.'

'Continue to develop the curriculum, including health and wellbeing, to ensure relevance to the unique context of Lochnell Primary School.'

The report concluded: 'As a result of our inspection findings, we think the school and nursery needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. We will liaise with Argyll and Bute Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within one year.'

BLAS festival 2019

blas-festival.com Samhain 22-30 November



Friday 22 November - Dihaoine 22 Samhain
Astley Hall, Arisaig @ 7:30pm

Robert Robertson & Ross Wilson

(Tide Lines) with young musicians from Fèis Òigridh na Mara



Friday 29 November - Dihaoine 29 Samhain
Roybridge Village Hall @ 7:30pm

SIAN [Ceitlin LR Smith, Eilidh Cormack & Ellen MacDonald] and

Dawn & Margie Beaton in concert



Saturday 30 November - Disathairne 30 Samhain
Shielbridge Village Hall, Acharacle @ 7:30pm

Gary Innes Band in concert featuring
Kim Carnie, Ryan Murphy, Ali Hutton & Rory Matheson



Saturday 30 November - Disathairne 30 Samhain
Ben Nevis Distillery, Fort William @ 7:30pm

Gaol no Gonadh? with Rachel Walker & Ewen Henderson
singing songs of love and loss presented by Jo MacDonald and
a cèilidh to follow with Lochaber Gaelic Choir



Information - www.blas-festival.com - fiosrachadh



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OT

Staying safe during winter months

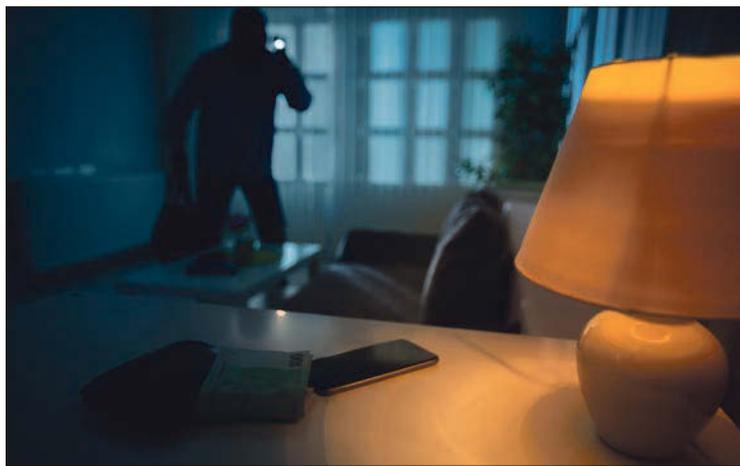
With darker nights and the clocks moving back an hour, police throughout Argyll and Bute are offering advice on two types of crime that often cause the most concern – how to protect your home against intruders and how to keep yourself safe when out and about.

While criminal activities in our area are at historically low levels, it is still the case that people can reduce the likelihood of being a victim of crime. In relation to home security, some simple good housekeeping measures can help to counter opportunist thieves.

On many occasions, criminals don't actually have to use force to break in at all because a door or window has been left insecure.

Don't leave keys in doors or in easy-to-find locations. In particular, car keys are often found with the result that householder's cars are stolen in addition to property from the home.

Cash, jewellery and small electrical items are most commonly stolen – so avoid keeping large sums of money and consider a secure storage



There are simple things you can do to protect your home.

location for all such valuable items.

Security lighting, alarms and good quality locks are a big deterrent and police stress that being a good neighbour and reporting any suspicious activity is also vital.

Inspector Mark Stephen also draws attention to unexpected callers, who often claim to be from a utility company or the council and wish access to your home for some reason.

He said: "These criminals can be very convincing but people should not feel any obligation to let them in. Ask for

identification, call the company they claim to be from to confirm. If in any doubt, call the police by dialling 101 and we will attend. If you feel threatened or scared, immediately call 999. We would much rather attend a false alarm than have someone fall victim to doorstep crime."

In terms of staying safe when out and about, again your chances of becoming a victim of crime are low, but in general terms advice is to plan your journey, carry a charged mobile phone and be mindful of your surroundings and look confident about where

you are going. Be aware that the use of headphones can make you less aware of what is happening around you. Stick to well-lit, busy areas and avoid alleyways, parks or waste ground.

Inspector Stephen stresses that stranger attacks are very rare, saying: "Argyll and Bute is a safe place to live and work. If you have any particular concerns, officers are happy to provide guidance and reassurance. Our website contains lots of very useful advice, or if you prefer please call 101 and ask for a local officer to contact you."

Government launches review into planning

The need for planning permission could be removed for certain types of rural developments to help tackle depopulation and support local economies.



as food and drink, tourism, energy and the creative industries.

"That's why tackling depopulation and supporting the sustainability of

our rural communities is so important. Small-scale developments such as the conversion of agricultural buildings to deliver more homes in rural areas could automatically be given the go-ahead under a review of planning laws.

The development of larger operational farm buildings, including sheds and polytunnels could also be exempted.

The changes are being considered as part of a new action plan to implement a radical shake-up of planning laws. Removal of planning permission for developments that help address climate change is also being considered.

Planning minister Kevin Stewart, pictured, said: "Scotland's rural areas are a major source of growth, with environmental quality that underpins key sectors such

'I believe these reforms will deliver support work aimed at increasing the rural population, will support succession planning for farmers and will provide an opportunity for the planning system to positively contribute to the long-term sustainability of rural businesses and communities.'

The Scottish Government is currently seeking views on its sustainability appraisal of options for expanding Permitted Development Rights across 16 development types.

HAVE YOUR SAY
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MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

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Armistice day has passed for another year and, as it does every year, it brings a multitude of mixed emotions and conflicting feelings that surround the subject of war.

It is a sad reflection on the lack of progress mankind has made since we emerged from the swamps that war is as much a part of life now as ever it was.

However, it is part of life and, while it remains so and while its history and its current presence continues to have direct impact on how we live, those who have sacrificed themselves for us all should be honoured and remembered.

Tunes and songs relating to war make up a large part of the repertoire of musicians, but as we happily play and dance to these tunes, little do we think of their brutal and harrowing origins. This is conveyed well in the poem below.

Na Puirt Dannsaidh by Flora MacPhail

*Ceum an dannsaidh, òigrìdh àla inn
"Blàr an Somme", "Làraichean Arras",
"Beaumont Hamel" – fuinn an àmhghar,
Fuinn an iobairt, fuinn a' chràidh,
An dannsa siorraidh.*

*An danns' mu dheireadh
"An Eala Bhàn".*

The Dance Steps

*Dance steps, beautiful youth
"The Battle of the Somme", "The Ruins of Arras",
"The Taking of Beaumont Hamel" – tunes of pain,
Tunes of sacrifice, tunes of anguish,
The never-ending dance.
The last dance
"The White Swan".*

The recruitment of soldiers, while of course necessary, is another area where reality can be far divorced from the images created.

Deise Mheallta (Beguiling Apparel) by Flora MacPhail

*Thàinig saighdear spaideil don sgoil an-dè
Le dheise, 's le bhutain 's le bhoineid –
Gille gasta.
Tharraing e dealbh dhomh
Air tursan do threan cèin,
Cùirtean air mo chorraig
's dòigh-beatha eireachdail -
dealbh cho soilleir ris a' ghrèin.
A smart soldier came to the school yesterday
In uniform, buttons and bonnet –
A handsome young man.*

*He created for me an image
Of tours to foreign countries,
Training for trades,
Such a wonderful lifestyle –
A vision bright as the sun.*

*Ach cha tug e diog fhathast air marbhadh,
air peilearan chuireadh as do ghillean eile cheart cho snasail.
Cha tug e dealbh dhomh air deiseachan nan stròicean ragach
ruadh le fuil -
dòigh-bàs cho grannda dubh, dorcha sa th' againn.*

*But never yet did he mention the killing,
Of the bullets which would kill others –
Young men as handsome as himself.
He did not give me a vision
Of uniforms ragged and torn
Red with gore –
A way of death as ugly,
Black and dark as we can imagine.*

Regardless of the politics and the complexities in the background and history of war, respect should be shown to those who have risked all on the behalf of others and remembrance should be marked for those who have given all and cut their own lives short for the good of others.

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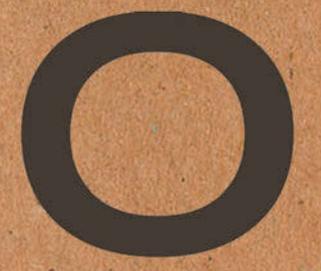
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Paramedic degree course set to boost patient care

A degree that enhances patient care and boosts training opportunities for budding paramedics will be delivered at five different universities across Scotland, including the University of the West of Scotland.

The Paramedic BSc degree reflects the growing importance of paramedics to Scottish healthcare, including more emphasis for paramedics to support people with long-term and chronic conditions, mental health issues and minor illness.

Caroline Lamb, NES chief executive, said: 'Paramedics are an increasingly important part of the mix of health and social care professionals. They're not only a key profession in the ambulance service, but also work across all the other NHS boards as well, helping people with a range of conditions.



'Over the years, their educational opportunities have steadily expanded to match their growing role. Expanding their training to degree-level programmes reflects the reality of what they can expect to face in their daily roles, and will provide them not only with these skills, but wider professional

opportunities as well.'

Pauline Howie, chief executive of the Scottish Ambulance Service, said: 'We are absolutely delighted to work in partnership with these universities. It is exciting to know they will be educating new generations of paramedics who will enter the workforce armed with the

latest skills and trained to the highest standards.

'These changes not only increase our capacity for training more paramedics, helping us meet predictions for future demands of patients, but they support the delivery of integrated health and social care.'

The degree will be delivered

Public Health Minister Aileen Campbell announces a commitment to train 1,000 paramedics over five years on a visit to the Scottish Ambulance Service Training Academy.

at the following locations from September 2020, giving students access to new, enhanced and more localised training opportunities in a wider range of settings:

- University of the West of Scotland.
- Robert Gordon University.
- University of Stirling.
- Queen Margaret University.
- Glasgow Caledonian University.

Currently students study for a Diploma in Paramedic Practice at the Scottish Ambulance Academy (SAA) to become a paramedic and this course will continue to run to 2021.

There will also be the opportunity to study for the degree on a part-time basis. Glasgow Caledonian University, University of Stirling and Robert Gordon University have been running similar courses for

students wanting to become paramedics.

The first intake of students to the new course will take place in September 2020 while staff will continue to be recruited and trained via the SAA for other positions within the service, including ambulance technicians and ambulance care assistants.

Ms Howie added: 'Paramedics are carrying out more complex clinical procedures which used to only take place in a hospital environment.

'The BSc in Paramedic Science will enhance the skills of our paramedics, allowing them to treat more patients with complex needs in an out-of-hospital environment. The geographical spread of the universities will allow students to study for the degree at a location near to their home or desired location.'

Highlands and Islands businesses are never short of creative solutions and innovative ideas! But for many small businesses, lack of technical expertise and the need to prioritise resources means innovation sometimes takes a back seat to business as usual.

Academics often have the solutions to the technical challenges your business is trying to solve, and Co-Innovate could be the key to unlocking that expertise.

As an innovation support programme for West Highland and Argyll and the Isles businesses, Co-Innovate provides:

- A tailored matching service so you get access to the most appropriate academic expertise
- Help to recruit a project manager into your business to deliver your project over 12 months
- Grant funding to cover 50% of the project manager's salary

- Funding to fully cover the costs of 24 days of academic time on the project

Co-Innovate is supported by the EU under the Interreg VA Cross Border programme and is delivered in the Highlands and Islands by Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

As Co-Innovate is a cross-border initiative led by Intertrade Ireland, businesses in the eligible areas of Scotland* can benefit from Irish academic expertise. One business already making use of this fantastic opportunity is Ayrshire-based RUA Medical (pictured), which is collaborating with the Institute of Technology Sligo to develop coating technologies for implantable medical devices.

If you can't make the event but would still like more information, contact vicki.hazley@hient.co.uk or register your interest at www.co-innovateprogramme.eu

*SMEs in the following areas are eligible for Co-Innovate support: Western Isles, Skye and Lochalsh, Lochaber, Argyll and the Isles, Ayrshire and Arran, Dumfries and Galloway.

Funding and academic expertise for West Highland businesses



Co-Innovate representatives from HIE will be at our 'Around Lochaber in 80 Tables' event on the 19th November. We would love to talk to you about your ideas and whether you could be eligible.

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Visit: co-innovateprogramme.eu

The Co-Innovate Programme is supported by the EU's INTERREG VA Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)

BUSINESS NEWS

Oban beauty salon awarded five stars

Oban beauty salon Clare Pearson Hair & Make-up has been awarded recognition as a five-star salon and colour expert by The Good Salon Guide, the only independent guide to quality standards in hairdressing in the UK and Ireland.

The Good Salon Guide is the easiest and most reliable means of checking out the best salons in any area.

Recognised salons are visited and objectively assessed by top industry professionals, giving potential clients confidence in their choice. Salons are regularly reassessed to ensure standards are maintained.

Clare Pearson, the salon owner, said: 'Being a member of the Good Salon Guide shows we are a fantastic salon in every way.'

'It's great not only for our clients, but for our team to know the salon has reached such high standards. It makes us all very excited about the future of our salon.'



HIE grant for distillery

R&B Distillers, owner of the Isle of Raasay Distillery, has secured up to £200,000 investment from Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE).

The money will help fund bottling facilities and additional warehousing for the Isle of Raasay Gin and forthcoming Isle of Raasay Single Malt, helping to create up to five local jobs.

Distillery co-founder Alasdair Day said: 'This support from HIE for new warehouses and bottling facilities will ensure every drop of our spirit is matured and bottled locally while, crucially, supporting local island jobs in what is deemed a fragile rural economy.'

Region is proving magnet for visitors

The people behind a thriving tourism industry in the Highlands and Islands have been celebrating their success at a glittering awards ceremony.

Businesses and individuals working in the sector across the area were recognised at the Highlands and Islands Tourism Awards (HITA), which took place at the Macdonald Drumossie Hotel in Inverness recently.

One of the top awards handed out on the night was that of Highland Ambassador, which is particularly prestigious, defined as a 'representative of the highest rank'; the tourism ambassador is always someone who achieves success in their own business, but also gives their time and skills they have gained over many years of voluntary service to the industry.

This year, the winner was Anne Gracie Gunn of Skye. Anne has had a successful career in the tourism industry with her accommodation offerings – she is the owner of the Sonas Collection, a group of three stylish family-run boutique hotels on the Isle of Skye – and she has also won many awards and been part of many boards, including Skye Connect.

Other businesses celebrating on the night included the Sligachan Hotel on Skye, which won best bar/pub; Cowal Highland Gathering scooped best cultural event or festival, with Tìre Music Festival being commended; Etive restaurant in Oban scooped best restaurant experience, with The Pierhouse Hotel in Appin being commended; Isle of Raasay Distillery was named best visitor attraction; while Glenegedale House on the Isle of Islay won most hospitable B&B/guest house.

The region was given a boost earlier this year when it was listed as one of the top 10 places to visit in the world by Lonely Planet.

The high standard of hospitality on offer in the area now shows why it is held in such esteem across the globe, with entrepreneurs building on the success of the North Coast 500 and other ventures.

Rebecca Brooks, chairwoman of the Thistles



The winners of this year's Highland and Islands Tourism awards, which took place earlier this month were all smiles for the camera.

and a Scottish Tourist Board member, who opened the awards, said: 'As chair of the industry panel, I am constantly impressed and amazed by the quality and entrepreneurship of the Highlands and Islands, punching well above your weight every year.'

'The Highlands and Islands Tourism Awards continue to celebrate the very best of tourism and, on behalf of the Scottish Thistle Awards industry panel, I would like to congratulate all of the finalists.'

Laurence Young, chairman of the HITA board, also commented: 'In recent years, tourism has been thriving across the Highlands and Islands and it just gets more and more important for the economy and for communities.'

'Visitors are the lifeblood of remote and rural populations – and all those who work in tourism and support them are heroes in my eyes. That's why these awards are such a key

part of the tourism industry in the Highlands and Islands, and why it's absolutely imperative that we celebrate the effort, skill and success of those driving it forward.'

Lochaber MSP Kate Forbes, Scotland's minister for public finance and digital economy, addressed the audience at the ceremony. She said: 'We need to continue to invest in our unique culture and heritage infrastructure which is key to attracting visitors. In some of our remote and rural areas, you are the ones creating jobs, creating local employment and ensuring there is local economic growth.'

'We have a thriving tourism industry and there are real opportunities on the horizon – including the 2020 Year of Coast and Waters, to highlight those attributes.'

Winners of HITA awards – with the exception of the Highland Ambassador and Highland Rising Star – automatically qualify for a place in the nationals in March 2020.

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Majestic Line scoops Innovation in Tourism award

Specialist cruise company Majestic Line was delighted to win the Innovation in Tourism award at the Highlands and Islands Tourism Awards ceremony and dinner that took place in Inverness earlier this month.

Commenting on the award, the judges said that they 'loved this entry as it exceeded all aspects of the category criteria. True innovation, creativity based on customer experience and now achieving real growth – all after identification of a gap in the market. An inspirational example – this business has really captured the best of Scotland.'

Majestic Line's Andy Thoms said: 'In the year that we launched our fourth small cruise ship, we are delighted to receive this award for Innovation in Tourism.'

'The Glen Shiel has been designed specifically to cruise to St Kilda and incorporates all that we have learned from operating a fleet of small cruise ships over the past 15 years.'



'The Majestic Line vision is to introduce people to the fabulous scenery and food of Argyll with our crew providing genuine, warm Scottish hospitality. The atmosphere on board is informal and fun. The majority of our guests have never been to Scotland before and many are overwhelmed by the experience.'

Some return as often as 15 times to cruise with us again.'

Further commenting, the judges said: 'Providing a variety of cruises round the islands of Argyll and the Hebrides filled a gap in the market, now brought to life by Majestic Line. The story of the growth since its birth in 2004 turning beautifully crafted

The judges noted that the Majestic Line is 'an inspirational example – this business has really captured the best of Scotland'.

wooden-hull trawlers into fine cruising was inspired when taking excellence as their guide. Sustaining growth ambitions using those innovative ideas, to introduce mini cruises with gourmet food filled the gap, and saw the business grow to what it is today.'

The Innovation in Tourism category was sponsored by Highlands and Islands Enterprise and winning the award means that Majestic Line automatically becomes a finalist at the Scottish Thistle Awards in March 2020.

VISITUS
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HIE Stornoway staff join council staff at its HQ

Staff at Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) in Stornoway have joined Comhairle nan Eilean Siar at its headquarters on Sandwick Road.

HIE and Business Gateway are co-locating with the comhairle's economic development team at the public sector building.

The move will build on the collaborative approach HIE and the local authority have and will provide a central point to all the islands' business community.

The relocation will significantly reduce HIE's overhead costs while freeing up the privately-owned premises on James Street for other interested tenants.

Rachel Mackenzie, area manager at HIE's Outer Hebrides team, said: 'The move will not only benefit HIE, the comhairle and Business Gateway, but also the businesses, community bodies and social enterprises looking to access the services we provide.'

'Our focus is on delivering our key priorities of growing successful, productive and resilient businesses, creating the conditions for growth and building strong capable and resourceful communities.'

'This relocation gives us a unique opportunity to collaborate more and have a better offering for our clients.'

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Friends' offer to save historic Rum castle is rejected

An application by Kinloch Castle Friends' Association (KCFCA) for asset transfer of A-listed Kinloch Castle from the current owner, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), has been rejected.

KCFCA has expressed extreme disappointment at the decision, with a spokesperson saying: 'We are determined to continue to fight for the castle and the opportunities which our business plan provides to contribute to the economic regeneration of the island and the wider community. Our exploration of other funding mechanisms within the financial community has provided independent corroboration that our business plan is robust.'

KCFCA submitted the bid for asset transfer after SNH declared it had no further need for the castle, which at one time was run as an upmarket hotel with hostel facilities, providing accommodation for up to 56 people.

Since then, visitor numbers to the nature reserve have halved due to a lack of accommodation while doubling in neighbouring Eigg. Rum has also recently lost the services of a ranger as reduced visitor numbers made the post unviable. The ranger organised a wide variety of walks, talks and other events on the natural attractions for visitors.

Since its closure in 2013, the castle has deteriorated substantially, with repeated outbreaks of wet and dry rot, and water ingress. The original population also fell from 42 to a low of around 20 people.

It is estimated that restoration of the castle with increase in visitor numbers would create employment opportunities for up to 50 people at the castle but also for subsidiary businesses, such as the provision of outdoor experience activities.

SNH commissioned a feasibility report on the future of Kinloch Castle in 2016, and the conclusion was that a sustainable solution for the castle must be achieved: 'The cost of failure to the island and wider community, the present custodian, the public sector, central government and all other stakeholders is likely to be considerably more than the cost of success.'

Gamekeeper's daughter

Morvern Lines

IAIN THORNER

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'The past is a foreign country: they do things differently there.' The immortal first line to L P Hartley's *The Go-Between*, wistfully condenses the problems often associated with memory loss among the elderly. There was no such problem with Lochaline resident Mrs Elizabeth Wotherspoon's recall when I dropped in recently to ask about her childhood days in Morvern.

Elizabeth, or Betty as she is affectionately known locally, is the only surviving child of John and Elizabeth Munro.

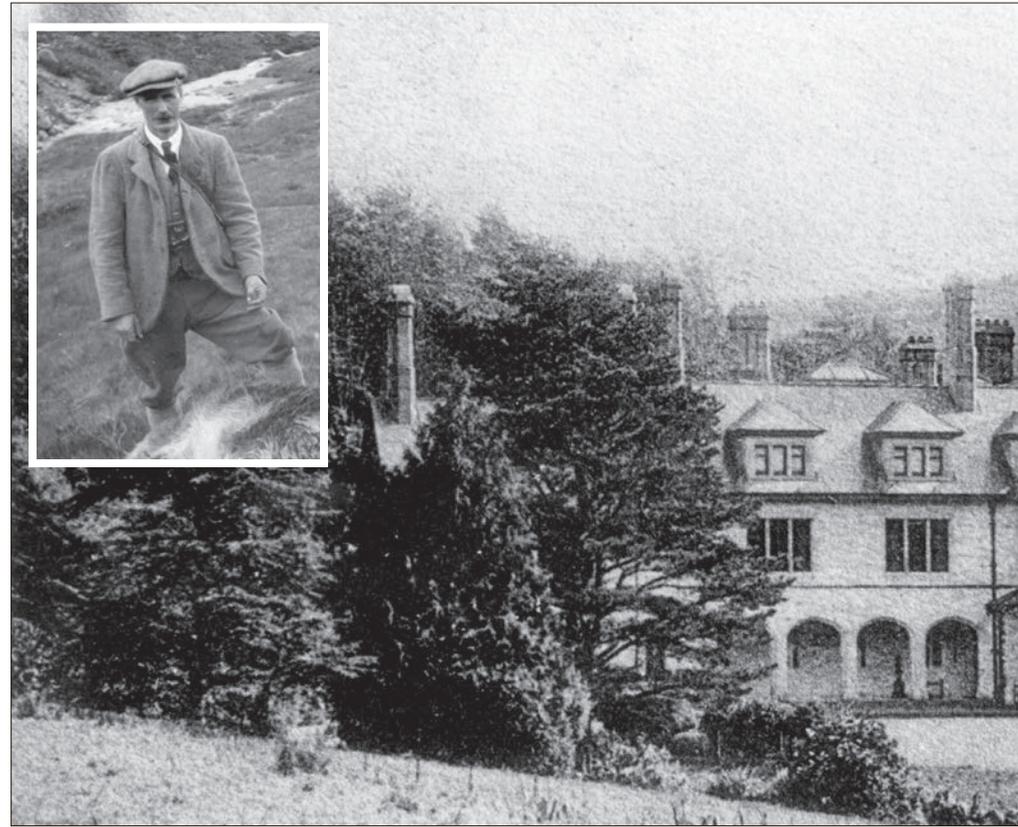
She was born on August 10, 1931, at Torr Molach, now a holiday home renamed Keeper's Cottage, on the 35,000-acre Ardtornish Estate where her father was head stalker and gamekeeper to Mr and Mrs Owen Hugh Smith, from 1931 until his death aged 62 in 1946.

One of 11 of a family, John came from a long line of Sutherland and Ross-shire shepherds, foresters and gamekeepers. His father was Alexander Munro, who lived with his wife and family at Corrievarkie – a lonely, roadless, spot on the south shores of Loch Erich in Inverness-shire.

One winter's day in the early 1900s, Alexander was out hind shooting on the moors when he came across a man lying unconscious in the snow. He managed to carry him home on his back where he was put to bed and given gruel and whisky. He came to his senses a few days later and inquired where he was and how he had got there. Elsie, Alexander's wife, told him and asked him what his name was. 'Robert Menzies,' he replied.

The stranger was Sir Robert Menzies, the owner of Castle Menzie Estate near Aberfeldy. Sir Robert made a full recovery and, in return for saving his life, he presented Alexander with a large house in Kingussie called Leask and provided the children, including Betty's father, with a first-class education. John, who had been head stalker for Col Grant of Rothiemurchus, came to Ardtornish on May 28, 1931, with his wife and family; his belongings included a tame hoodie-crow and his wage was £3 a week.

When the Munros arrived at Torr Molach, Betty's mother had almost lost her eyesight. At Corrievarkie she had enjoyed knitting, sewing and reading, often straining her eyes in poor



Main photograph: Ardtornish House where the Smith family lived during the fishing and stalking season. Photograph taken when the Munros lived at Torr Molach and supplied by Iain Thorner. **Inset left, Mr John Munro, Betty's father.** Photograph supplied by the Munro family. **Above right, Mrs Betty Wotherspoon in front of Torr Molach, her old home at Ardtornish.** Photograph Iain Thorner.

light long into the night. This, and living in the hills 1,200ft above sea level, constantly surrounded by snow for much of the year, is thought to have been the cause.

'What are your earliest recollections?' I asked Betty. 'Many,' she replied, and settled back in her chair by a glowing fire, to tell me some of them.

'Breaking the ice on the dogs' dishes on a winter's morning before going to school; my father had to look after about 14 black and brown retrievers and a magnificent deer hound that lived in the long concrete kennel below the house – which I hear is about to be converted into another holiday cottage – and in wooden buildings in a large fenced enclosure between Torr Molach and Rose Cottage. It was my job to help look after him. I loved handling and walking the young puppies as

they grew. The retrievers were used during the grouse and pheasant shooting season and the deer hound, called Tilt, for tracking wounded deer if they escaped into the woods.

'I can see in my mind's eye yet many of the farm workers' wives coming to the deer larder in the evening to get livers, tongues, hearts and kidneys when they heard dad was home from the hill with a stag in the trap. We had venison during the hind season and, come the spring, a fresh-run grilse or two from Mrs Maitland's Pool in the early morning. Straight home and into the frying-pan – they were delicious!

'Mrs Maitland's, named after Rosalind, sister of Gerard Craig Sellar who owned Ardtornish before the Smiths bought it, was dad's favourite pool on the River Aline. When the days got a bit longer and warmer we would ride up to Loch Tearnait on one of the stalking ponies to

A BAXTERS HAMPER FILLED WITH DELICIOUS SCOTTISH PRODUCE

Baxters Highland Village is offering a Scottish Field reader the chance to win a fabulous Baxters Taste of Speyside hamper filled with delicious produce.

The Baxters Taste of Speyside hamper features wonderful food and drink, sourced from the beautiful Speyside region where Baxters has been producing fine foods for over 150 years.

Baxters Hampers are great gifts at any time of year, but particularly at Christmas. Packed with flavour, they can be bought in-store at Baxters Highland Village, Fochabers, or online at www.shop.baxters.com. Prices range from £11 to £99 and options also include the Baxters Scottish Pantry Hamper, a delicious assortment of hand-picked Scottish speciality food products, and the Audrey Baxter Taster Box filled with jams, curds, relishes and fudge from the Audrey Baxter speciality range. Delivery to any UK address. Personalised gift card included.

For your chance to win, simply answer the question below.
In which Scottish town is Baxters Highland Village located?

The prize is a Baxters Taste of Speyside Hamper. Over 18s only, no cash alternative. Closing date 10 December 2019.

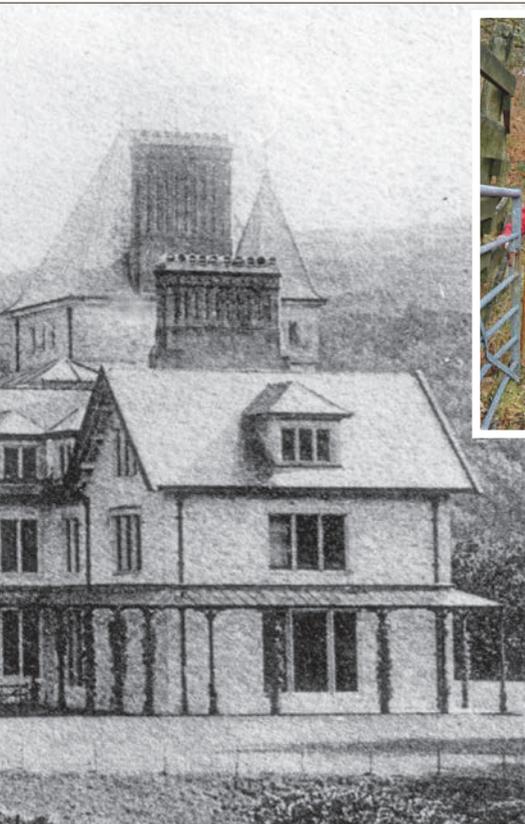
To enter, send separate entries (in the same envelope) with your name, address, telephone number and email address to Scottish Field Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL or enter at www.scottishfield.co.uk. Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is 10 December 2019. Winners drawn from all competitions also enter a prize to win a bottle of Whitetail Gin.

Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Scottish Field, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Usual Scottish Field rules apply. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition – your name, address, telephone number and email address. If you wish to receive news and offers from the third party running the competition, then please mark the words 'OPT IN' on your postcard entry. If you enter various competitions on one card, you will be opting in for every competition running. Unless you opt in to receive further marketing information we will only contact you if you win a prize in the competition. Scottish Field (Wyvex Media) will retain your information for a maximum of 3 months after the competition closes and then it will be deleted. If you have opted in to receive third party information, the data you have supplied will be passed to the third party company running the competition. This may be used for the purposes of the third party contacting you regarding new products and services for a period of 3 months, unless you agree to an extension with the third party company at a later date.



WIN

ter looks back



...specially-built cupboard high up in on one of the kitchen walls, well out of reach of we children. The allocation was one round per man, but occasionally he would find extra for target practice, but they often wondered how they would be able to defend the village of Lochaline if the enemy ever landed!

'Dad taught me to use a .22 rifle and said I wouldn't be able to consider myself a good shot until I could hit a pheasant in the neck. He could. I never managed, although I did shoot a deer once but seeing its blood on the snow put me off and I never killed another. He used a .303 rifle with open sights for hind shooting. Guests brought their own more expensive weapons. We had ferrets for bolting rabbits but I was always frightened they would bite my hand when I put food into their dishes.

'We never went on holiday. Dad had a motor-bike but no car. In any case, he couldn't leave the dogs, especially when they were whelping.

'Every year a puffer from the Clyde came with a cargo of coal for the estate. It beached below the first boathouse and from there it was delivered to every house in carts. Our allocation was two tons; I can see yet the sparks from the horses' shoes as the carter tried to turn his wagon on the small area beside Torr Molach. Sometimes he couldn't manage and dumped it further away which meant that we had to barrow it up to the coal shed which was an awful nuisance. Of course we had plenty of wood, but dad had to cut it which wasn't always easy during the season and when he had to work a six-and-a-half-day week. Often the coal allocation would run out a few months before the next load was delivered so we had to buy extra and found out just how expensive it was.'

To be continued next week.

fish for trout and look for seagulls' eggs on the little island in the middle of the loch.

'Dad would say, "I bet you I find the first one". He usually did but it wasn't difficult as dozens of birds used to nest there then. These little eggs were delicious fried in butter.

'Every morning during the week, all the stalkers, pony men and fishing ghillies would congregate in our kitchen to get their orders for the day which had been telephoned up from the big house. Dad was told by Mr Smith not to accept tips as his guests were too poor, but gave him a cheque for £11 in lieu at the season's end.

'Dad was allowed to keep the fat from the deer which he sold to a well-known firm of Edinburgh saddlers which helped he and mum to pay the bills in the lean times of the year. I remember Donald Cameron, Peter Fraser, Hughie Cameron, Jimmy MacGregor and Allan MacPherson - all fine men.

'My father was in charge of the Home Guard and, being the head keeper, looked after the ammunition, which was kept in a

DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



This photograph was taken at Oban Sealife Centre in 1993, hence the fluffy seal! But do you recognise the staff members or the children, and what was the special occasion? Let us know by emailing editor@obantimes.co.uk.



This photograph was taken in January 1993 to mark the opening of a new shinty clubhouse. But who are these handsome gents?



THE NORTH ARGYLL EVENTIDE HOME was opened by the people of Oban, in 1955, to provide a caring environment for the elderly of the area.

North Argyll Home is run by a local, independent, not-for-profit, charity and we rely on the generosity of local people, trusts, grant-making bodies and legacies to help ensure that we are able to continue our vital work.

If you would like to help or for more information please contact:

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LETTERS

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

Oban car parking concerns must be addressed urgently

The issue of car parking in Oban is one that simply will not go away.

We have reported on countless occasions in the past couple of years about the concerns voiced by residents and businesses across the town.

This week the topic has been raised once more but, unusually, not from the regular constituents.

Rather, there is anger that some staff and pupils at Oban High are shunning the new school's sizeable car park and opting instead to leave their vehicles in nearby residential streets.

This is proving frustrating, at best, for people living in the environs of the school but there are also, at worst, health implications for some elderly and infirm folk.

Argyll and Bute Council has said it will remind the school that this is not on. It must go further and enforce its rule.

Remembrance remains important for us all

All across the Argyll and the Isles area this weekend were commemoration services to acknowledge the sacrifice made by those servicemen and women who have fought and died for their country.

Young and old have come together in dignified and respectful assemblies, with parades and services.

While there are, sadly, a diminishing number of veterans from the two world wars, the ceremonies featured prominently today's youth uniformed units, including army cadets, sea cadets, Scouts and Guides.

It is gratifying to see them all participate in what is such an important annual event for us all.

Cyclists should adhere to same rules as motorists

Thank you for printing Tom Cullen's letter on November 7 about invisible cyclists, but I doubt very much if his appeal will make any difference to those concerned.

One day last year I was a passenger on the bus from Oban to Barcaldine and had a view of the road to the left and also forward through the bus windscreen. During the first half or so of the journey there was heavy and occasionally torrential rain with very limited visibility.

On the A828 main road between Benderloch and Barcaldine there is a long straight section with the Sustrans track immediately alongside, and about halfway along this stretch we caught up with a cyclist. As there was considerable on-coming traffic we had to wait quite a while before being able to overtake him and I was thus able to observe him.

The cyclist was a young-ish male, wearing a completely black outfit without any high-viz reflective material whatsoever. His cycle was also matt black with no mudguards, lights or reflective surfaces. On that morning, against the road and surroundings he was effectively camouflaged and pretty well invisible at any distance. Fortunately, a few minutes earlier the deluge had ceased or we may well not have seen him and there could have been a tragedy.

The Sustrans track was immediately adjacent, but the cyclist spurned it, preferring to risk his life by asserting his right to use the carriageway.

Cyclists using roads with speed limits above 30mph should be legally required to wear a high visibility garment and an approved brightly coloured cycling helmet at all times. The growing practice of using high intensity lights by day as well as by night should be encouraged. See and be seen must be the watchword.

The law relating to cycles and road cycling should be more rigorously enforced and amended where necessary to include compulsory bells, mudguards, efficient brakes, lights and so on. Dangerous and careless cycling should be as punishable in actual practice as careless and dangerous driving for motorists.

Cyclists using public roads should also hold at least third party insurance and the legal presumption of innocence on the part of cyclists should be removed and they should be regarded in the same way as other road users.

Given the huge (and welcome) increase in

YOUR PICTURES



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

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.

cycling as a pastime, but also bearing in mind the much greater speed and density of modern traffic, every effort should be made to separate cyclists from vehicles, especially on major roads. To this end, the provision of Sustrans and other cycle tracks should be accelerated and given priority. Where they clearly provide a viable alternative to roads (as in many places on the developing Oban to Fort William route), their use should be mandatory and legally enforced.

Future publicity for cycling should put much greater emphasis on associated legal obliga-

tions, consideration for other road users and, above all, on safety – for the sake of everyone, and this is a surely a crucial responsibility for anyone involved.

**John N Gosling
Barcaldine.**

People with diabetes should be given free flu jabs

Diabetes Scotland is urging everyone with diabetes to take up the offer of a free a flu jab through their local pharmacy or GP.



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This week's photograph, sent in by John Stewart earlier this year, seemed apt giving the cooling temperatures. The photograph shows the mountains with a dusting of snow, reflected beautifully in Loch Creran.

Flu can cause blood sugar levels to rise high - a natural response to fighting infection. But a serious infection can cause blood sugar levels to rise so high that they become dangerous for people with diabetes. This can lead to acute complications, which can often go unrecognised, and can even be fatal. The vaccine, which every person with diabetes is entitled to for free each year, is the most effective protection against flu. Without it, flu can also develop to pneumonia or bronchitis, which might require hospital admission.

It can take up to two weeks for a flu jab to

work. That's why it's essential that everyone at high risk of serious illness from flu gets vaccinated as soon as possible to eliminate the risk of life-threatening complications.

For more information about diabetes and flu, please visit the Diabetes UK website www.diabetes.org.uk/seasonal-flu

Angela Mitchell, Diabetes Scotland.

Make our own medicines?

Among the many concerns caused by you-know-what is the very real fear that hospitals and high street pharmacies will run out of vital medical supplies which would normally arrive from Malta, Hungary and Poland.

So why are generic medicines not made locally in Argyll? After all, calcium supplement tablets are made in Galashiels by a Japanese brewery company.

Glasgow Health Board built a brand new factory on the Western Infirmary/Glasgow University campus 50 years ago to manufacture some but not all of its requirements.

Not only did this save a great deal of money but the board also earned considerable extra income by selling its products to other health boards, including Argyll.

All in all, the costs of building and equipping the Hillhead factory proved to be a very sound investment indeed.

Duncan I Macdougall, Tarbert.

Beware of deer

With night falling earlier, deer are more likely to venture on to roadside verges during peak commuting times as they browse and feed.

The majority of collisions take place in early evening through to midnight, with another peak occurring from 6am to 9am. Particularly in these peak times, we advise motorists to slow down and watch for deer crossing roads.

■ Try not to suddenly swerve to avoid hitting a deer. A collision into oncoming traffic could be even worse.

■ Only brake and stop if there is no danger of being hit by following or oncoming traffic.

■ Be aware that more deer may cross after the one or two you first see.

■ After dark, use full beam where possible to illuminate the eyes of deer - but dip your headlights when you see a deer or other animal on the road to avoid startling it.

■ Report any deer-vehicle collisions to the police, who will deal with an injured deer. Do not approach an injured deer yourself as it may be dangerous.

Jamie Hammond, SNH deer officer.

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk



'S e am beul a labhras ach 's e an gnìomh a dhearbhas! Bidh geallaidhean tarraingeach gan tairginn dhuinn bho chaochladh thagraichean phoilitigeach thar nam beagan sheachdainean romhainn. Ach 's e an dùbhlàn co-dhùnadh dè na geallaidhean àraid a dh'fhaodadh 's dòcha a bhith air an coileanadh. Tha a' cheist dhuilich sin a' ciallachadh gum bheil tomhas de chun-nart anns a h-uile taghadh coitcheann, mar crannchur, ach gun teagamh 's e sochair phrìseil da-rìribh a th' anns a' chothrom bhòtaidh agus is còir feum a dhèanamh dheth daonnan.

Feumar aithneachadh cuideachd gum bheil a' mhòr-chuid de na tagraichean a thig air adhart a shìreadh taic an t-sluaigh gus a bhith nam Buill Pàrlamaid, a' dèanamh sin le làn-rùn cor na dùthcha a leasachadh gu ìre nas fheàrr. Bidh iad mothachail nach e obair fhurasta a tha gu bhith ann ma thèid an taghadh, agus feumaidh iad a bhith treun gu leòr gabhail ri càineadh theagamh gu math nas bitheanta na gheibh iad moladh.

'S e dreuchd urramach a th' ann a bhith a' riochdachadh

sluagh roinn taghaidh Pàrlamaid sam bith agus tha dleastanasan cudromach an lùib na h-obrach. Bidh e fìor a thaobh gach tagraiche a shoirbhicheas gum bi iad a' riochdachadh mòran dhaoine nach tug taic bhòt dhaibh, ach tha na daoine sin pailt cho airidh air aire agus cluas a' Bhuill Pàrlamaid ris an fheadhainn a chuir a-staigh e neo i.

Saoidh mi nach bi tagraiche sam bith a' seasamh nach eil mothachail nach gabh a h-uile neach riarachadh, agus thèid iarrtasan gu math mì-reusanta thuca bho àm gu àm.

Bhiodh dùil gum bi na geallaidhean a thairg an tagraiche a bhuannaicheas taghadh gu ìre mhòr nan sgàthan air rùintean luchd-bhòtaidh na roinne aig àm an taghaidh, ach feumaidh e / i sùil mhionaideach a chumail air mar a dh'fhaodas beachdan nan daoine atharrachadh rè beatha Pàrlamaid.

Cluinnear gu math tric daoine a' gearan gum bi am Ball Pàrlamaid aca a' bhòtadh gun mhothachadh air rùn an t-sluaigh as còir dha / dhi a bhith a' riochdachadh, agus fàgaidh leithid sin cuid cho

leamh is gun caill iad earbsa san t-siostam riaghlaidh agus gun sguir iad a bhòtadh.

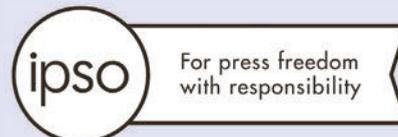
Tha sin air leth tàmailteach nuair a thachras e, oir tha na daoine sin a' trèigsinn na saorsa agus a' chothrom shònraichte a th' aca ann an dùthaich dheamocratach.

Chan eil farmad sam bith agam fhìn ris na Buill Pàrlamaid ach tha mi glè thoilichte gum bheil daoine comasach ann a tha deònach seasamh agus earbsa a chosnadh bhuainn. Ge b' e dè an taobh a dh'iarras sibhse bhòtadh tha mi 'n dòchas gun dèan sibh sin, agus tha mi 'n dòchas cuideachd gun tig na geallaidhean a fhuair sibh gu buil agus gu math na dùthcha gu leir!

Promises mean nothing until delivered and, while that truth makes voting in any election a matter of trust, and risk, the opportunity to make your choice is a precious privilege. Use it.

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

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



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

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DISTRICT NEWS

OBAN

The Ocean Explorer Centre is holding an Ocean Food for Christmas event as part of the Oban Winter Festival, which will be run by SAMS International Aquaculture Masters students.

The event will include a glow in the dark experience to demonstrate aquaponics (raising fish alongside plants), a fun drama where you get to join in, a recipe activity stand where you can find out where recipes come from and play a watery, fishing game, and an activity called Build your own fish farm.

And also find out more about why we should eat seaweed.

Entry is £3 for adults, but free for children. The event takes place at the Ocean Explorer Centre, Dunstaffnage, on Saturday November 16, from 11am to 3pm.

Hope Kitchen is launching a new community learning cafe today (Thursday November 14), from 10am to noon. The new class will be held every Thursday in Lorn House, Albany Street (next to Alba Crafts), and is free. All welcome. Tea and coffee will be provided.

The class will offer help with computers and IT, CVs and job searches, with reading and numbers, help with driving theory, preparation for CSCS card tests, internet access, as well as information about other learning. There will be one-to-one support available.

Oban Saints YFC is holding a race night tomorrow, November 15, in Soroba House, to raise money for the club funds.

Doors open at 7pm and there will be eight races along with a raffle. All the family are welcome.

BARCALDINE

A Christmas market and craft fair is being held at Not Just Desserts, Columba's Bay, Barcaldine, on Sunday November 24, 10am-3pm.

Tables are £8. Book now to guarantee a space by calling 01631 720096.

Ruairidh snaps up vouchers



This stunning photograph of Oban's spectacular fireworks display over the bay won Ruairidh Iain Galbraith £50 worth of LoveOban vouchers. Mr Galbraith, originally from Kilchrenan and now living in New Zealand, was presented the vouchers by Andy Spence, BID4Oban's chief executive officer.



LISMORE

A public meeting is taking place in the village hall tonight (November 14), at 7pm to discuss how Lismore can devise a communal response to climate change and come up with some practical plans that can be achieved communally to reduce the island's carbon footprint, and will help islanders prepare for the

future. For more information contact Douglas Thorburn on 07870 217848.

ISLAY AND JURA

Essential electricity upgrade work has started on Islay and Jura to make sure islanders get a robust and resilient power supply.

Scottish and Southern Electricity

Networks (SSEN) is investing approximately £1 million on refurbishing the existing 500 wooden electricity poles on Jura that have been delivering power for around 60 years.

That work should be finished by the end of November and is part of a multi-million-pound programme of investment to upgrade the electricity network serving

both islands. Salt water has been eroding equipment on the wooden pole circuit from Lagg towards Islay over the decades.

Ross Fenton, head of South Caledonia Region at Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks, said: 'These works form part of a long-term investment plan to provide a safe and reliable supply of electricity to our customers on the islands.'

But to carry out the work safely, it means the single-circuit that delivers electricity to Jura needs to be de-energised and mobile generators have to be used to keep lights on in island homes and keep communities connected.

'While we always look to minimise the use of back-up generation on our networks, in order to maintain power supplies we need to use mobile generators to keep the lights on and keep communities connected during this period.'

'We are committed to keeping disruption to a minimum and we'd like to thank our customers for their patience as our engineers complete these essential works as quickly as possible,' said Mr Fenton.

As Jura's electricity network serves as the main circuit powering Islay, SSEN will also run Bowmore Power Station from 7am to 8pm then switch back to the main line overnight until investment works on Jura are complete.

On Islay, SSEN is also proposing to install an additional wooden pole overhead line circuit between Port Askaig and Port Ellen to make the island's electricity network more resilient.

A SSEN spokesman said the maintenance work was not related to a 48-hour power cut on Colonsay in April, which was caused by a fault on the subsea cable between Islay and Colonsay.

ISLAY

Rising prices mean investing in whisky is an increasingly popular investment option. But the downside is that the market is now at



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At random

MARTIN LAING

mlaing@obantimes.co.uk



tracting the unwelcome attention of counterfeiters.

With the potential for fake whisky on the rise, online auctioneer Just Whisky will be travelling to Islay to hold a free valuation session, advising customers on what is fake and what is not.

To coincide with visit, Just Whisky is launching a simple guide to help buyers invest safely and know the tell-tale signs of a fake. It aims to arm investors with the basic information needed to avoid forgeries and make intelligent investment decisions. Crucially, the guide defines what a fake actually is. The guide also offers tips on what else to look for to avoid purchasing a fake in error.

Graham Crane, co-founder of Just Whisky, explained: 'Investing in an appreciating asset like whisky is both enjoyable but carries an element of risk when bought privately – for buyers parting with substantial cash, it is essential that it is the genuine article. Our roadshow and guide are designed to take some of the guesswork out of making what might be a very costly mistake.'

The Just Whisky valuation roadshow will be taking place in The Bowmore Hotel, Islay, on November 25. For more details, call 01496 810416.

LUING

Luing History Group has enjoyed a sunny week exploring the neighbouring island of Torsa with experts from the Association of Certified Field Archaeologists.

Survey work included the team walking over the rocky ground to record finds and clues to the island's farming past.

'Intriguing features, but so rocky that it's difficult to tell what's natural and what's been made by human hand,' said one Facebook post from the history group.

Like Luing, Torsa belonged to the Medieval Lordship of the Isles, with castles overlooking major sea routes and the islands' rich land producing grain and cattle.

Former Oban man celebrates 100th birthday



Former Oban resident Tom Lennox celebrated his 100th birthday at the end of October with a lunch in the Royal George Hotel, Perth.

Tom settled in Oban after the war (having been based at Oban with 210 Squadron) to raise his family with his wife Mary (nee Munro) from Oban.

He was employed as service manager (and ambulance driver) at Munro's Garage, Breadalbane Street (owned by his father-in-law), and subsequently at Wilson's Garage, Airds Place.

He is a long-standing member of Oban Parish Church and a founder member of the Oban War and Peace Museum and a regular watch keeper.

He supported the various initiatives in Oban to commemorate the fallen RAF personnel, and for many years he served on the management committee of the North Argyll Eventide Home.

Tom, who had to move from



Photographs: Julie Broadfoot

his house, Dalrigh, Oban, in 2016 after he could no longer live alone, is pictured, top, with his family at the party.

Eighty guests attended the day – including five children, 10 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren – aged 93 to two months.

Tom, inset, received a card from Her Majesty The Queen, a telegram from the Secretary

of State for Work and Pensions, and a letter from the head of the RAF in Scotland.

As well as the celebration with family, a concert was held to celebrate Tom's 100th at Balhousie Luncarty Care Home on his actual birthday (22.10.19), with music provided by Music in Hospitals and Care Scotland, who played some of his favourite tunes.

Pots of money!

We have had a number of stories in The Oban Times this year about the RNLI fundraising campaign called Betty's Pots.

The idea asks people to donate 5p coins in commemoration of Betty Frith, who was honorary treasurer for more than 20 years at the Hertford branch of the RNLI before she died. Other stations have taken up her fundraising idea and, in April, Oban was one of the first in Scotland.

We reported recently that the Oban station has been given more than £1,000 already from the 5p collections in mini jam jars.

Some of you may be surprised to know that the Oban RNLI crew has benefited in a fairly significant way by the regulars at the The Forester's Arms in the village of Cambusbarron, near Stirling.

The good people of landlocked Cambusbarron have taken the Oban campaign to heart and have filled not only Betty's Pots but other jars as well, including garlic and Marmite containers. Principal among the good souls to have backed the idea is Welshman Ali MacFarlane, who only recently moved to the village.

Keep up the good work!

Excellent cause

I was buttonholed recently by a chum who wants me to flag up the work done in Oban by Martyn's Monday Club.

The occasionally irascible Jim said he had attended with other club regulars a showing at Oban Phoenix Cinema of a 'very powerful' film called Connect which deals with male mental health issues and suicide.

Written and directed by Marilyn Edmond, the screening was followed by an excellent question and answer session which proved informative and worthwhile.

We have, in fact, reported on Martyn's Monday Club on a number of occasions. It is a mental health movement which is deserving of credit and I am happy to bow to Jim's request.

For anyone struggling with mental health issues, the club meets every Monday at New Hope in Soroba Road, Oban, from 7pm to 9pm.

What do you think?

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OUTDOORS

Students challenged to take on plight of the bumblebees

School and college students across Scotland are being challenged to generate new scientific discoveries that could be used to help protect the country's struggling bumblebees, though a competition being run by the Stirling-based Bumblebee Conservation Trust, with support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

As part of the conservation charity's Big BeeWalk Data Research Competition – which runs February 7, 2020 – hundreds of thousands of bumblebee records gathered over the past decade are being made available to students for the first time.

Those taking part will have access to the records of almost 400,000 bumblebees, gathered since 2010 through the trust's BeeWalk national recording scheme.

This citizen science survey – in which volunteers identify and count bumblebees they see while walking the same route monthly from March to October – builds a national picture of bumblebee health, and provides early warning of declines.



Volunteers gather vital bumblebee data.

The vast set of BeeWalk data includes information on different bumblebee species and factors such as the weather, location, habitat type and time of day of sightings – allowing a huge range of new and different research questions to be analysed, from how temperature affects bumblebee behaviour to how availability of specific plants can increase bumblebee numbers.

Andy Benson, education officer at the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, said: 'By draw-

ing on our unique BeeWalk data and using fresh thinking to design their own innovative research projects, students will be able to get involved in real-life science and develop skills desirable to universities – while potentially producing findings that could be used to boost practical conservation action to help bumblebees.

'It's important because bumblebee populations have crashed in the UK over recent decades. We want students to think outside of the box and help shed new light on these remarkable insects whose hard work pollinates so many of our fruit and vegetables.

'The more we understand, the more we can do to reverse the plight of the bumblebee before it's too late.'

The national curriculum-linked competition is also a chance for schools to apply some of the amazing science they have already been teaching their students in a real-life context.

Students aged 11 to 19 across the UK can take part – working on their own or as part of a team, to analyse the data – create their own research

project and then submit their research as a fully fledged academic paper. There will be four categories – most innovative project, most rigorous methodology, best presentation and overall winner. Each school can make more than one entry, as long as each entry is by different students. To enter, visit bumblebeeconservation.org.

Each winner will receive a certificate and a copy of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust's book, *Bumblebees – An Introduction*, and their research will be published on the trust's website. The overall winner will have their work published in the 2019 BeeWalk annual report, and their school will win £250.

The BeeWalk surveys have also strengthened understanding of threats facing bumblebees, including land use changes or climate change. With loss of flower-rich habitat the biggest threat to bumblebees' survival – only three per cent of UK wildflower meadows remain compared to before the Second World War – the findings also underline the importance of making gardens, parks and green spaces bumblebee-friendly.

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Climate change impact on butterflies revealed

The latest Scottish Biodiversity Indicator published by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) examines the long-term trend for butterflies since 1979.

The warming summer climate has pushed the distribution of some species northwards, but this has been balanced out by the negative effects of warmer and wetter winters and poor land management practices in some habitats.

Populations of orange-tip, small heath, ringlet, small pearl-bordered fritillary and red admiral butterflies have all experienced significant increases.

Meanwhile, there have been decreases in the numbers of grayling, small tortoiseshell and small copper butterflies.

Habitat loss, climate change, urban development and increased nitrogen deposition have all been linked to declines.

Recent research has shown that milder, wetter winters in particular are having a negative impact on some species, including the small tortoiseshell.

Simon Foster, SNH trends and indicators analyst, said: 'While butterfly populations in Scotland have remained stable overall, a closer look at the data reveals that climate change is impacting differently on different species.'



Small pearl-bordered fritillary
Photograph: Lorne Gill, SNH

'While the range of some established or expanding butterfly populations has been pushed northwards as a result of warming summers, other species are struggling to cope.'

'We know that nature-based solutions are crucial to helping us tackle the climate emergency, and together with partners we are working on a range of projects to help pollinators such as butterflies.'

'Members of the public can also do their bit – for example, planting butterfly-friendly

native plants can help populations locally, and leaving nettles alone will ensure an essential food plant for small tortoiseshells. Providing a nice dry area such as a log pile or an old shed left partly open can also provide essential overwintering conditions for small tortoiseshell and peacock butterflies.'

Another way to help is to get involved in counting butterflies locally through initiatives such as Butterfly Conservation's Big Butterfly Count: <https://www.bigbutterfly-count.org/>

Highland volunteers scoop green accolade

Two groups from the Highlands have been presented with an It's Your Neighbourhood award by environmental charity, Keep Scotland Beautiful. The accolade celebrates their efforts to clean up and improve their local communities.

Gairloch Sitooterie Wildlife Observation Garden and Raasay Walled Garden were both noted as outstanding, with the awards were presented at a ceremony in Stirling recently.

More than 160 groups from across Scotland were recognised for their commitment to improving their local neighbourhood. Community initiatives, from improving access to allotments, to implementing school wildlife clubs or adopting areas of derelict land, were all celebrated at the event.

Katie Murray, communities and place manager from Keep Scotland Beautiful, said: 'Every It's Your Neighbourhood participant deserves this recognition for their hard work and determination to improve their own community.'

Further details are available at www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/IYN

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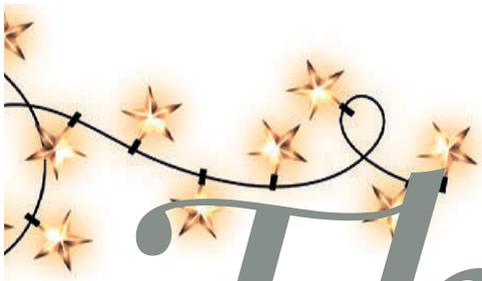


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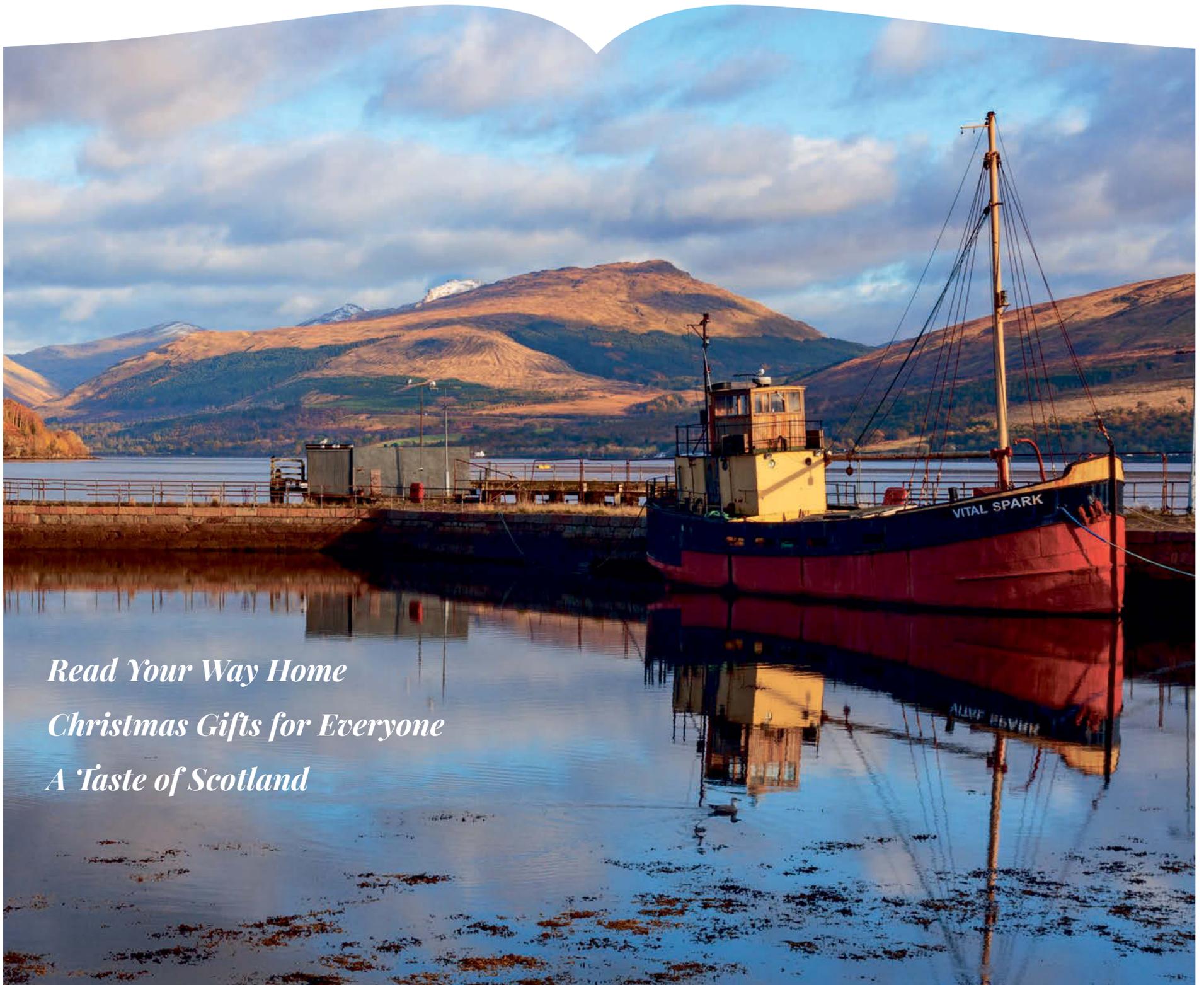


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OF SCOTLAND



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Inside every book – a celebration

EDITORIAL

MY family has been coming to Argyll since I was born. Firstly Tayvallich, then in 1969 my father bought Stronailne, one of the Seven Sisters at Colintrave. It was in an interesting condition. Sheep cut the grass, and it was a race between the dry rot and the wet rot to reach the middle of the house first. Nevertheless it was home.

I now spend much of my time on Mull, my love of Argyll and the Isles undiminished. When Birlinn Ltd began to publish in 1992 I was determined that this should be its spiritual home. Over the years, the Birlinn team has produced more titles – powerful new writing, rediscovered classics, and for all ages – about the Highlands and Islands than any publisher before or since.

Stories are the invisible bonds that hold communities together, through which we share experience, remember, and build a future. Immerse yourself in Scotland's stories, gift them to friends and family members, read them, write them and rekindle the sense of the strength of the nation being the sum of its parts.

Hugh Andrew, MD
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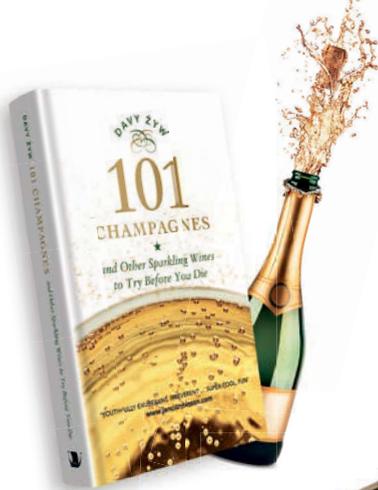
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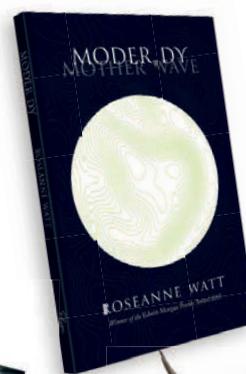


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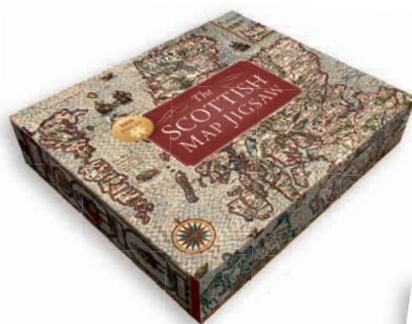
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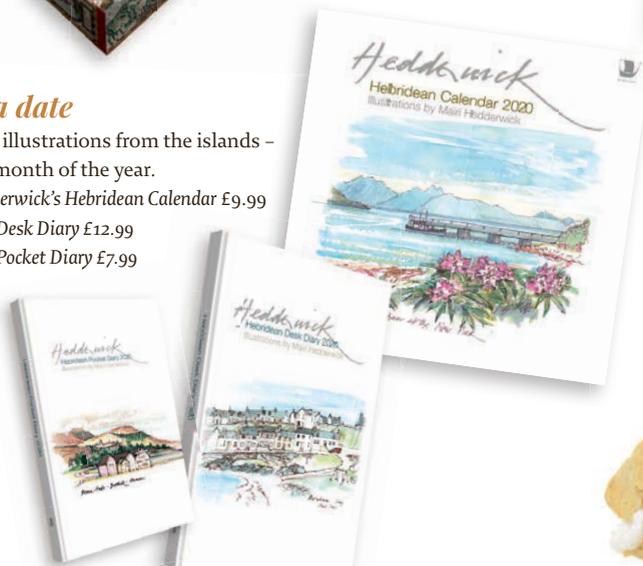
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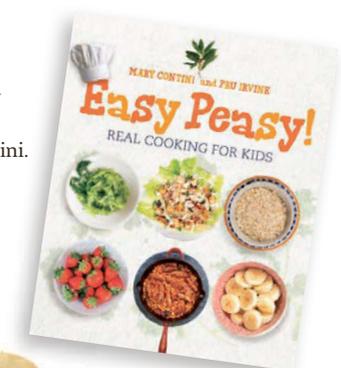
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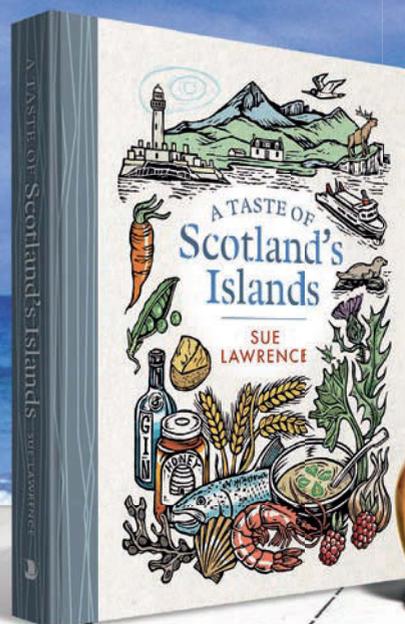


Get them into the kitchen

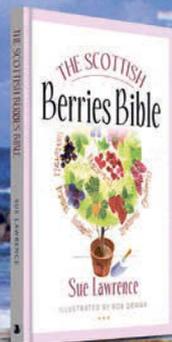
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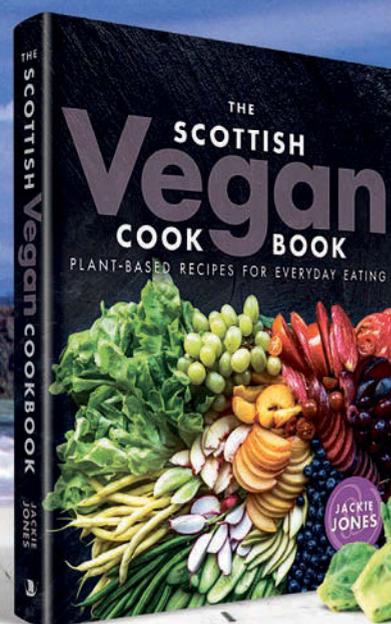
The Tastes of Scotland



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Sue Lawrence
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Jackie Jones
£16.99 Pbk

'The islands are alive, they are vibrant. They are magnificent and haunting. They tug at the heartstrings and lure you back with an inexplicable attraction. Breathe in the beauty and splendour, the peacefulness and the charm. Meet the people, eat the food. But be warned: a taste of Scottish islands will ruin you for life. You will be hooked.'
– Sue Lawrence from *A Taste of Scotland's Islands*

WORDS and food are the great, unifying staples of Scottish community. Words to tell the stories of our past, to shape our present and inform our future. Food to nourish and warm us and bring disparate groups together.

Birlinn takes great pride in the Scottish cookery titles published over the years from *The Puffer Cookbook* by Mandy Hamilton and David Hawson to *The Ninth Wave: Love and Food on the Isle of Mull* by Carla Lamont, *The Game Cookbook* by Claire Macdonald, *The Book of Scottish Baking* by Sue Lawrence and *The Easy Peasy Cookbook* for kids of all ages by Mary Contini and Pru Irvine PLUS a growing range of cookery Bibles covering Scotland's rich larder of ingredients: Haggis, Honey, Oats, Venison, Salmon, Tatties... the list goes on. The two newest are *A Taste of Scotland's Islands* from Sue Lawrence and *The Scottish Vegan Cookbook* from Jackie Jones. Joyous gifts to give and to receive.

Venison Steaks with Beetroot and Horseradish Sauce

Serves 4

The sauce is a doddle to make and has the texture of a hummus or pesto rather than a thin sauce cooked in a pan. It can be made a day in advance. Then, about half an hour before serving, remove the venison from the fridge to come to room temperature before cooking. Cuts you can use are thicker pave, or thinner rump; if using the latter, it's even more important to undercook then rest the meat while still very pink, otherwise it becomes tough. I like to serve this with clapshot and some broccoli or spinach.

Ingredients
250g cooked beetroot, peeled and chopped
The grated zest of 1 small orange
2 heaped tsp horseradish sauce
50g freshly grated parmesan
Extra-virgin olive oil
4 Hebridean venison steaks (each about 150g)

For the sauce, place the first 4 ingredients in a food processor and whizz briefly, then add enough oil (5–6 tbsp) to form a thick paste. Season to taste and set aside. Heat 2 tbsp oil in a frying pan to hot, add the steaks and season. Cook for 2 minutes, turn and continue to cook for a further 1–2 minutes before transferring to an ovenproof plate. Place in a low oven (150C/300F/Gas 2) for 10 minutes, then serve them atop a mound of clapshot and with a dollop of beetroot sauce on top.



Baked Oaty Date Apples

Serves 4

Prep time: 10 minutes Cooking time:
30–45 minutes (unattended)

Baked apples are an easy-to-prepare autumn dish for when apples are in abundance in Scotland. It is a good pudding to make if you already have the oven on. These are filled with a spiced dried fruit and nut mixture which complements the tartness of the apples.

Ingredients

4 large cooking apples, cored
4 pitted Medjool dates, chopped finely
1 tablespoon demerara sugar 2 teaspoons maple syrup
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
3 tablespoons roasted hazelnuts, chopped finely
1 tablespoon rolled oats
1 teaspoon non-hydrogenated vegan butter
2 tablespoons vegan ginger wine (e.g. Stone's, UK)

Preheat the oven to 180°C.

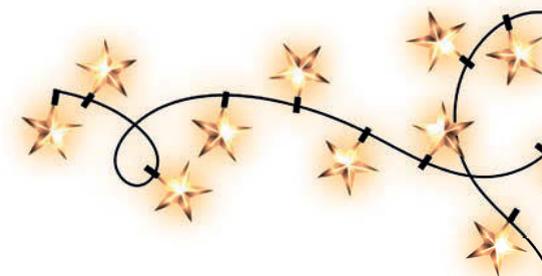
To prevent the apples bursting when you cook them, carefully score them with the tip of a sharp knife at the midway point all the way round (without cutting them in half) and then place them in an ovenproof dish.

In a small bowl, mix together the remaining ingredients. Spoon a quarter of the mixture into the core of each apple and press down firmly. Bake in the preheated oven for 30–45 minutes, depending on the size of your apples, or until the fruit is soft when tested with a knife.

Serve with vegan cream or vegan vanilla ice cream. Cool and refrigerate any leftovers and have cold the next day for breakfast with porridge or cereal. I love them with cold rice pudding!



A Nod to the Past



FICTION WITH AN EERIE TWIST

David Robinson

EVEN as a child, Ellie's dad had always warned her about standing too near to the high waterfall in the woods at the back of his Aberdeenshire scrapyard. 'Someone will fall to their death there one day,' he said, and Ellie knew that someone already had. No-one ever called her it, but she was named after Finella, a tenth-century noblewoman who killed Scotland's King Kenneth II in revenge for the death of her son. Fleeing his pursuing soldiers, she flung herself over the waterfall.

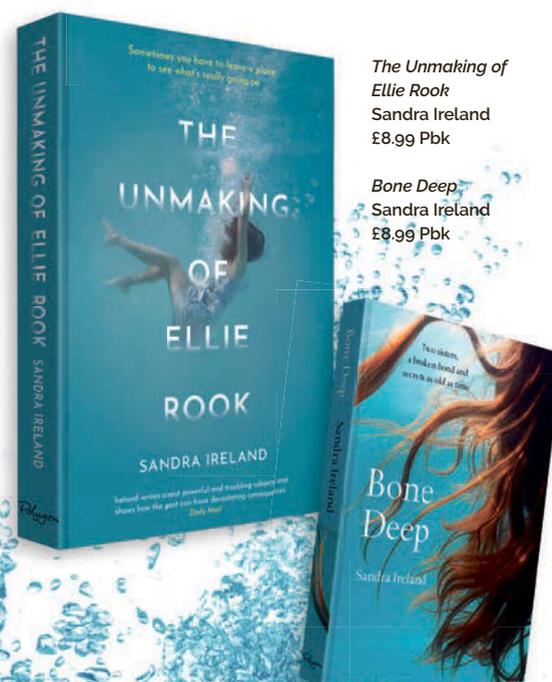
Now Ellie has been summoned home from Vietnam by the news that her mother has disappeared at that very spot. She is missing, but because it's a 65-foot drop, and days are passing without any sighting, she's presumed dead.

The story of Finella haunts Sandra Ireland's third novel, *The Unmaking of Ellie Rook*, in the same way that the Border ballad 'The Cruel Sister' underscored the plot of her 2018 novel *Bone Deep*. But don't think for a second that you're going

to lose yourself in Celtic magic realism in these psychological thrillers. They do have deeper echoes from the past, but ones so subtly inserted into the story that you might even miss them.

Ellie's time away allows her to see more clearly the latent tensions, prejudices and violence in both her family and the nearby village. Growing up as the daughter of the local scrap dealer, she was always on the receiving end of petty snobbery. Now, in her mother's absence, she also finds herself at her father's beck and call and gradually realises what her mother has had to put up with. Hope has been squeezed out of both of them as relentlessly as the cars in the jaws of her father's scrapyard crusher.

This is a novel about avoiding a seemingly inevitable fate. Doing so may involve confrontation and death (it did with Fenella, after all) and Ireland's denouement is both exciting and unexpected – and a dramatic change of pace from the bleakly atmospheric beginning.



The Unmaking of Ellie Rook
Sandra Ireland
£8.99 Pbk

Bone Deep
Sandra Ireland
£8.99 Pbk

WHO IS THIS MASTER OF MYSTERY?

David Robinson

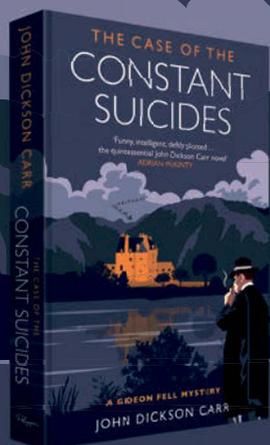
AGATHA Christie and Dorothy L Sayers raved about his inventive plotting, he was as prolific as either of them, and so highly rated as a crime writer that the Conan Doyle estate chose him to write the official biography of the great man. So why John Dickson Carr's fame hasn't lasted as long as theirs is a mystery even a Poirot couldn't puzzle out.

Carr's own Poirot was Dr Gideon Fell, a man of Falstaffian girth and humour who also happens to be a renowned lexicographer, boozy academic and amateur detective. If you've got a locked room mystery to solve – and Dickson Carr was the acknowledged master of the genre – Fell was your man. Carr's other chief crime-buster was Sir

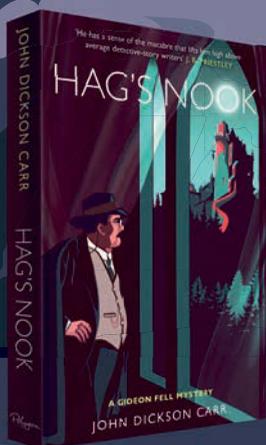
Henry Merrivale, who appeared in 22 of his novels (Fell starred in 23), an elderly portly barrister with a medical degree and a vast knowledge of stage magic and the history of crime.

Merrivale is at his gruff, Churchillian best in Carr's 1943 novel *She Died A Lady* (when he is also confined to a wheelchair), and the fullest description of Fell is to be found in *Hag's Nook* (1931) when he makes his first appearance. But Scottish readers should begin with *The Case of the Constant Suicides* (1941) in which Fell has to solve not just one but two locked room mysteries – the first in what sounds suspiciously like Dunderave Castle, near Inveraray, and the second in a cottage in Glen Coe.

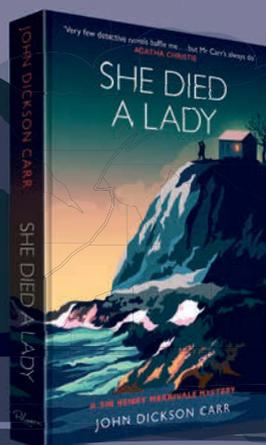
Once you accept coincidence, it's a treat from the start, when young historians Alan and KI Campbell – who have never met but exchanged a flying correspondence in the literary journals – are forced to share a compartment on the crowded night train from Euston to Glasgow. They're both going to Castle Shira, where their distant relative has either been murdered or committed suicide in a particularly odd manner. And where, because this is a witty wartime romcom as well as everything else, they also discover that not all locked room mysteries are about death.



The Case of the Constant Suicides
John Dickson Carr
£8.99 Pbk



Hag's Nook
John Dickson Carr
£8.99 Pbk



She Died A Lady
John Dickson Carr
£8.99 Pbk



Criminal Intent

A SENSE OF PLACE

Douglas Skelton

CRIME writers can't see a location without feeling the need to sully it with skulduggery.

And Argyll is not immune.

It is stunningly beautiful and has a coastline to die for. But what do we see?

Backdrops for murder, that's what.

Denzil Meyrick has sold one million copies of his DCI Daley books in various formats worldwide, all set in Kinloch, a thinly-veneer version of Campbeltown, where he was raised.

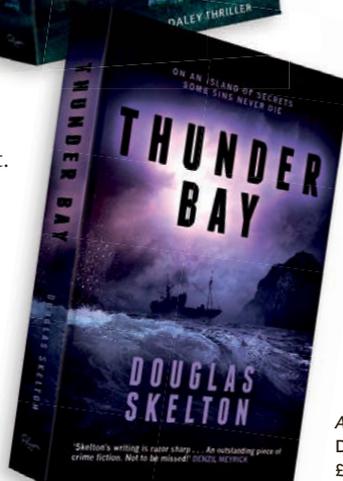
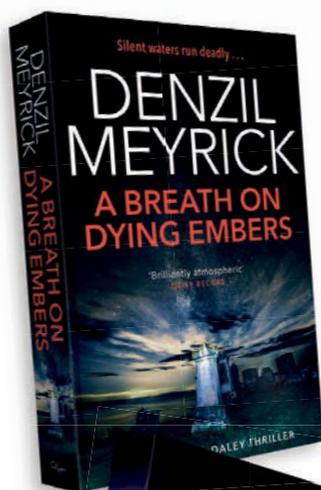
'I could have easily set Daley in Glasgow,' he said, 'but I wanted to showcase Kintyre.

'Of course, the amount of crime I create is hugely disproportionate to real-life levels but readers understand that. We all know that Shetland doesn't have a murder a week.'

Denzil is passionate about his old stomping ground, where he remains a well-known figure.

'I've been told there's not a house in Campbeltown that doesn't have at least one Daley book somewhere,' he said.

It is this passion that reaches out to the reader from the pages of his books. It extends to the real world, where proceeds from his Kindle short story Dalintober



Moon have raised thousands towards the regeneration of the Campbeltown seafront.

I also have Argyll blood in my veins – my grandmother hailed from the isle of Gigha.

Perhaps this calling of the blood was why I chose to set my most recent novel – *Thunder Bay* – on an island somewhere off the west coast.

Stoirm is an amalgam of many locations, including Gigha and Mull, and like Denzil I wanted to convey a strong sense of place.

Crime novels need a sense of dread, of mystery, and an island setting can add a new layer. There are secrets in all our islands, just as in any tight-knit community, and secrets are the lifeblood of any crime novel. Throw in a storm and cancelled ferries and my protagonist Rebecca Connolly begins to feel very claustrophobic indeed.

The land, the sea, the climate, the history and mythology are so evocative and become characters in their own right.

For, as Denzil and I both try to convey, there can be darkness in beauty.

A Breath on Dying Embers
Denzil Meyrick
£8.99 Pbk

Thunder Bay
Douglas Skelton
£8.99 Pbk

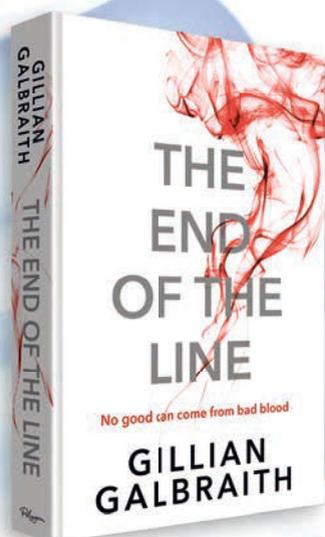
EDITORIAL CONUNDRUMS

Tom Johnstone

After the death of leading haematologist Professor Anstruther, antiquarian book dealer Anthony Sparrow is tasked with clearing out his mansion of its books and papers. He soon begins to question the real circumstances of the old man's death: was he in fact murdered, and if so, who was responsible?

I HAVE edited Gillian Galbraith's books for many years now, in fact since her first book, *Blood in the Water*. One of the perks of being an editor is that you get to see an author's new book before everybody else, which is always exciting if you are a fan, as I am of Gillian's work. Editing her books is usually straightforward – involving some tidying up, discussion of plot issues, occasional adjustments to structure, suggestions for adding or subtracting bits of text. Gillian's latest book, *The End of the Line*, presented a new challenge, however. She had the striking and original idea of telling her story

through a series of documents: diaries, transcriptions of court proceedings, medical and psychiatric assessments, even a post mortem report. From the writing point of view it is beautifully and skilfully done, but we had decisions to make about how to present these various sources in print. Should we try to reproduce the appearance of actual documents, varying the format, typeface and type size for each document? In the end we thought this would look odd and the changes every few pages would be distracting for the reader. We compromised by varying the typography subtly to distinguish the different documents, though we do include one actual photo of a certificate which is crucial to the plot. Readers have responded warmly to the book, though whether that is down to our editorial decisions or the quality of Gillian's writing (or both) I will leave to others to decide!



The End of the Line
Gillian Galbraith
£8.99 Pbk

A Gift of Knowledge

BRING THE PAST THUNDERING BACK

Rosemary Goring

IN 1889, Queen Victoria gave money for an 'Exhibition of the Royal House of Stuart', unwittingly funding a cause that hoped to bring about a Stuart restoration and topple her from the throne. That Jacobitism was still alive at this point – and even today – is testament to its enduring appeal.

In his rollicking account of the Jacobites, Desmond Seward offers an absorbing overview of this most romanticised movement. The rebellions of 1715 and 1745 have often been covered, but while Seward treats them as the filling in the sandwich, they are only the most famous elements of the story. His history starts with William of Orange's overthrow of his Catholic uncle James II, using the 'dynastic figleaf' of his wife Mary, James' daughter. It follows the Jacobite trail from the first rebellion in 1689 and the Glencoe massacre, to the atrocities after the Battle of Culloden. As this book tantalisingly shows, more than once the Stuart supporters came close to victory.

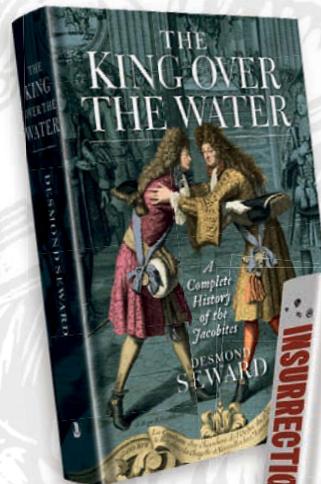
A skilled synthesist, Seward fills in the decades with panache. Plugging gaps with seemingly throw-away lines, the broad-brush style of this most informative raconteur makes the pages fly.

Professor James Hunter's focus is narrower, but every bit as gripping. Scrupulously researched, *Insurrection* is a devastating account of the way in which the failed potato crop of 1846 brought destitution and even death to those living on the margins of rural society in the Highlands and Islands.

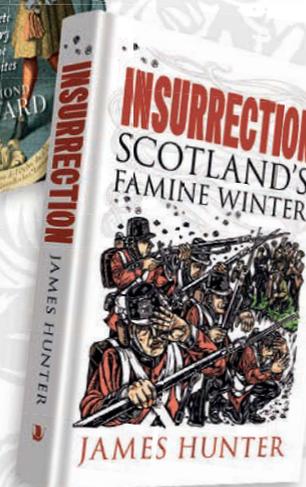
With an easy writing style, drawing heavily on contemporary voices, he brings alive hard-pressed crofters and those without land who struggled to survive even in the best of times. Faced with 'the year potatoes went away', people's fear spread fast. Not surprisingly, the news that grain was being exported by landowners to southern markets provoked outrage. Rioters congregated, women as furious as men. In Pulteneytown in Wick, the army fired upon the mob, but this did not prevent uprisings all along the coast.

Highlighting the individuals who flouted the authorities, Hunter depicts the wretchedness of a place like Barra, where potatoes were almost the only food, comparing the island's submissive response with politically edgier Easter Ross and Moray. While some of the rich and powerful behaved well, most did not. The rioters, by threatening violence, storming warehouses,

jails and wealthy homes, widely publicised their predicament. In so doing they probably helped save their families from the worst. Hunter's vivid reconstruction of events creates a cameo of an unforgettably grim winter, when law and order were overthrown in the best of causes.



The King Over the Water
Desmond Seward
£25.00 Hbk



Insurrection
James Hunter
£20.00 Hbk

KEEPING THE SOVIET BEAR IN CHECK

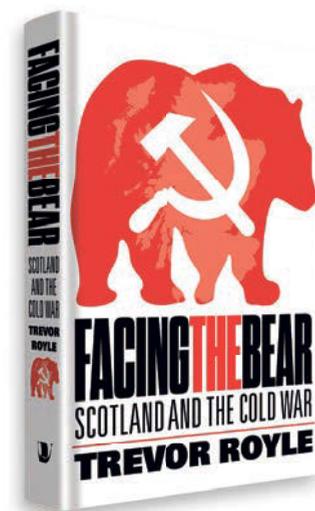
'Trevor Royle is like a military commander at the top of his game... But this is not not simply a story of military hardware and confrontation. It tells how the Cold War influenced our cultural life from the novel to poetry and the protest song' – Barclay McBain

A tiny taster from *Facing the Bear: Scotland and the Cold War* by Trevor Royle

FOR much of the period [of the Cold War] Scotland was on the front line, mainly due to its position on NATO's 'northern flank' – the waters of the north-east Atlantic and the Norwegian and Barents Seas with the vital Greenland-Iceland-UK (GIUK) gap through which Soviet nuclear-armed submarines and strategic bombers would have attacked in the event of an outbreak of hostilities. That made Scotland the first major obstacle: it would have been in those northern seas and over Scottish skies that the first battles would have been fought. That accounted for the build-up of sophisticated anti-submarine warfare facilities and air defences in Scotland and it was from the American and British bases on the Clyde that the strategic submarines would have launched the response by way of Polaris and Poseidon missiles, each one of them capable of destroying

Hiroshima several times over. If Scotland had not existed NATO would have been hard pressed to invent a similar facility...

The presence of so much weaponry in Scotland, particularly of the nuclear variety, prompted protest and this had an effect on the body politic. When the US Navy sited Polaris-equipped submarines at Holy Loch following a US-UK deal in 1960 the area became a focal point for protestors under the banner of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND). The movement attracted pacifists, Christians, environmentalists, trade unionists and politicians and it became a vocal and highly visible component of the Scottish political scene, particularly on the left although the only party to espouse outright opposition to nuclear weapons was the Scottish National Party (SNP). Throughout that time, it is



Facing the Bear: Scotland and the Cold War
Trevor Royle
£25.00 Hbk

safe to say that Scotland would have been a prime target for enemy planners and perhaps that helps to explain the personal concern of those who supported CND in Scotland.



A Sense of Style

JOHN BUCHAN RETURNS

Hugh Andrew

'My first summer holiday from Eton finished with a glorious ten days at Ardtornish in Morvern.... To this day I regard any dwelling that has to be approached by a boat as mysterious and exciting. It was said in those days that the three best sea-trout lochs in Britain were Loch Stack, Loch na Shellaig... and Arienas'

SO writes John Buchan's son of the carefree days he and his father spent shooting and fishing at Ardtornish. Buchan had become 'noticeably more carefree and happy when we boarded the boat at Oban to take us to Gerard [Sellar's] little kingdom'. It was here that his great poaching novel *John Macnab* was set and written, with its

landscape descriptions strikingly evocative of the area: 'yellow and grey sponges of moss; deep, dripping heather, black patches of almost liquid peat; sweltering in bursts of sunlight, drenched in rain...'

And it was to here that Richard Hannay was to return in the 1920s. In Robert J Harris' new Buchan-inspired novel, *Castle Macnab*, Ardtornish receives a far more sinister visitor, and Hannay consequently finds himself inveigled in a desperate struggle against dark forces within the heart of the British establishment and deep within Germany. A helter-skelter plot unfolds in and around the mountains and lochs of Morvern

Castle Macnab
Robert J. Harris
£8.99 Pbk

The Thirty-One Kings
Robert J. Harris
£8.99 Pbk

as the fate of Europe hangs in the balance. In this, the second of his tributes to Buchan, Harris conjures up brilliantly both the landscape and atmosphere of the West Highlands and the claustrophobia of a world still feeding off the violence and hate of the First War to send us towards the cataclysm of a second.



FROM MORVERN TO THE WORLD

David Robinson

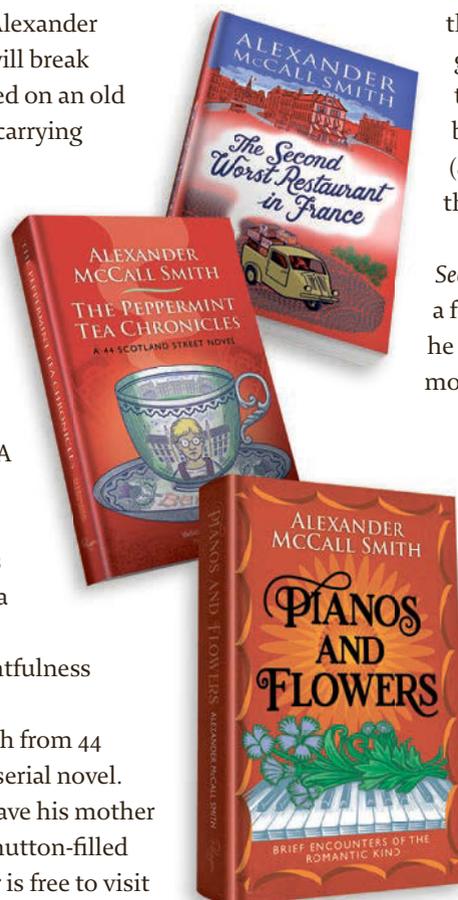
THERE'S a short story about unexpressed love in Alexander McCall Smith's collection, *Pianos and Flowers*, that will break your heart. Like all the others in the book, it is based on an old photograph – in this case, of two boys and a pony carrying a stag off the hill – and like all of them, it then opens up to show what a vast range of thoughts and emotion a single anonymous image might possibly contain.

McCall Smith has been living in Morvern for long enough for us to claim him as a local author, and few are as prolific writers of worldwide bestsellers. The stories in his latest book – like one showing what the discovery of DNA might owe to pogoing – are every bit as inventive and warmly humorous as we have come to expect. Yet the one about the two boys, which skips across decades and countries, reminds us that, as well as a hearty appreciation of the comedy of everyday life, McCall Smith's work often has a surprising thoughtfulness and depth too.

The Peppermint Tea Chronicles is the latest despatch from 44 Scotland Street, now the world's longest-running serial novel. This time, though, seven-year-old Bertie doesn't have his mother Irene to boss him around: he is free to eat greasy mutton-filled pies, go to the circus, adopt a dog, just as his father is free to visit

that attractive poet in Howe Street. Surely nothing can possibly go wrong? Yet real dilemmas abound. Suppose (as happens to Big Lou) that your foster son turns out to want to go to a ballet boarding school you can't possibly afford? Or suppose (as happens to Angus Lordie) you discover a dead cat and want the council to deal with it. In either case, who do you call?

Food writer Paul Stewart is also looking for help in *The Second Worst Restaurant in France*, a light-hearted comedy which is a follow-up to the bestselling *My Italian Bulldozer*. Whether or not he succeeds I'll leave up to you to find out, but the smart money's on a deliciously happy ending.



Pianos and Flowers
Alexander McCall Smith
£12.99 Hbk

The Peppermint Tea Chronicles: A Scotland Street Novel
£16.99 Hbk

The Second Worst Restaurant in France
Alexander McCall Smith
£14.99 Hbk



Argyll and the Islands

GEOLOGY AND LANDSCAPES

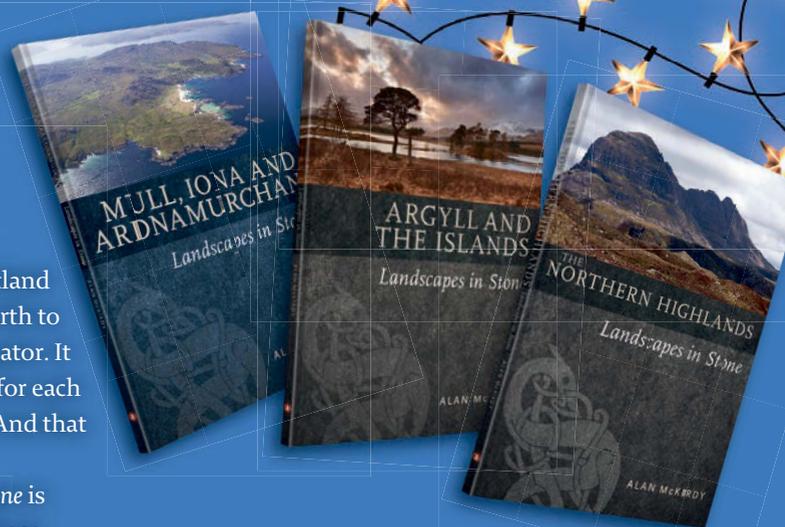
Alan McKirdy

IN TERMS of heritage, Argyll and the islands are perhaps best known for their pre-historic remains at Kilmartin Glen and on Islay, but the geological story that is written in the rocks is equally impressive, stretching back over one thousand million (billion) years of geological time. Turbulent events, such as the creating of the Caledonian Mountains, which once soared to Himalayan heights, are recorded in the record of the rocks, as are the presence of volcanoes, extensive lava flows, ancient tropical rainforests, desert sands and the scouring effects of glaciers. It's all here waiting to be discovered.

Let's rewind to the beginning. You will probably be amazed to learn that the rocks of Argyll and the islands were formed when this part of the world was located in the southern Hemisphere – in fact quite close to the South Pole. Scotland, as it existed during those early times, was joined at the hip to America and the land that would become England and Wales was separated from Scotland by the width of an ocean. Driven by the irresistible force of plate

tectonics, the rocks that comprised Scotland during these early times were driven north to its present location 56° north of the Equator. It was an eventful journey, with evidence for each phase of the trip etched into the rocks. And that journey continues.

Argyll and the Islands – Landscapes in Stone is written as an easy traveller's guide for those who are not familiar with such events. Geology is perhaps the least known aspect of Scotland's long and complex history, but it's one that is definitely worth exploring. This book takes the reader through the various events in a step-by-step process, helping people visiting for the first time, or those who have been fortunate enough to live here for a lifetime, to appreciate better the landscapes that make this place so special. It also describes literary landscapes, where George Orwell wrote 1984, his finest work; working landscapes where green energy is created from wind and water; and the role played by natural peat deposits in making Islay's finest export, malt whisky. Slàinte Mhath.



Landscapes in Stone series by Alan McKirdy:
Argyll and the Islands
£6.99 Pbk

Mull, Iona and Ardnamurchan
£6.99 Pbk

The Northern Highlands
£6.99 Pbk

Also available:
Orkney and Shetland/Lochaber and Glencoe/Edinburgh/Arran/Cairngorms/The Outer Hebrides/Skye/Set in Stone – The Geology and Landscapes of Scotland



LYING LOW ACROSS SOUTH SKYE

Christopher Whatley

A black and white photograph in a crack-backed family album records that I first visited Pabay when I was three.

I revisited annually until my late teens. Yes, a long time ago, but memories endure, of a special place and remarkable people. One of them, who suggested I write this book, was my late aunt Margaret. With my uncle Len, two very young children and all their worldly goods she began her life on Pabay in January 1950, despite having only seen the island – and spending less than half a day there – a few weeks beforehand. Home at the time was a small run-down farm on the outskirts of war-scarred Birmingham, in the land-locked English Midlands.

For centuries, Pabay, low-lying, and sentinel-like at the edge of Broadford Bay, has drawn people across. Often, when rain-heavy clouds cloak nearby *Bein na Caillich* and the bleak

surrounding moorland, Pabay – jewel-like – is picked out by a single shaft of sunlight.

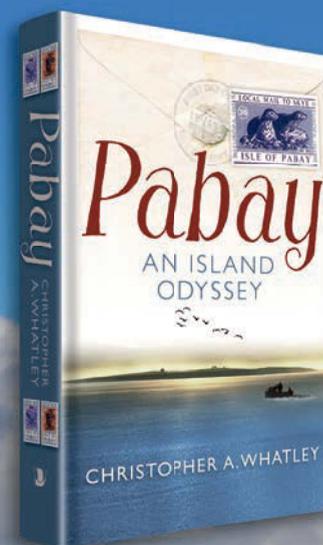
Yet no-one lives there now. Nor was anyone there in 1950.

Len had some farming experience, but none of the sea. An afternoon's punting on the river Avon was no preparation for the Inner Hebrides.

He did however have a dream. For the best part of the next two decades he strove to restore Pabay as a viable farm. He had successes. But the challenges were immense. Above all, crop-crushing and boat-battering winds. Much of the ground – fertile from afar – was waterlogged and difficult to drain; a death trap for livestock. He waged – and lost – a rabbit war. Eventually his health broke.

Recently I returned. Only faint traces of Len's endeavours survive. Poignantly, these include the collapsed hull timbers of a much-loved

boat. But his and my aunt's legacy has endured. Not the least of this, albeit intangible, is the inspiration their lives have left, recorded in this book, and for which I am far from alone in being deeply grateful.



Pabay: An Island Odyssey
Christopher A. Whatley
£20.00 Hbk

Building a nation

MAPPING IT OUT

Hugh Andrew

MAPS and mapping have exercised an enduring fascination throughout the ages. Not simply tools for navigation, mapping is a window into how we see ourselves and our country. The west coast is particularly rich in maps from Blaeu's great 17th century work through Roy's *Great Map* to the 20th century and the world's first modern atlas – the *Bartholomew Survey Atlas of Scotland* of 1912. But the history of mapping does not stop there. Soviet military mapping of Scotland disconcertingly adds detail to the Ordnance Survey showing that Russian spies had visited every part of the country checking bridges for weight bearing or where strategic installations lay. At the other extreme Google simply and famously removed Jura for a period from its own world map.

Aside from these major cartographic projects the west is rich in maps covering much smaller areas for navigation, for delineating estates, for building lighthouses or for industrial regeneration – the British Fisheries Society. Things of great beauty these maps are often lovingly illustrated with vignettes and details, bringing to life the world in which they are created.

Birlinn's mapping titles include:

Scotland: Mapping the Nation by Christopher Fleet, Charles W.J. Withers and Margaret Wilkes – £30.00 Hbk

Scotland: Mapping the Islands by Christopher Fleet, Charles W.J. Withers and Margaret Wilkes – £30.00 Hbk

Scotland: Defending the Nation by Christopher Fleet and Carolyn Anderson – £30.00 Hbk

The Clyde: Mapping the River by John Moore – £30.00 Hbk

The Railway Atlas of Scotland by David Spaven – £35.00 Hbk

John Thomsons' Atlas of Scotland, 1832 – £150 Hbk (Limited Edition)

Bartholomew Survey Atlas of Scotland, 1912 – £100.00 Hbk (Limited Edition)

Visit our website for a full list of all mapping titles.

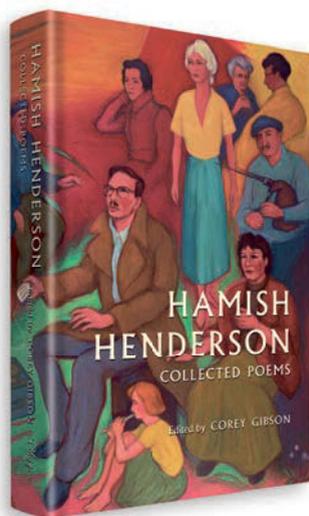


THE FREEDOM COME-ALL-YE

Jan Rutherford

WRITING in the *Scottish Review of Books* in 2009, Ray Burnett talked of Hamish Henderson's 'limitless vision of Scotland's place in the world, his irreducible faith in the human spirit, his awareness of the politics of culture, the power of poetry and song'.

This week, exactly 100 years since the birth of Henderson in Blairgowrie on 11 November 1919, the people of Scotland are marking his centenary in myriad ways – including the creation of a portrait by Martin Guinness on the slopes of Ben Gulabin, and the unveiling of a plaque at the School of Scottish Studies in Edinburgh. Birlinn celebrates



Hamish Henderson: Collected Poems
Edited by Corey Gibson
£20.00 Hbk

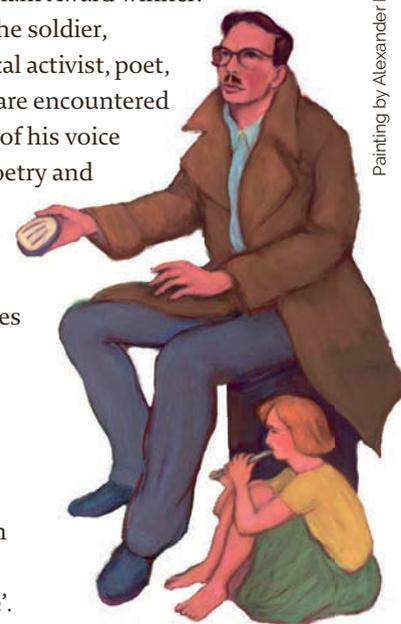
Henderson's life and contribution to the sometimes overlapping cultural and political movements of Scottish society with the publication of *Hamish Henderson: Collected Poems*, edited by Corey Gibson.

And what a life... brought up by his mother in Scotland in his early years, he was introduced to the anonymous song-poetry of the country before they decamped south. His mother died shortly before Henderson took up his scholarship at Dulwich College, affording him the opportunity of a privileged education. It was here that Henderson became acutely aware of the potential for the 'inferiorisation' of his Scottish identity. Throughout this period – and indeed his life – he fought to 'remain a Scot'.

At the outbreak of war he argued for peace but became a 'bard in battle' as he threw himself into the effort to defeat fascism while protecting humanity. His war years took him to the North African desert and to Italy and he captured the experience of WWII in verse, aware of the power of culture in politics.

This new book, which includes his songs as well as his poetry, is a 'ceilidh of writing'. It opens with, and reproduces in full, *Freedom Becomes People*, his controversial *Ballads of World War II* and *Elegies for the Dead in Cyrenaica* – a Somerset Maugham Award winner.

Henderson the soldier, folklorist, political activist, poet, songwriter – all are encountered here. The power of his voice lives on in his poetry and lyrics and – returning to Ray Burnett's article – continues to be heard 'at every gathering against wars, injustice and inequality, every celebration of Scotland's national culture'.



Painting by Alexander Moffat

Christmas Stocking Adventures

INSPIRATION ON MULL

Benedict Blathwayt

MOST of us have one special place – a place which glows always within us, like an ember, and can light us up creatively and spiritually, even when we are not there.

Mull is such a place to me.

I've had different lives there: as a child and as an adult, living, working, often in exile.

Over thirty-five years I have written and illustrated more than fifty children's books. Mull is there, somewhere, in many of them: in the colour and the light; in the wildlife; in the outline of distant mountains and in the crystal clear water of rock pool and sea.

When I visit schools, children ask me where my stories come from. I tell them that stories come from things we have seen and experienced.

For every story there has to be a spark, an ember. The ember for me is Mull, and in particular a large farm on the east coast of the island. My mother worked there after the war. I have early

memories of the farm, the warm smell of cows and sweet hay.

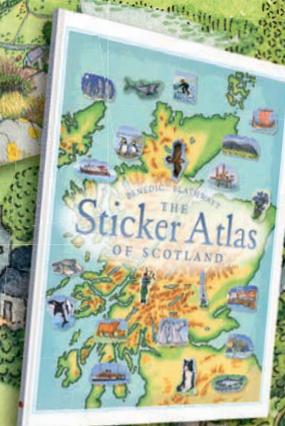
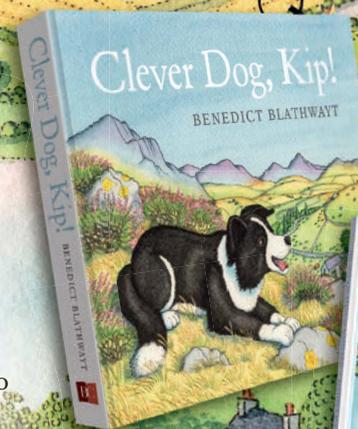
I worked summers on the farm when I was a teenager and when I got married I had a full-time job on the farm milking the cows, cartoning the milk and delivering it in crates to shops and hotels in Tobermory and Salen.

I later wrote five books about a cow called 'Bramble'. There's two orphan lambs in *Tig and Tag*; a goose called 'Bella'; and a sheepdog called 'Kip'.

My illustrations are full of fishing boats and ferries; puffins and seals; sad ruined cottages and distant hazy islands.

The vision and enthusiasm of Duncan Swinbanks and his bookshop in Tobermory, and of Hugh Andrew of Birlinn Books means many of my Mull-inspired stories are back in the shops.

The call of seals; the strange Aurora Borealis; the autumn trumpeting of swans; the first snow on the mountains; stars so bright they seem to crackle like fireworks; the lonely bubbling song of the Curlew – these are among the elements, the embers, that make Mull a magical place for me.



Clever Dog, Kip!
Benedict Blathwayt
£6.99 Board Book

The Sticker Atlas of Scotland
Benedict Blathwayt
£8.99 Pbk

Also available:
Little Seal £6.99 Pbk
Bears Adventure £6.99 Pbk
Tig and Tag £6.99 Pbk
Little House by the Sea £6.99 Pbk
Bella Goes to Sea £6.99 Pbk
Tractor £4.99 Board Book
Ferry £4.99 Board Book
Digger £4.99 Board Book
Rally £4.99 Board Book

TREATS FOR ALL AGES

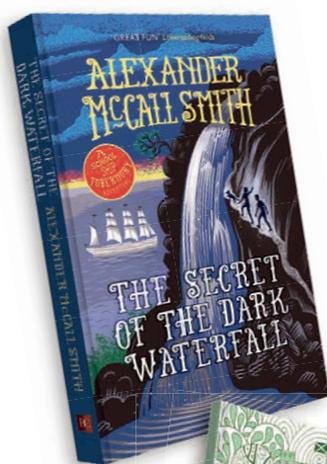
Jan Rutherford

GREAT writers reach out across the generations. Alexander McCall Smith wrote books for children long before his No.1 Ladies' Detective Agency series appeared. His much loved *The Perfect Hamburger* is as well known to children today as it was when it was first published in 1984. This year, he has a delightful new book out in The School Ship Tobermory series for readers of around 9-12 years. The title is *The Secret of the Dark Waterfall* and it is set right here – in an unusual school housed on a boat based in Tobermory Bay which takes its young pupils on an adventurous voyage to St Kilda.

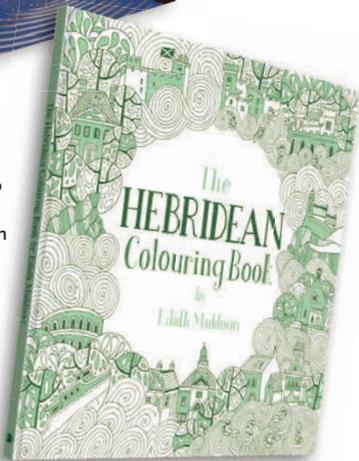
Friendships and bullying are tackled head on as the book rides the waves in this quirky adventure that young readers will love. And if they find themselves lost in the world of the School Ship Tobermory – the good news is that there are three more books to enjoy – *School Ship Tobermory*, *The Sands of*

Shark Island and *The Race to Kangaroo Cliff*.

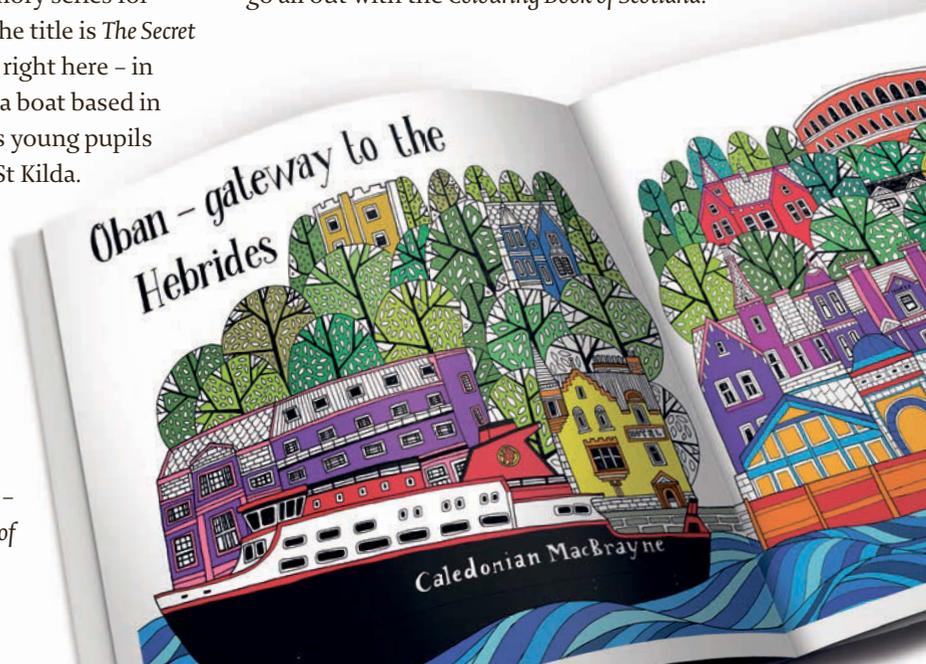
Need some soothing activity? Young and old alike will find peaceful escape colouring the pages of Eilidh Muldoon's stunning *Hebridean Colouring Book*. Do you want your colouring skills to wander further across Scotland? Then tackle Eilidh's *Edinburgh* and *Glasgow* colouring books or go all out with the *Colouring Book of Scotland*.



The Secret of the Dark Waterfall: A School Ship Tobermory Adventure
Alexander McCall Smith
£6.99 Pbk



The Hebridean Colouring Book
Eilidh Muldoon
£8.99 Pbk



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Served on a brioche bun with rustic chips and onion rings

- PIE OF THE DAY.....£13.50**

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& Chips

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- MACARONI CHEESE.....£6**
With chips

- CURRY OF THE DAY£6**
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- MINI PIE OF THE DAY£7**



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LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

Winter Queen waves her wand for festive fun magic

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Ten days of pure magic starts in Oban tomorrow when the Winter Queen rides into town on her unicorn.

The royal guest will be waving her wand to cast dazzling spells to light up shop windows as she makes her way through the town from the Corran Halls at 5pm to Station Square, then back along the Esplanade.

Organisers are encouraging people to dress up cosy and bright, and light sticks will be handed out to youngsters.

When the royal entourage arrives back at the Corran Halls, the Queen will be joined by children from Ballet West and will officially declare the festival and fairground open. Other



entertainment that night includes Ballet West presenting its Winter Wonderland show at the Corran Halls at 7pm and a charity fashion show

at M&Co, Station Square, at 6.30pm.

Saturday November 16 brings Oban Winter Festival's food and craft market

to Oban Distillery from 10am to 4pm while out at Dunstaffnage visitors can find out how to build a castle from 10am to 4pm.

Winter festival mascot Coolio with Janet Macleod, whose Orsay business won last year's best-dressed window competition.

The Northern Lighthouse Board in Gallanach Road is running tours with live music and food stalls from 10am.

Selfie fans can snap up the chance to get a picture taken with Shetland ponies Bobby and Charlie from 2pm to 4pm in Stafford Street, with donations going to Oban and Lorn Riding for the Disabled.

And Lego fans are in for a treat at a Winter Bricks event with top displays from members of Scotland's only recognised Lego users' group from 10am to 4pm, last entry at 3.45pm with funds

being raised for Charity Air Ambulance and Fairy Bricks Scotland.

The festival's packed programme is out now for people to decide which or all of the 100-plus events they want to join in, from haggis hunts to craft fairs, roller discos, origami workshop, wreath making and selfie with Shetland ponies.

Tomorrow, November 15, also sees the start of the Winter Woods spectacular when the trees and enchanted walled garden at Glencruitten light up. Torches, warm clothing and good footwear are recommended for this event. Ticket are only available from the Winter Festival website at obanwinterfestival.com. A shuttle bus service will take visitors to the woods and back.

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Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



Gathering concert

It's that time of year again where the West End of Glasgow (and one particular corner of the Park Bar!) will be full of Tiridich down to celebrate their annual gathering concert and dance.

The annual gathering concert will be tonight, Thursday November 14, at a new venue for the association: Kingsborough Gardens Sanctuary, Broomhill Hyndland Church, 81 Hyndland Road, G12 9JE.

The association wrote on Facebook: 'Please note the change of venue for this year, meaning the half-time dram will be back! I knew there must have been an appropriate reason for the move. In all seriousness, the line-up is impressive indeed: Ellen MacDonald, Ruairidh Cormack, Kirsty MacKinnon, Sean MacCallum and Kirsteen Grant. Donald Iain Brown is this year's chairperson who I'm sure will have many good stories to tell including of the recent success of Mòd Ghlaschu.

Tickets for the concert are £10 and available at the door.

Tiree dance

The following evening, Friday November 15, the gathering

dance will return to its usual venue in Glasgow University Union.

Gunna Sound (led by Tirie's own Campbell Brown on accordion) will be getting everyone on the floor and making sure it is as good a cèilidh dance as it always is year on year.

Tickets are available from the the Park Bar or by contacting the committee via Facebook.

Margaret Fay Shaw

On Saturday November 16, the CCA in Sauchiehall Street will host an interesting Gaelic evening with a slight twist.

This third collaboration of Ocaidich Improvise! between Cèol is Craic and Glasgow Improvisers Orchestra (GIO) explores themes arising from the work of Margaret Fay Shaw with specially invited guests.

Nerea Bello, Gillebride MacMillan, and Mairi MacMillan will present Basque and Gaelic song inspired by Margaret Fay Shaw's free-spirited journey from America to Canna; finding new connections between two traditions.

Poet Rona MacDonald will perform her own work inspired by the musical content, together with GIO which also

explores migration, transfer and transformation.

Dan Shay will provide live visuals combining Margaret Fay Shaw's photographic art with film. The separate art forms will cross over in many ways - finding new interpretations and ways of thinking about ancient songs and traditions.

This unique concert celebrates freedom of movement symbolised by birds and how distinct cultures can enrich each other. Tickets are £14, £10 for concessions, and £5 for students. Doors open at 7.30pm.

Skye reminder

On the subject of the kindred associations, here is another reminder to put Saturday December 7 in your diary as the slightly unusual night for the Glasgow Skye Association which has traditionally been held on the Friday.

The Glasgow University Union is the venue as normal and the line up includes singers such as Wilma Kennedy, Rachel Walker, James Graham and Arthur Cormack. Tickets are £10 (£8 for students) and it begins at 7.30pm. After the concert, the dance will begin to the music of Robert Nairn and his band.

M'ALBA

MY ALBA

DIARDAOIN 14th An t-Samhain THURSDAY 14th November

17:00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming
19:00 Calanais - Full Circle (rpt)
19:30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)
19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20:00 An Là - News
20:30 ÙR/NEW: Eorpa/European Current Affairs
21:00 Leabhraichean-latha a' Chogaidh Mhoir/ Great War Diaries (rpt)
22:00 ÙR/NEW: An Sgrudaire
22:15 Luinean Lannsaireachd/Surgey Ships (rpt)
23:00 Breabach@Blas (rpt)
23:30 Mach a Seo (rpt)

DIHAOINE 15 An t-Samhain FRIDAY 15th An t-Samhain

17:00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming
18:35 Machair (rpt)
19:00 An Là - News
19:25 Binneas - Na Trads (rpt)
19:35 ÙR/NEW: SPFL Challenge Cup - Raith Rovers v Elgin City
21:45 Mischa@Blas (rpt)
22:00 Trapped S2 (rpt)
22:50 Belladrum 2017 - Louis Berry (rpt)

DISATHAIRNE 16 An t-Samhain SATURDAY 16th November

16:00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming
17:45 An Là - News
18:00 Seachd - Inaccessible Pinnacle (rpt)
19:30 Cearcall (rpt)
20:00 Machair (rpt)
20:25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
20:30 Cuimhneachan/Remembrance (rpt)
21:00 ÙR/NEW Belladrum 2019 (Highlights)
22:00 An Sgrudaire (rpt)
22:15 Luinean Lannsaireachd (rpt)
23:00 As an Eilean (rpt)

DISATHAIRNE 16 An t-Samhain SATURDAY 16th November

16:00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming
17:45 An Là - News
18:00 Seachd - Inaccessible Pinnacle (rpt)
19:30 Cearcall (rpt)
20:00 Machair (rpt)
20:25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
20:30 Cuimhneachan/Remembrance (rpt)
21:00 ÙR/NEW Belladrum 2019 (Highlights)
22:00 An Sgrudaire (rpt)
22:15 Luinean Lannsaireachd (rpt)
23:00 As an Eilean (rpt)

00:35 Belladrum 2017: Dr Feelgood (rpt)

DIDÒMHNAICH 17th An t-Samhain SUNDAY 17th November

15:00 ÙR/NEW: Autumn Test: Scotland v Wales Rugby (rpt)
17:10 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming
18:15 An Là - News
18:30 Seachd Là - News Review
19:30 ÙR/NEW: Alleluia! (rpt)
20:00 Eorpa/European Current Affairs (rpt)
20:30 Gaisgich Oga an Darna Cogaidh (rpt)
20:55 Binneas - Na Trads - Robyn Stapleton (rpt)
21:00 Na Gleidheadairean (The Animak Keepers)
22:00 Belladrum 2019 (Highlights) (rpt)
23:00 Trapped S2 (rpt)
23:50 Dhan Uisge (rpt)

DILUAIN 18th An t-Samhain MONDAY 18th November

17:00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming
19:00 An Lot (the croft) (rpt)
19:30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20:00 An Là - News
20:30 Dealbhan Fraoich (rpt)
21:00 Trusadh - Laithean Sgoile - An Ard Sgoil (Schooldays - The Secondary School) (rpt)
22:00 TradFest (rpt)
22:30 Opry le Daniel (rpt)
23:20 An Sgrudaire (rpt)
23:40 Belladrum 2016: Cridhe Tartan - Rachel Sermanni (rpt)

DIMÀIRT 19th An t-Samhain TUESDAY 19th November

17:00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming
19:00 Calanais - Full Circle (rpt)

19:30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20:00 An Là - News
20:30 Ceathrar air Chuairt (rpt)
21:00 ÙR/NEW: Na Gleidheadairean (The Animak Keepers)
22:00 Trusadh S11 - Laithean Sgoile - An Ard Sgoil (Schooldays - The Secondary School)
23:00 Port (rpt)
23:30 Alleluia! (rpt)

DIADIADAIN 20th An t-Samhain WEDNESDAY 20th November

17:00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming
19:00 An Lot (rpt)
19:30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)
19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20:00 An Là - News
20:30 Cuimhneachan/Remembrance (rpt)
21:00 ÙR/NEW: Opry le Daniel
21:50 Dhan Uisge (rpt)
22:00 Mach a Seo (rpt)
22:30 TradFest (rpt)
23:00 Leabhraichean-latha a' Chogaidh Mhoir/ Great War Diaries (rpt)

DIARDAOIN 21th An t-Samhain THURSDAY 21th November

17:00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming
19:00 Calanais - Full Circle (rpt)
19:30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)
19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20:00 An Là - News
20:30 ÙR/NEW: Eorpa/European Current Affairs
21:00 Leabhraichean-latha a' Chogaidh Mhoir/ Great War Diaries (rpt)
22:00 ÙR/NEW: An Sgrudaire
22:15 Luinean Lannsaireachd/Surgey Ships (rpt)
23:00 ÙR/NEW: Belladrum 2019 (highlights)
23:30 Mach a Seo (rpt)



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WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

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FRIDAY 15TH NOVEMBER	
The Peanut Butter Falcon 12A	12:00/20:30
Shaun the Sheep: Farmageddon U	16:00
The Addams Family PG	16:15/18:00
2040 PG	18:15
Terminator: Dark Fate 15	20:00
SATURDAY 16TH NOVEMBER	
Shaun the Sheep: Farmageddon U	11:30 ★/14:00
Frozen1 - Fundraiser Sing-Along	11:30 FUNDRAISER
The Addams Family PG	13:30/16:00
The Peanut Butter Falcon 12A	15:30/20:30
Joker 15	17:45
2040 PG	18:15
Terminator: Dark Fate 15	20:15
SUNDAY 17TH NOVEMBER	
The Addams Family PG	12:15/14:45
Shaun the Sheep: Farmageddon U	12:30/14:15
Joker 15	16:15
2040 PG	17:00
Terminator: Dark Fate 15	19:00
The Peanut Butter Falcon 12A	19:30

SAVE MONEY WITH A CINEMA MEMBERSHIP

GET DISCOUNTS ON:
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EVENT TICKETS

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MIDNIGHT SCREENING
WEDNESDAY 18TH INTO THURSDAY 19TH
DECEMBER



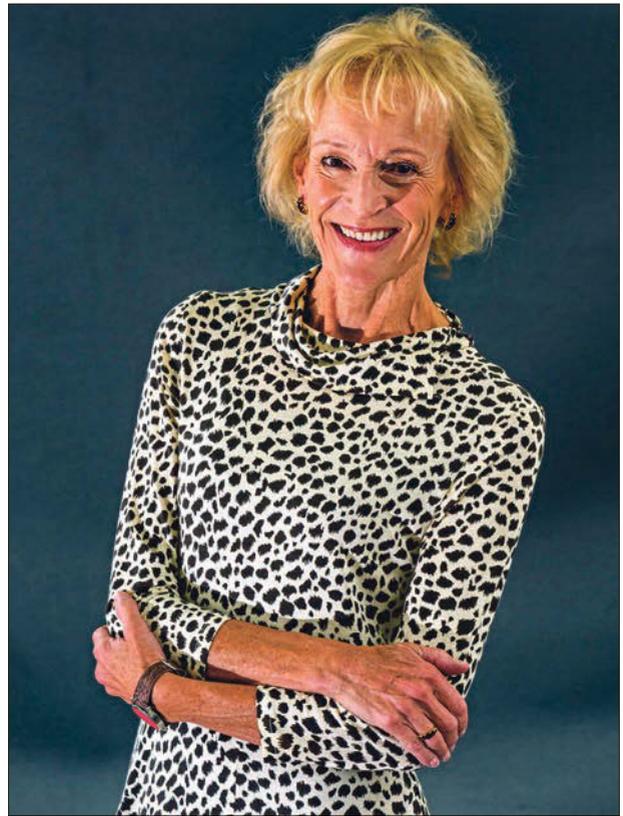
MONDAY 18TH NOVEMBER	
Terminator: Dark Fate 15	12:00/20:00
Shaun the Sheep: Farmageddon U	16:00
The Addams Family PG	16:15/18:00
2040 PG	18:15
The Peanut Butter Falcon 12A	20:30
TUESDAY 19TH NOVEMBER	
The Peanut Butter Falcon 12A	12:00 ★/18:15
Shaun the Sheep: Farmageddon U	16:00
The Addams Family PG	16:15/18:00
Terminator: Dark Fate 15	20:00
2040 PG	20:30
WEDNESDAY 20TH NOVEMBER	
The Peanut Butter Falcon 12A	12:00 ★/18:15
Shaun the Sheep: Farmageddon U	16:00
The Addams Family PG	16:15/18:00
Terminator: Dark Fate 15	20:00
2040 PG	20:30
THURSDAY 21ST NOVEMBER	
Harry Birrell: Films of Love & War	14:30 ★
The Addams Family PG	16:15
Shaun the Sheep: Farmageddon U	16:45
The Peanut Butter Falcon 12A	18:15
Terminator: Dark Fate 15	19:00
2040 PG	20:30

KIDS CLUB ★ EVERY SATURDAY MORNING AT £3 A TICKET
RELAXED SCREENING ★ WEEKLY SCREENINGS FOR AUTISM, SPECTRUM OR OTHER. LIGHTS DIMMED, AND SOFTER VOLUME.
HOH ★ ENGLISH SUBTITLES & AUDIO DESCRIBED FOR THE HARD OF HEARING
SILVER SCREEN ★ EVERY THURSDAY AFTERNOON AT £3 A TICKET

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

Tiny Luining is b

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Sue Lawrence will be visiting Luining later this month to discuss the recipes in her new book, including from Luining.

One of Scotland's best known food writers, Sue Lawrence, will be on Luining later this month working up appetites for her new book.

As well as hearing from the author about the recipes she collected, people will be able to sample her food.

The event at the Atlantic Islands Centre in Cullipool on Saturday November 23, during Book Week 2019, will double up as a launch for her book, A Taste of Scotland's Islands, and as a taster for some of the food produced on the island, just a short hop by ferry from the mainland.

Luining bakers and producers feature throughout the book, with their produce featured in some of the 100 recipes it shares with readers, including Tooti Cadzow's Luining beef fillet with salsa, Martin Whitmore's lemon oat vars, his wife Mary's banana cake with chocolate icing, and fellow islander

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Published on 12th December
SEND A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO FRIENDS FOR JUST £20

A	B	C
<p>Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year</p> <p>to all my relatives friends & neighbours from John Smith, Oban</p>	<p>SEASONS GREETINGS</p> <p>to all my relatives friends & neighbours from John Smith, Oban</p>	<p>JOHN AND JANE SMITH, OBAN</p> <p>would like to wish all their relatives, friends & neighbours a merry Christmas</p>

Simply fill in the coupon below with your special festive message and send or hand in to:-
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Deadline Friday 6th December. To appear Thursday 12th December

MESSAGE 20 words maximum

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ig on cake



Sue, who is also a champion of local produce.

The writer, who now lives in Edinburgh, travelled to some of Scotland's many islands gleaned recipes along the way, and says she is looking forward to returning to Luing this month. She might also be looking for material for

Mary Braithwaite's Luing sourdough bread.

Luing boasts its own collective of home-bakers, at the time of the book it was 14 women and one man – Martin – providing the community centre and local store with tasty treats all year round.

'Luing might be a small island but it is big on cake!' says

one of her next historical thrillers, saying: 'There's a lot that goes on in island communities – I find them fascinating. Who knows, I might pick up a few ideas for one of my books!'

The event on November 23 begins at 3pm and entry will be by donation.

For those still hungry, bar meals will be served from 5.30pm.

Peat & Diesel to launch second album

Less than a year on from their first gig, Stornoway sensation Peat & Diesel will launch their second album, *Light my Byre*, at Glasgow's Barrowland Ballroom in January.

The band – made up of Callum MacLeod on guitar and vocals, Innes Scott on accordion and Uilleam MacLeod on drums – have gained thousands of fans with their honest and comedic accounts of Western Isles life.

The launch gig will kick-off a UK tour that will see the band play nine gigs, from Fort William to London. Tickets are already selling out fast.

'It's been amazing to see so many people get behind us in 2019,' said Innes. 'It's all about writing songs that are relatable for us, and I think that's why so many people have got on the Peat train and embraced the music.'

'We're always inspired by everyday things and our home, and the new album will continue to tell those stories and give our fans something new to jump up and down to.'

WHAT'S ON

In partnership with Oban Town Diary BID4oban.co.uk

THURSDAY 14TH NOVEMBER

Oban Men's Shed
Salvation Army Hall. 9:00am - 12:00pm
Slimming World
Salvation Army Hall, Fort William
9:30am, 11:30am, 3:00pm, 5:00pm & 7:00pm
Tel: Gillian 07796 040803

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

Recovery Cafe
New Hope Kitchen. 12:30pm

Creative social club
Rockfield centre. 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Creative Writing Group
New Hope Kitchen. 2:30pm - 4:00pm

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Duns

FREE JUKEBOX EVERY THURSDAY

FRIDAY 15TH NOVEMBER

Hope Kitchen Music Group
Salvation Army Hall. 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Parsley's Cat Cafe
New Hope Kitchen. 2:00pm

Winter Festival Opening
Corran Halls. 5pm

Winterfest Whisky Tasting
Oban Whisky & Fine Wines. 8pm

Winter Wonderland
Corran Halls, Oban. 7:00pm - 10:00pm

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Duns

Crackin' Craic. Open till 2:00am

SATURDAY 16TH NOVEMBER

Hill Walk
Arrochar. All day

Ganavan Parkrun
Ganavan Sands, Oban. 9:30am

Oban Winter Bricks
St Columba's Cathedral, Oban
10:00am - 4:00pm

Victorian Market
The Perle Hotel. 10am-4pm

Lighthouse Board Tours
Gallanach Road
10am, 11am, 1pm, 3pm

Craft Fayre - Argyll Animal Aid
Corran Halls. 11am-3pm

Roller Disco

Atlantis Leisure. 11am-12.30pm

Snowboard Simulator
Atlantis Leisure. 11am-3pm

Producers Market
The View. 12pm-6pm

Pool Inflatables
Atlantis Leisure. 12.30pm-1.30pm

Food & Craft Market
Oban Distillery. 12pm-1.30pm

Oban Winter Bricks
St Columba's Cathedral Hall. 10am-4pm

Community Cafe
Salvation Army Hall. 12:00pm - 2:00pm

Bring a Present to Santa's Elves
Rockfield Centre. 12pm-4pm

Shetland Ponies
Stafford Street. 2pm-4pm

Big Quiz Night
Corran Halls. 7pm

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Duns

Calum Macphail. Open till 2:00am

SUNDAY 17TH NOVEMBER

The Big Food & Craft Market
Corran Halls, 10am-4pm

Lighthouse Board Tours
Gallanach Road. 10am, 11am, 1pm, 3pm

Snowboard Simulator
Atlantis Leisure. 11am-3pm

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

Beat The Winter Blues- See obanwinterfestival.com

Corran Halls. 12.30pm-4pm

Christmas Flower Arranging Demonstration
Argyllshire Gathering Halls. 2pm

Great Haggis Hunt
The Rockfield Centre. 2pm-4pm

Painting & fusing Christmas Tree Hangers
Highland Glass. 4pm-7pm

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Duns

QUIZ NIGHT at 9:30pm
£1 per person, max of 6 per team
Win £20 bar voucher

MONDAY 18TH NOVEMBER

Oban Men's Shed



Salvation Army Hall. 9:00am - 12:00pm

Jewellery Making
Bollinwood The Smithy. All day

Mini Music & Culture Club
The Rockfield Centre. 11.30am-12.30pm

Fellowship Meeting
New Hope Kitchen. 2:00pm

Slimming World
Union Street/Argyll Street, Lochgilphead
5:30pm & 7:30pm

Tel: Rhona 07880 878906

Winter Praise Informal Worship
St John's Cathedral. 6.30pm

Marty's Monday Club Mens
New Hope Kitchen. 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Foraged Food & Whisky Paring
Corran Halls. 7pm

TUESDAY 19TH NOVEMBER

Hill Walk
Glen Nevis, Fort William. All day

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

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

AA Open Session
Salvation Army Hall. 12:00pm - 2:00pm

At Anon
Salvation Army Hall. 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Marty's Monday Club Ladies
New Hope Kitchen. 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Gaelic Taster Session
Furian Centre. 7pm-8.30pm

WEDNESDAY 20TH NOVEMBER

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

Slimming World
Glencruitten Church Hall, Oban
9:30am, 11:30am, 5:30pm & 7:30pm

Tel: Gillian 07796 040803

Hope Kitchen Beach Clean
Slip opposite Stafford Street
10:30am - 12:00pm

Open Day
Greenshoots Garden. 10:30am - 3:30pm

Under the Skin Camera Club
The Rockfield Centre. 6.30pm-7.30pm

Gaelic Taster Session
Furian Centre. 7pm-8.30pm

Events may charge. Please visit www.obanwhatson.co.uk for more details. To list your event, please call 01631 568000

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

An Comunn Gàidhealach –
Meur Chruachain
**TAYNUILT
WINTER CEILIDH**

Joanie Morrison. Rory Macdiarmid
Plus Full Supporting Programme
Taynuilt Village Hall
Saturday 16th November. 7.30pm
Supper and Raffle
Adults - £4 - Children £2

Oban Rotary Senior Citizens' Club
Formerly O.L.D.S.

Christmas Lunch

Funded by Crerar Hotel Trust & Rotary Club of Oban
Monday 9th December 2019, 12 noon for 1pm
Oban Bay Hotel
Booking from Thursday 14th November 2019
To book your place, please call Oban 564848 (Office Hours) with your name, address and telephone number.
Music by Macadam plus guests.
Transport HOME will be provided by Rotary Club Members if necessary.

Argyll Animal Aid
Registered Charity since 1991: SC013211

Christmas Fayre
Saturday 16th
November
Corran Halls, Oban
11 - 3pm
38 Craft & Gift Stalls
Tea & Coffee
Home Baking

Cancer Research Committee
Oban Branch

Old Oban Slideshow
Friday 22nd November
7.30pm in
Glencruitten Church Hall
Tickets £5.00
Available at the door
Tea & mince pies

NETHERLORN PIPING SOCIETY

is holding a recital by
Dr Angus MacDonald
on Thursday 21st
November 2019
in the
Argyllshire Gathering
Halls at 7.30pm
Entry: Adults £3 and
Children Free

CELEBRATE HOGMANAY AT
MACHRIHANISH DUNES

Enjoy a fun and exciting evening with incredible food, live music, dancing, and a joyous celebration while we ring in the bells!

31 DECEMBER

5:00PM-9:00PM:

Enjoy a Special Hogmanay Meal

UNTIL 9PM:

"Dance 'Til The Bells" Disco



5:00PM-9:00PM:

Extraordinary Specials from Chef Gordon

UNTIL 9PM:

Live Music Featuring Matthew McCallister



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MONDAY: 08.00 am on Fm, 08.10 breakfast show, 9.00 Monday morning with Stephen, 11.00 Ian Simmonds Monday Mix, 17.00 Drivetime, 19.00 Rosie's Highland fling with Rosie MacColl, 20.00 John McLuckie's show, 21.00 David Cullen show, 23.00 Through the night with Clyde 2
TUESDAY: 08.00 am on Fm, 08.10 Breakfast show, 10.00 Ken Hunter's Tuesday morning, 13.00 Macky on Fm, 17.00 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 19.00 Highest praise with Stuart Chalmers, 20.00 Clyde 2 through the night with the Greatest Hits.
WEDNESDAY: 08.00 am on Fm, 08.10 breakfast show, 09.00 Sounds Scottish repeat, 10.00 The Comfort Zone with Lesley Blair Simmonds, 13.00 Doug Carmichael in the afternoon. 17.00 Drivetime with Campbell Cameron, 19.00 Country meets Rock & Roll with Len Ford & Kenny MacLachlan alternating. 21.00 Gordon's Grooves with Gordon MacIntyre, 12.00 Midnight through the night with Clyde 2.
THURSDAY: 08.00 - 11.00 Breakfast with Andy and Sarah, 11.00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 15.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 19.00

Christine's collection, 21.00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22.00 Margo till midnight then Through the night with Clyde 2.
FRIDAY: 08.00 breakfast show with Laura, 10.00 Teeny and Tiny aka Harry, Janet, and Anna, 17.00 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 18.45 Sports View, 19.00 Country meets Country with Jackie Craig, 21.00 Peter Rainnie 12.00 Midnight through the night with Clyde 2.
SATURDAY: 08.00 The Breakfast show with Stephen MacPhee. 10.00 Saturday Morning live with Linda Crosher, 13.00 Clyde2 Sports and the Greatest hits, 18.00 Sports view - Oban Fm Dream team, 19.00 Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling, 20.00 Dave Lewis, 22.00 Margo till Midnight then Through the night with Clyde 2 and the Greatest Hits.
SUNDAY: 09.00 Sunday Morning with Breege, 11.00 Sunday brunch with Allan MacKechnie, 13.00 Clyde 2 on a lazy Sunday afternoon with the Greatest Hits, 19.00 New Country show - David Entwistle, 21.00 Drum & Bass - Graham Scott, 23.00 Clyde 2 through the night with the Greatest Hits.

Kyle Falconer to play at The View

Music fans in Oban will receive a late Christmas present this year, writes David McPhee.

Kyle Falconer, the lead singer of Dundee band The View, will promote his debut solo album, No Thank You, on Friday December 27.

He will play in the aptly named venue, The View, formerly Skippinish Ceilidh House.

The Same Jeans singer has had five hit albums and a Mercury nomination with The View.

Daniel MacIntyre, one of the Oban venue's directors, said: 'Securing Kyle Falconer to promote his debut solo album at The View is a major coup for us, and something we've aimed to achieve since we took over. In a way, it's a statement about what is set to come when we reopen in 2020.'



Kyle Falconer will be at The View in Oban on December 27.

Plans to enhance The View's credentials as a music venue have been boosted as the venue has been selected for Scottish Music Industry Association's Music Business Innovation (MBI) programme.

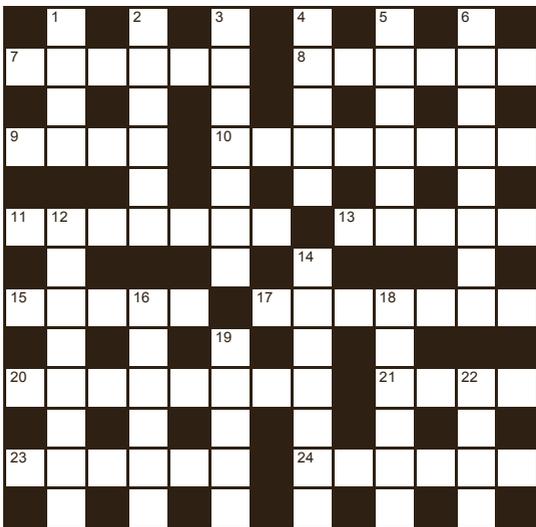
Delivered as part of a programme of development initiatives supported by Creative Scotland, the MBI was open to four Scottish businesses that will be supported by specialist consultants to help them create a strategic plan to address their market position, challenges and ambitions.

Daniel said: 'We are thrilled to be accepted onto the SMIA's Music Business Innovation programme and to help fly the flag for the music industry in the Highlands and Islands.'

'As the new kids on the block, we'll tap into as much knowledge and experience to help us reposition our venue as the gateway to traditional and contemporary music.'

'Alongside our planned investment in the venue, the innovation programme will help build our network and contacts as we stretch our programming and market development that is crucial to growing our reputation as a venue and Oban's night-time economy.'

Crossword



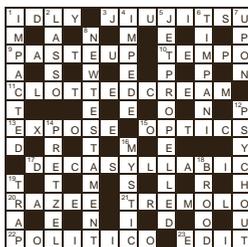
Across

- 7 Restaurant (6)
- 8 Together (6)
- 9 Word of honor (4)
- 10 Intellectuals (8)
- 11 Unfortunate (7)
- 13 Place (3,2)
- 15 Veneer (5)
- 17 Cavalryman (7)
- 20 Reverie (8)
- 21 Sorrel (4)
- 23 Excellent (4-2)
- 24 Fit sails to the mast (6)

Down

- 1 Result of a crack? (2-2)
- 2 Deadly (6)
- 3 Biker (7)
- 4 A council (5)
- 5 Passionate (6)
- 6 Elementary particle (8)
- 12 Yearly (8)
- 14 Swiss cheese (7)
- 16 Sudden (6)
- 18 Park place? (6)
- 19 Long-billed bird (5)
- 22 Water colour (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



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16th + 17th November
Gallanach Road Oban
NORTHERN LIGHTHOUSE BOARD TOURS

oban WINTER FESTIVAL

10am-12pm and 1pm-3pm

STALLS - LIVE MUSIC - GOOD FOOD
HOT SOUP - TEA - COFFEE - CHOCOLATE
PLUS DELICIOUS HOME BAKING

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Around the markets

Oban, United Auctions, Saturday November 9: 96 head of Cattle sold at the Luing Production Sale held on behalf of Mr Shane Cadzow, Ardlarach (Cadzow Brothers), Isle of Luing. This first time event drew a large following of customers which resulted in record prices and averages being obtained.
INCALF HEIFERS (2 years old) (23) averaged £2,236.96 and sold to £4,200, £3,255, £2,625, £2,520, £2,310.
INCALF HEIFERS (3 years old) (6) averaged £2318.75 and sold to £2,730, £2,520 (2), £2,257.50.
BULLING HEIFERS (30) averaged £1,550.50 and sold to £1,890, £1,837.50, £1,785(3), £1,732.50, £1,680 (4), £1,627.50, £1,575(2).
INCALF COWS (18) averaged £1,685.83 and sold to £3,202.50, £2,205(3), £2,100.
COWS WITH CALVES (3) averaged £1,644.99 and sold to £1,995, £1,785.
BULLS (4) averaged £4,252.50 and sold to £6,300, £5,250, £2,730(2).

Oban, United Auctions, Tuesday November 5: sold 1,167 head of sheep, when all classes met a brisk trade.
LEADING PRICES

LAMBS – TEXx - £70.00, £67.00, Strongorm; £64.00, 2 Baligrundle. CHEV - £59.00, Strongorm; £52.00, Braefoot; £52.00, £51.50, Caddleton Farms; £51.50, £50.50, Ensay Farm. CROSS - £52.00, Caddleton Farms; £51.00, Ballimore Farm; £49.50, Glenaros Farm. MULE - £54.50, Balure of Shian; £41.00, Killiechronan Estate. BF - £52.00, Castles Estate; £47.50, Corrylorn; £47.50, Aird Farm; £45.00, Gorteneoran.
CAST EWES – SUFF - £48.00, Balnahard. CHEV - £62.00, Burnbrae (Fionnphort); £45.00, Glenaros Farm; £40.00, Strongorm.
CROSS - £48.00, Balnahard; £46.00, Lagganulva; £44.00, Ardachy.
MULE - £49.00, Slaterich; £40.00, 2 Baligrundle. BF - £50.00, Slaterich; £47.00, Turnault; £41.00, Raera; £40.00, Burnbrae.
WEDDERS – CROSS - £57.00, Achnacone. BF - £47.00, Gorteneoran.
TEXx - £51.00, Newfield.

Islay, United Auctions, Friday November 8: sold 1315 sheep of all classes. 1068 Lambs averaged £57.49 (+ £3.22). In keeping with recent trends, all classes of lambs and sheep met a spirited demand.
LEADING PRICES PER HEAD

LAMBS – SUFFx - £85.00, Stanalane; £80.00, Lossit; £76.50, Ardbeg; £73.50, Lossit; £73.00, Kilchiaran; £67.50, £67.00, Coull; £67.00, Ardbeg; £66.00, Kilchiaran; £66.00, Duich. BELTx - £85.50, £84.00, Carrabus. TEXx - £80.00, Carrabus; £76.00, Tallant; £73.00,

Achnaclach; £72.00, Ballimartin; £70.00, Carn; £66.00, Carrabus; £66.00, 16 Westend; £65.00, Coull. CHEV - £67.00, Kilchiaran; £57.50, Coull. CROSS - £66.50, Carrabus; £65.00, Ardbeg; £63.50, Lossit. MULE - £58.00, Island; £58.00, Corrary. BF - £60.00, Leorin; £66.00, Ceannacroic; £53.50, Ceannacroic; £53.00, Islay Estates; £50.00, Leorin; £50.00, Ceannacroic.
EWES – SUFFx - £87.00, Stanalane. BFL - £69.00, Island. TEXx - £75.00, Carn; £68.00, Achnaclach; £64.00, Carn. CROSS - £91.00, Carrabus; £66.00, Stanalane; £64.00, Leorin; £60.00, Coille.
MULE - £58.50, 16 Westend. BF - £44.00, Stanalane; £41.50, Ceannacroic.

LEADING PRICES PER KILO

LAMBS – SUFFx – 184p, Coull; 180p, 176p, Lossit; 175p, Coull; 171p, Carrabus. BELTx – 181p, 175p, Carrabus. TEXx – 178p, Coull; 173p, Tallant; 172p, Carn; 172p, Stanalane; 171p, Carrabus. CHEV – 177p, Coull; 161p, Kilchiaran. CROSS – 165p, Lossit; 165p, Duich; 160p, Ardbeg; 157p, Islay Estates; 156p, Stanalane. MULE – 174p – Islay Estates; 163p, Corrary; 163p, Islay Estates; 157p, Island Farm. BF – 159p, 157p, 156p, Islay Estates; 153p, Ceannacroic; 150p, Leorin. #LambForStAndrewsDay

Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd, November, 6: sold 127 weaned calves and store cattle and 2 breeding cattle.

Store bullocks (57) averaged 211.2p and sold to 252.1p per kilo for 242kg Simmental crosses from Brenachie, Kildary and £1,270 for a 730kg Limousin cross from Inshes Farm, Inverness. Store heifers (68) averaged 201.2p and sold to 256.4p per kilo for a 195kg Limousin cross and £935 for a 445kg Limousin cross both Easter Moy Farm, Muir of Ord.

Young Bull (2) sold to £830 from Easter Moy Farm. Breeding Cattle (2) sold to £580 for a Shorthorn cross in calf cow from 25 Strathnaver, Kinbrace.

Other leading prices per head and per kg: Bullocks 201-250kg – Brenachie, Kildary, £610; 251-300kg – Brenachie, £680, 182 Strathtongue, Tongue, 250.0p; 301-350kg – Easter Moy Farm, £710, Garbeg, Drumadrochit, 222.2p; 351-400kg – Drumbuie, Kyle, £840, 224.0p 451-500kg – Seafield, Portmahomack, £960; 651-700kg – Inshes Farm, £1,200; Over 700kg – Inshes Farm, £1,240.

Heifers up to 200kg – Easter Moy Farm, £500; 201-250kg – Easter Moy Farm, £560, 182 Strathtongue, 243.2p; 251-300kg – Easter Moy Farm, £685, 236.2p; 301-350kg – Drumbuie, £700, Garbeg, 205.1p; 351-400kg – Drumbuie, £705; 401-450kg – Easter Moy Farm, £770, 210.1p; 451-500kg – Seafield, £900.

Wellbeing and health at heart of communities

Speaking at a parliamentary reception on rural mental health in Holyrood, NFU Scotland's director of regions Teresa Dougall, pictured, spoke about an initiative in Dumfries and Galloway that has put health and wellbeing are at the heart of the farming community.



Working with farmers and the rural community for more than 25 years, she has seen and heard first-hand the difficulties and barriers farmers face in maintaining good health and wellbeing. 'They may work and live in a beautiful environment, but it can be lonely and isolating, and services others take for granted operate around working hours which do not suit those who are farming. Seeking to ensure that

doors are always open, a Dumfries and Galloway initiative on rural health and wellbeing, which was launched on the union stand at Dumfries Show in 2017, shows what can be achieved.

Teresa writes: 'We know farmers don't like discussing their feelings. They don't like admitting anything is wrong. And, they don't like asking for help. In addition, they don't like – or can't – take time away from work, which often merges with home life.'

The initiative has provided leaflets providing contacts for organisations which could assist in health and wellbeing and mental health; it lobbies for better connectivity in rural areas

so that all parts of the community can access friends and family through social media or Facetime, and it provides opportunities for networking and socialising.

The Farmers' and Farmers' Wives' Choir, with its roots in the south-west, performed at the parliamentary reception and is a great example of bringing people together to sing, talk or make friends. Meanwhile, the Retired Farmers' Group is going from strength to strength, providing monthly gatherings for retired farmers and agricultural workers.

Teresa concludes: 'This initiative is about ensuring that within Dumfries and Galloway, our farming community feels supported and informed when it comes to health and wellbeing.'

Read the full blog at: www.nfus.org.uk/news/blog.

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66	Renault Kadjar Dyn S0Nav, Dci	black	32,000	£10,950	14	Audi TT TDi Coupe,	black	64,000	£12,950
15	Dacia Duster 4x2 Laureate Dci	blue	41,000	£8,250	13	Renault Megan 5dr H/B DCi, Auto,	white,	48,000	£5,250
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SELF BUILD FINANCE**ABOUT THE SELF BUILD LOAN FUND**

The Self Build Loan Fund (SBLF) was established by the Scottish Government to support and encourage the self build market at a time where securing mainstream finance can be difficult. The Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust administer the fund.

Now available across Scotland, self builders can borrow up to £175,000 to help them during their construction period.



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KEY FACTS

- Borrow up to £175,000
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For more information visit our website:

www.hscht.co.uk/scotland-self-build-loan-fund

Or get in touch:

selfbuild@hscht.co.uk 01463 572030



We have also recently launched a new website dedicated to providing self and custom build news and information. You can view it here: www.selfandcustombuild.co.uk.

The Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust is a Company Limited by Guarantee (SC182862) and a Scottish Charity (SC027544).**Need finance to build a home?****What is the Self-Build Loan Fund?**

The Self Build Loan Fund (SBLF) is a Scottish Government initiative, providing a time limited fund (September 2018 to August 2021) to assist self builders where they have been unable to obtain mainstream self build mortgage finance. The fund is available Scotland wide to support additional housing provision across both rural and urban areas.

Eligible individuals can borrow up to £175,000, which they can draw down in staged payments similar to a traditional self build mortgage. Borrowers must provide a Professional Advisors Certificate at each stage of drawdown. The SBLF is designed to fund the construction phase of a new home, and once this is completed, the borrower will repay the loan either via a mainstream mortgage or by using the equity from the sale of their existing home.

The Scottish Government has appointed the Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust (HSCHT) to administer the SBLF on its behalf and the Self Build Loan Fund Officer responsible for this is Neil Walker who has 33 years experience in the banking and financial sector and is well placed to provide assistance and guidance.

Who can apply?

A key purpose of the fund is to create additional, new homes for permanent residency. To apply you need to meet the following criteria:

- Demonstrate that you have been unable to obtain mainstream self-build mortgage finance for a new home (not a conversion or extension)

- Intend to occupy the property as your sole and only residence
- Own a house plot
- Have Full Planning Permission in place and be ready to apply for a Building Warrant
- Have a defined elemental build cost and construction programme
- Be able to demonstrate that you will be able to repay the loan upon completion of your build.

Not ready to apply?

If you don't presently meet all of the criteria, or have any concerns please get in touch to discuss your case.

Feedback from some of those we have helped:

'An amazing initiative, we are so thankful to HSCHT and the Scottish Government for this initiative. Without it we would not be sitting in our brand new family home just now. Thank you.'

'We approached HSBLF after we had exhausted all other avenues to obtain funds to finish our housebuild. The HSBLF is a lifeline for people who wish to build but have trouble for various reasons in obtaining a loan from the High Street lenders. We cannot praise them enough for their help. We would have no hesitation in recommending the scheme to others who are looking to self build or like us have started and run out of funds.'

Further information?

For further information, please contact the Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust; e: neil.walker@hscht.co.uk t: 01463 572 030 7 Ardross Terrace, Inverness, IV3 5NQ

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QUARRY OPERATIVE

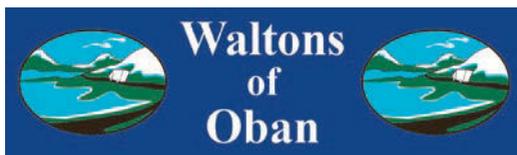
You will be responsible for carrying out routine quarry operations ensuring that all works are carried out in a safe and efficient manner ensuring the Company's Health, Safety and Environmental policies are adhered to at all times.

This post requires a current MPQC skills card, candidates would ideally have industry related experience and knowledge of quarrying operations. We are looking for someone who is a versatile, flexible and accommodating worker who has a clean driving licence.

The successful candidate would be required to commence at the earliest opportunity.

If you wish to apply to join our team, please download an application form from our website www.leiths-group.co.uk/careers and submit to recruitment@leiths-group.co.uk

Leiths (Scotland) Ltd are an Equal Opportunities Employer



Delivery driver/storeman

We are a thriving and long established food distribution business covering the West coast and most of the Inner Hebrides.

We wish to recruit a smart, reliable, resourceful and customer focused driver for our delivery runs around Argyll, Lochaber and the islands. Occasional stores work would also be required.

Ideal candidates would either have a class II licence and CPC, or, be a van driver looking to undergo paid driver training to Class II level.

Early starts and manual handling skills are essential.

Please apply with CV and covering letter to Eric Walton, Waltons of Oban, 13 Lochavullin Road, Oban, PA34 4PL. Or email to eric@waltonsofoban.co.uk

Surveying Opportunities with TSL Contractors Ltd



TSL Contractors is a dynamic, award-winning construction and haulage company with offices in Oban and Mull. Due to the continuing growth of the company, we are looking for two talented, motivated and enthusiastic surveyors to join our busy commercial department at this time of steady expansion. Based in Oban, both posts will require some travel throughout Argyll and Lochaber.

Quantity Surveyor

Working within a small team of surveyors the role will pro-actively support our commercial manager with the management of a varied portfolio of projects from inception through to completion.

The ideal candidate will have:

- Strong technical knowledge and commercial awareness
- A relevant QS qualification
- Previous experience of working in a similar role within the construction industry
- A customer focused approach
- Excellent communication, organisational and negotiation skills
- Superb attention to detail and quality
- The ability to work effectively under pressure

Assistant Surveyor

The role will provide timely support and assistance to our team of surveyors with all aspects of the team's work.

The ideal candidate will:

- Have a relevant QS qualification or be working towards or willing to work towards this
- Have excellent communication and organisational skills
- Be committed to self-development
- Be computer literate and proficient in Microsoft Office software in particular, Excel and Word
- Be a team player and also able to work independently
- Have effective time management skills

We offer an inclusive, friendly and supportive working environment, competitive rates of pay, and opportunities for continuing professional development and career progression. Please don't be put off applying if you don't tick all the boxes - we are keen to hear from suitable candidates who can demonstrate potential as well as those who are ready to hit the ground running. Please send your CV with a covering letter to hr@tslcontractors.co.uk

For an informal chat about either post please contact David Stewart, Commercial Manager, on 01631 569 991

We are committed to promoting diversity and inclusion within our workforce and welcome applications from all sectors of the community.

We've made it even easier to find your next job in the perfect location. Download our app for free at hijobs.co.uk/app

HIJOBS



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.

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

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.

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
19/01819/PP	Change of use of vacant land to form motorhome/caravan stances, alterations and change of use of former station building to form amenity block, alterations and change of use of carriage to camping coach with raised decking, installation of sewage treatment plant and formation of vehicular access	Land North And East Of Creaganlea, Appin, Argyll And Bute
19/02258/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and formation of vehicular access	Land South East Of Gramercy, Tobermory, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute
19/01882/PP	Change of use of shop to form studio for weight loss group training with associated supplement shop	12A Airds Crescent, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 5SQ
19/02164/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 2, Land North West Of Ashlea, Croft Drive, Oban, Argyll And Bute
19/02042/PP	Erection of holiday accommodation unit	Dundonald, North Connel, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA37 1RE
19/02253/PP	Demolition of dwellinghouse and erection of replacement dwellinghouse	Fir Bank 6 Achosrigan, Portnacrosich, Appin, Argyll And Bute, PA38 4BB
19/02238/PP	Conversion of existing farm buildings to form 5 affordable housing units and refurbishment of existing units within farm complex including associated drainage	Home Farm, Glengorm Road, Glengorm, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute, PA75 6QD
19/02300/PP	Erection of storage shed (part retrospective)	Plot 1, Nant Park, Taynuilt, Argyll And Bute
19/02247/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of treatment plant	Land Between Drumlach And Drumlach Lower, Kilchattan, Isle Of Colonsay, Argyll And Bute
19/01671/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land South West Of Windyedge, Portnahaven, 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 Councils website.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:

www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

THE A85 TRUNK ROAD (OBAN) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION ON USE OF ROAD) (NO. 3) ORDER 2019

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS give notice that they have made the above Order under sections 2(1) and (2), 4(1) and 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, temporarily prohibiting traffic on;

1. That length of the A85 Tyndrum - Oban Trunk Road from its junction with Corran Esplanade, Oban in a generally north easterly direction to the junction with Dunollie Road, Oban then in a generally southwards direction along Dunollie Road and George Street, Oban to its junction with Queens Park Place, Oban, a distance of 750 metres or thereby.

2. That length of the A85 Tyndrum - Oban Trunk Road from its junction with Argyll Square, Oban in a north eastwards direction in Aird's Place and then northwards and north westwards in George Street to Corran Esplanade to its junction with A85 Tyndrum - Oban Trunk Road and the entrance to Corran Halls, a distance of 830 metres or thereby.

The Order, which is required to facilitate the Oban Winter Festival Parade will be in operation from 15th November until 16th November 2019. It is anticipated that the restrictions will be in place about 17:00 hrs for approximately 50 minutes and will only have effect in relation to such part or parts of the length of road as is indicated by the appropriate traffic signs. The Order does not apply to vehicles being used in an emergency for fire brigade, ambulance, police or coastguard purposes or a vehicle being used for facilitating the holding of the relevant event.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

An alternative route is not required.

A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at <https://www.transport.gov.scot/road-orders/?roadorderregion=1291> For information about roadworks on motorways and trunk roads visit www.trafficscotland.org.uk

B. ARCHIBALD

A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF



Argyll and Bute Council

DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

ARGYLL AND BUTE PROPOSED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2
STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA):
ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

Notice under Section 18 (1) (c) of the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 and under Section 16 (2) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005

Argyll and Bute Council has prepared a Proposed Local Development Plan (known as PLDP2) that consists of two elements; the **Written Statement and Proposals Maps**. The Local Development Plan provides the local planning framework for the Council area (excluding the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park area) and is the plan against which planning applications are assessed. An Environmental Report (Strategic Environmental Assessment) also accompanies the plan.

The Proposed Argyll and Bute Local Development Plan 2 and the Environmental Report are issued for representations to be made from the 14th November 2019 until 23rd January 2020.

They can be viewed at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/ldp2
A number of events are being arranged throughout the Council Area, details of these are available on the web site.

The documents will also be available to view in the Council Offices/Service Centres and libraries listed below.

Council Offices/Service Centres

Manse Brae, Lochgilphead; Municipal Buildings, Oban; Milton House, Dunoon; Civic Centre, Helensburgh; Bowmore, Islay; Tobermory, Mull; Crossapol, Tiree; Craighouse, Jura; Scalasaig, Colonsay.

Opening hours can be found on the website: www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/content/enquiriesform

Libraries

Tarbert, Rosneath, Cardross, Oban, Helensburgh, Dunoon, Rothesay, Campbeltown, Lochgilphead, Tiree and Tobermory.

Opening hours can be found on the website: www.liveargyll.co.uk/facilities/libraries

Anyone can make Representations on PLDP2. Representations must be made on the official response form, which can be found on the web site at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/ldp2

Representations must be completed and submitted by **12 noon on the 23rd January 2020**.

Comments on the Environmental Report may be sent to ldp@argyll-bute.gov.uk and should be submitted by **12 noon on the 23rd January 2020**.

If you require further information please telephone Sheila McKenzie on 01546 604158 or email ldp@argyll-bute.gov.uk

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:

www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

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Regional Press
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Source: Business Choice II, The Newspaper Society

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1 Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.
2 The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.
3 The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.
4 An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertisers' order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person.
5 Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement.
6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or

action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.

7 The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.

8 Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular advertisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose.

9 The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the

publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.

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12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions. Published by Wyvex Media Limited, P.O. Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB, Tel: (01631) 568000
www.obantimes.co.uk and registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. <http://termsandconditions.wyvex-media.co.uk>

PUBLIC NOTICES

**CROFTING COMMISSION
COIMISEAN NA
CROITEARACHD
DECROFTING
APPLICATIONS**

AD MacIntosh
6 Stronaba, Kilmonivaig
0.166 ha – Existing house
site
101841

CC Wright
Knockdhu, Kilchrenan &
Dalavich
0.044 ha – Existing house
site
100651

Written comments from
any member of the crofting
community within the
locality of the croft and any
expressions of demand for
the croft (which may be
made public), may be sent
to the Crofting Commission
by 13/12/2019. Crofting
Commission, Great Glen
House, Leachkin Road,
Inverness IV3 8NW – info@
crofting.gov.scot

Full details at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk.
Privacy notice available
at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk/privacy-policy or
on request.

**Oban Times
PUBLIC NOTICES**

www.highland.gov.uk



**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

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

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
19/04665/FUL	18 Perth Place Upper Achintore, Fort William	Alterations to garage to form self contained letting unit
17/03838/FUL	Land At Allt Feith A Chatha NW Of Glenfinnan	Construction of earth embankments (dams), associated spillways, pipework and construction access track
19/03729/FUL	Land 75M NE Of The Anchorage Ormsaigmore, Kilchoan	Erection of house
19/04759/FUL	Land At Croft 104 And 105, 70M North East Of Tigh A Chladaich Glenmallee Road, Caol, Fort William	Erection of house (amended design from 11/04288/FUL)
19/04773/FUL	Unit 2, 40B Ben Nevis Drive Ben Nevis Industrial Estate	Erection of storage building

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

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
TOWN and COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND)
REGULATIONS 2017**

Construction of earth embankments (dams), associated spillways, pipework & construction access track AT Land At Allt Feith A Chatha NW Of Glenfinnan

The Council has received an application from Utha Hydro Ltd for the above development. The application is development falling within the Regulations as Environmental Impact Assessment development and accordingly is supported by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report. The application reference number is - 17/03838/FUL

The application and the accompanying Environmental Impact Assessment Report are available for public inspection between the hours of 9.30am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 4.30pm Monday to Friday at the Service Point, Charles Kennedy Building, Achintore Road, Fort William, PH33 6RQ. They can also be accessed online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/> (search using application number 17/03838/FUL)

Printed copies of the complete Environmental Impact Assessment Report can be purchased from Adrian Laycock Ltd, 2 Malin House, European Marine Science Park Oban TEL: 07780938069 at a cost of £500.00. The Non Technical Summary and DVD can be obtained free of charge.

Any person who wishes to make a representation on the application and Environmental Impact Assessment Report can make them online by visiting <http://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/> or by writing to The Head of Planning and Building Standards, ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX. The deadline for receipt of comments is 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

The Council will acknowledge receipt of comments but is unable to respond individually to points or questions raised. Please note that your comments will be published online. Please quote the application reference number in your correspondence.

Stuart Black
Director of Development and Infrastructure

**MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010
Marine Farm, Geasgill, Loch Na Keal**

Notice is hereby given that The Scottish Salmon Company has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of a finfish farm at:

Cost	£3,600		
Location :	Latitude	Longitude	
Geasgill, Loch Na Keal	Moorings Area	56° 27.823' N	006° 10.210' W
		56° 27.736' N	006° 09.560' W
		56° 27.529' N	006° 09.650' W
		56° 27.569' N	006° 09.947' W
		56° 27.464' N	006° 09.993' W
		56° 27.477' N	006° 10.092' W
		56° 27.582' N	006° 10.047' W
	56° 27.616' N	006° 10.300' W	
Boat Moorings		56° 28.450' N	006° 07.650' W
		56° 28.430' N	006° 07.610' W
		56° 28.410' N	006° 07.630' W
		56° 28.730' N	006° 08.310' W
		56° 29.230' N	006° 11.320' W
Feedbarge	56° 27.638' N	006° 09.970' W	
Pontoon		56° 28.580' N	006° 07.650' W
		56° 28.500' N	006° 07.650' W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Aros Post Office, Aros, Isle of Mull, PA72 6JD.

Objections relating to safety of navigation in respect of the application should be made in writing to

Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email to: MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot, quoting reference: 07088 and Cooke Aquaculture Scotland Ltd.

Fair Processing Notice

The Scottish Government's Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) determine applications for marine licences under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. During the consultation process any person having an interest in the outcome of the application may make representation to MS-LOT. The representation may contain personal information, for example a name or address. This representation will only be used for the purpose of determining an application and will be stored securely in the Scottish Government's official corporate record. Representations will be shared with the applicant and/or agent acting on behalf of the applicant, any people or organisations that we consult in relation to the application and, where necessary, be published online, however personal information will be removed before sharing or publishing.

A full privacy notice can be found at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine/PrivacyNotice>. If you are unable to access this, or you have any queries or concerns about how your personal information will be handled, contact MS-LOT at: ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot or Marine Scotland - Licensing Operations Team, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB.



**Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot**

GAELIC IN SCOTLAND

Scottish Ministers are seeking applications for the posts of Cathraiche (Chair) and Member of the Board of Bòrd na Gàidhlig For an application pack and details on these posts and other public appointments please visit the dedicated public appointments website:

www.appointed-for-scotland.org
Scottish Ministers particularly welcome applications from groups currently under-represented on Scotland's public bodies, such as women, disabled people, ethnic minorities and people aged under 50. Please do complete our monitoring form when you apply as this helps us to ensure that the appointments process is accessible to everyone.

Appointed on merit;
committed to diversity
and equality.



**Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot**

GÀIDHLIG ANN AN ALBA

**Tha Ministearan na h-Alba a' sireadh
thagraidhean airson na dreuchdan
Cathraiche agus Ball den Bhòrd aig Bòrd
na Gàidhlig**

Gheibhear pasgan tagraidh agus fiosrachadh mionaideach mu na dreuchdan seo agus dreuchdan poblach eile air làrach-lìn nan dreuchdan poblach aig www.appointed-for-scotland.org. Tha Ministearan na h-Alba a' cur fàilte air tagraidhean bho bhuidhnean a tha an-dràsta fo-riochdaichte air buidhnean poblach na h-Alba, mar eisimpleir boireannaich, daoine cioramach agus daoine fo aois 50. Ma lionas sibh ar foirm measaidh, cuidichidh seo sinn gus deànamh cinnteach gu bheil pròiseas nan tagraidhean fosgailte dhan h-uile duine.

Fastadh tro airidheachd;
a' gealltainn iomadachd
agus co-ionannachd.



**OBAN & LORN
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY
FINAL MEETING
TO FORMALISE THE
DISPOSAL OF
REMAINING FUNDS**
Thursday 21st
November 2019 @ 7pm
GLENCRUITTEN ROAD
CHURCH HALL
Open to any
interested parties

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

Argyll and Bute Council

**DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE
(QUEENS PARK PLACE, STATION ROAD AND RAILWAY STATION
ACCESS ROAD, OBAN) (SPECIAL EVENT)(TEMPORARY
PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2019**

On Monday 11th November 2019, Argyll and Bute Council in exercise of the powers conferred on them by Section 16(A) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended, with the consent of the Scottish Ministers under Section 16(B)(6)(b) of the said Act, made the above named Order, the effect of which will be that for a temporary period it will be unlawful for any person to drive or cause or permit to be driven any vehicle, with the exception of emergency services vehicles, through the entire lengths of Queens Park Place, Station Road and Railway Station Access Road, Oban in order to permit the switching on of the Christmas lights on or near those roads.

The Order, which is necessary to facilitate the holding of the event, shall have effect when indicated by signs between 1400 hours and 2000 hours on Saturday 23rd November 2019.

Alternative Route: There is no alternative route.
Roads & Infrastructure Services, 1A Manse Brae,
Lochgilthead, PA31 8RD.

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www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
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FAX: 01631
568001

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

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

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gun, power drill, power driver,
sander, mitre saw, mitre box
kit, £99.00 Telephone 01586
552834

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4" May split. Buyer collects
(Ardishaig), £50.00 ono
Telephone 07502 997621

25MM BORE WATER PIPE - x
24 metres, £20.00 Telephone
01631 564134

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ornate Victorian/Edwardian
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DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

OIL RAYBURN 308K



- This royal blue, oil-fired
Rayburn 308K cooker is in
pristine condition having
been professionally rebuilt
but never installed. Flued
on the RHS with RH
ovens, it provides range
cooking and heat to the
kitchen. If hot water is
required, a new stainless
steel, fully guaranteed
boiler would be fitted.
It CANNOT do central
heating. Dimensions: 830
mm wide x 820 mm high
x 510 mm deep. Delivery
is possible. £1400 without
boiler, £1730 with boiler.
For more info, photos
or viewing, please call,
Telephone 07889 324823

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great condition, complete with
2 perfect mattresses, £25.00
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SOLID PINE BEDSIDE
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Telephone 07506 069166
ERCOL DINING ROOM
SUITE - with 6 matching
chairs, extending middle
leaf. In beautiful condition.
Cost over £4,000 new. Will
accept, £650.00 Telephone
07464 186525

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for working use or
colourful garden feature,
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VINTAGE CART WHEELS
- and smaller implement
wheels. Colourful garden
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VINTAGE CHIMNEY POTS
- in various sizes and
styles, make lovely garden
planters. Prices from £40.00
Telephone 01631 564578

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LARGE METAL STORAGE
TRUNKS - Two large metal
storage bins with lids. Size
34" X 23" X 20". These
are well used and need
some tidying up but seem
generally sound. £20 for
the pair Telephone 01631
710401

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DIAMOND
WEDDINGS

GIBSON - McNICOL - At Glenorchy Church, Dalmally on November 11, 1959 by the (late) Rev. Dr. M.K MacLeod, Tommy to Helen. Present address: St. Conan's Cottages, Dalmally.

DEATHS

HICKMAN - Philip (Phil). Peacefully at home after an illness bravely borne on November 1, 2019, devoted and loving husband of Wilma, much loved brother, uncle, son-in-law and brother-in-law. Funeral service, to which all family and friends are invited will take place at South Lanarkshire Crematorium on Wednesday November 20, 2019 at 12.30 p.m. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired can be made at the service to Macmillan Cancer Support.

JAYNE - Lesley. Passed away suddenly at home on October 24, 2019. A huge shock to her family who loved her very much. The funeral service will be at Tobermory Parish Church on Thursday, November 21 at 11.30 a.m. and then she will go on her final move to Applecross for her interment on Friday, November 22 at 1p.m.

KENNEDY - Peacefully, after an illness borne bravely, our sister, Isobel (Bella), sadly passed away, on Monday, November 11, 2019, aged 61. Funeral service will be held at Lochgilphead Parish Church, on Tuesday, November 19, 2019 at 12.00 noon, thereafter to Achnabreac Cemetery. There will be also be memorial service, celebrating her life, at Glen Iosal Housing, on Thursday, November 21, 2019 at 1.00pm. All are welcome.

MORRISON - Jane (née MacAlister). Peacefully at home surrounded by her family on November 7, 2019. Funeral will be held in the Leven Centre, Kinlochleven on Friday,

November 15 at 12 noon followed by horse drawn carriage to Kinlochmore Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to Macmillan Nurses, Oban.

ROSS - Suddenly at home on Monday, November 11, 2019 Charles James Ross, 83 years, devoted husband of the late Maimie Ross née MacDonald. Much loved dad of Kay, Susan and Craig. Loving grandfather to Ross, Jack, Emma, Lucy, Charlie, Aimee and Hannah. Funeral service on Monday, November 18, 2019 at 1 p.m. at St. Andrews Episcopal Church, Fort William thereafter to St. Johns, Ballachulish. All family and friends respectively invited. Family flowers only please.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAMERON - (Corpach). Donald, Fiona and family would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy and support extended to them following the passing of their dear dad and grandad, Alasdair, on October 16, 2019. Special thanks to Dr Wallace, Jenn Latham and the district nurses of Craig Nevis Surgery and those close friends and neighbours who supported Alasdair during his illness. Thanks to Bill Skene for his comforting service and all at McLellan Funeral Directors for an efficient service. Finally thanks to all who attended dad's service at Kilmallie Church and donated to Craig Nevis district nursing team.

CATANACH - Elizabeth and family would like to thank everyone for the overwhelming amount of support shown following the sudden sad loss of Sandy. Grateful thanks to Tweeddale Medical Practice and Dr Calder at Ballachulish Medical Centre for all the care shown to Sandy throughout his illness. To Lochaber Macmillan Nurses for all the help and support, and finally the Belford Hospital

for their kindness to Sandy and everything over the last few months. To Rev. Sandy Stoddart for the comforting service, to Brian for the piping. Also thanks to John, Linnie and the staff at John McLellan Funeral Directors for meeting all the requests made by Sandy to the very last detail and making the whole arranging so much easier. Finally, thanks to all who attended the service and graveside and gave so generously the amount of £683.00 for Lochaber Macmillan Nurses.

DOYLE - Avril née Power. The family of our much loved and loving Avril would like to thank all our relatives, friends and neighbours for all their comfort and kind support, visits, cards, letters, flowers and home baking. Also a mention for the number of people who travelled from near and far for the funeral and the massive support at the church and graveside ceremonies led by Bill Skene. Thank you to John McLellan Funeral Directors for their much appreciated and professional service. Also Caol Community Centre for the warming soup and buffet. Finally a heartfelt thanks to all the nursing staff of the Belford Hospital who cared for Avril in her final days. Thank you to all who attended the service and who gave so generously. £810.18 was collected for Caol Primary School and the Belford Hospital.

"He put his arms around you
And lifted you to rest
God's garden must be beautiful
He only takes the Best".

MACCORQUODALE - Gillian and family were overwhelmed by the kindness shown to them during this heart breaking time, and would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for their cards, flowers, home-baking and kind thoughts. Thanking Doctor Kate, Lorna and ambulance crews in attendance. A

special thank you to Duncan Gunn for all his help, advice and funeral arrangements and to Duncan and Allan MacKenzie for their kindness and support on the day. To the Rev Peter Park, for giving us a very special and beautiful service. A very big thank you to Appin Fire crew for their services at the church and the graveyard, and to all the colleagues who travelled from near and far to pay their respects. A very special mention to the firemen for the Guard of Honour at the church, it will never be forgotten. To Angela at The Flowerhouse for the stunning flowers, to Joyce Noble for playing in the church and Angus MacColl for piping at the graveside. Dougal Thomson and Stuart Carmichael for ensuring the newly installed technology ran without a hitch. To Stuart Johnston and Barry Gunn for stopping traffic, to allow us all to walk peacefully with Neil. To the community, Appin village hall committee and Creagan Inn for their beautiful buffets and service. Neil was a very special man, and he would be so proud to see how loved and so highly thought of he was by so many people. Thank you xx

The collection raised £2088.69 in aid of Port Appin Surgery and SFRS Family Support Trust.

MACKINTOSH - The family of the late Joan MacKintosh (Corran) wish to thank Msgr MacKinnon, Fr Connor and Fr Johnstone and Abbeyfield Nursing Home, Ballachulish, for giving Joan such a peaceful ending, Craig Nevis Surgery, Home Care, "Talk Lochaber", the local District Nurses, Carr Gomm and Sheila Crilley, also Aonghas Grant and Kevin Cameron for the lovely music, it was very much appreciated. Our grateful thanks also to Charlie Toal and John McLellan Funeral Directors for their excellent funeral arrangements

MACLEAN - Marie and family would like to thank friends, relatives and neighbours for all the kind wishes, cards and flowers they received following their sad loss of David (Tiger). Thanks to McDonald Bros for the beautiful flowers to Alyson Stewart for her comforting

service and support. Grateful thanks to John, Linnie and the team at John McLellan Funeral Directors for the care and attention to detail with the funeral arrangements. To the Ballachulish Community Nurses for the support shown to us all as a family. Finally thanks to all who attended the Memorial Service and the Crematorium. The generous amount of £645.20 was collected for Ballachulish District Nurses.

MACLEAN - Hector. The family would like to thank all those who so generously donated to the retiring collection which raised the sum of £319.47 for Chest, Heart and Stroke, Scotland.

MEMORIALS

CAMERON - Angus Cameron 1920-1994 (Onich) Miss you always
You're in our thoughts each day.

- Rosemary and family.

CAMERON - In loving memory of our Louie, a dear sister, sister-in-law, aunt and great-aunt who passed away at Kilmalieu on November 10, 2000.

Sadly missed.

- MacKechie family at Fort William, Oban, Killin and Balfour.

DICKSON - Annabel. In loving memory of a dearly loved wife, mother and gran, died November 13, 2016. Forever in our hearts and minds.

- Hugh, John, Norman, Alison and their grandchildren.

EMSLIE - In remembrance of my beloved wife Anne, who was taken away on November 16, 2002.

We never part from those we love

No distance can divide

In memory's garden day by day

We still walk by your side
- Hamish.

EMSLIE - Remembering with love and gratitude our mother, mother-in-law and granny Anne, who passed away on November 16, 2002. A light is from our household gone

A voice we loved is stilled
A place is vacant in our home
Which never can be filled
- Your family.

GRANT - In loving memory of Captain Bill Grant, devoted husband, Dad and Grandad, taken from us so unexpectedly on November 16 last year.

All of his family.
Always in our thoughts.

MACNICOL - In loving memory Ishbel M MacNicol, 27.2.45 - 14.11.13.

No longer in our lives to share
But in our hearts, you are always there

- Love Hamish and family.

PEARSON - Proud and precious memories of our Gary, a much loved Dada, son and brother, taken from us so tragically on November 13, 1999, aged 22 years.

We cannot believe that it has been 20 years without you.

However you remain in our hearts every day.

May the winds of Heaven blow softly and whisper in your ear

How much we loved and miss you and wish that you were here.

- All the family.

SPINK - Remembering with love, my mother Jessie (née Livingstone), who died November 15, 2009, also my dear father Duncan, who died September 20, 2007.

In my thoughts each day.
- Elspeth.

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Christmas wishlist needs Santa's helpers

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Oban's Salvation Army hopes its Christmas wishlist will bring sackfuls of presents for some of the area's neediest children and most vulnerable adults.

Organisers of this year's Christmas Present Appeal want more people than ever to be Santa this year as the numbers of youngsters and adults needing festive cheer are on the rise.

When Morvern Finlayson got involved in the appeal 11 years ago, there were just 71 children on the list; last year there were 210, from babies to teenagers, plus 87 adults.

The appeal also covers the Lochgilphead area and donations of new and unwrapped gifts can be handed in from now until Friday December 20.

In Oban, the drop-off is at the Nationwide on George Street, while the Lochgilphead point is the Bank of Scotland in Poltalloch Street.

Organisers work with social workers, child workers and community-based care companies to make sure those who would benefit from the appeal get a gift to open on December 25.

'We could not do this with-



Jeanette Sheldrick and Morvern Finlayson at Oban Salvation Army ready to receive your presents for this year's appeal.

out the support and generosity of the community who give us gifts, so thank you to everyone who helps make it possible,' said Morvern.

On this year's wishlist are toys and activities suitable for babies right up to 18-year-olds, toiletries for teenage girls and boys, hats, gloves,

scarves, make-up sets, books, colouring sets and education materials, including pencils, pens and paper.

For older people, puzzle books are popular, as are notebooks, soap sets, socks, biscuits, sweets and other goodies.

Family games are also high

up on the list, said Morvern.

Everything needs to be new and unwrapped. Gifts for older people are made up into a decorated gift box, thanks to one volunteer who saves and covers shoe boxes specially for this time of year.

Gifts for the children

are handed to key workers with wrapping paper so the parents or guardians can see what the children are getting and have the joy of wrapping it themselves.

'We send a card with the gifts just saying "with love and best wishes",' added Morvern.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Jesus grew in in wisdom, stature and favour with God. Luke 2: 52

There's an old saying, ships are safe in harbour, but that's not what ships are for.

We rightly feel secure at home among family and friends. But, inevitably, in this transitory life, we leave the safety of our harbour and face challenges.

For youngsters, this can be part of achieving greater independence. Later in life, changing circumstances, such as bereavement, relationship breakdown, ill health or money problems, force us from our comfort zone.

For 30 years, Jesus lives securely among his family and friends in the little town of Nazareth. But responding to God's call, he leaves to proclaim, in word and deed, the coming of God's Kingdom. He faces hunger, rejection and, ultimately, he will give his life as a sacrifice for the sins of the world.

Were the first 30 years in Nazareth wasted years? No, during this time, Jesus comes to trust, honour and obey his Heavenly Father, that 'people do not live by bread alone but by every word that that comes from the mouth of God'. Matthew 4:7.

When a ship leaves harbour, it must be strongly built to withstand the fiercest of storms. Are we building a strong ship of faith in preparation for the inevitable storms of life?

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Clockwise from left: Under 21 Player of the Year: Calum Grant, Kingussie; Player of the Year Craig Morrison, Caberfeidh; National Division Player of the Year, Arran MacPhee, Fort William; South Division 1 Player of the Year: David MacKenzie, Aberdour; North Division 1 Player of the Year: Stuart Disher, Fort William; U14 Player of the Year: Archie MacRae, Kinlochshiel and North Division 2 Player of the Year: Bruce Grant, Strathspey Camanachd. Making the presentations are Mowi communications manager Ian Roberts and his colleague Jayne MacKay.



2019 Mowi Shinty Awards

There were celebrations for Oban Camanachd's Daniel Sloss and Fort William and Glengarry shinty clubs at the Mowi Conference and Awards Ceremony hosted by sponsor Mowi at the Kingsmills Hotel, Inverness, on Saturday November 9.

Daniel Sloss has long since cemented his place in the Oban Camanachd first team which won this year's Scottish Sea Farms Glasgow Celtic Society Cup and were runners-up in the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup and the Artemis Macaulay Cup. He represented Scotland U17 in their summer Ireland tour and was also part of Alan MacRae's Scotland U21 squad which recently played their Irish counterparts.

Oban Camanachd manager Stephen Sloss said: 'I'm probably harder on Daniel than anyone but he's deserved this award.'

'He marks all the top forwards in Scotland each week, aged just 17, so he's punching way above his weight.'

'We've had a really good season as a team and have a lot of good players, but Daniel has been given the hardest job most Saturdays yet he's probably been the most consistent player over the year. Hopefully, that continues.'

Fort William were named Mowi Club of the Year and were the first recipients of the Gary Innes Award for youth club of the year. After winning the Liberty British Aluminium Balliemore Cup and completing their Mowi National Division season with a 100 per cent record, the Manager of the Year accolade went to bosses Victor Smith and Adam Robertson and the player of the

year in the same division was given to Arran MacPhee.

The Mowi North Division 1 Player of the Year prize went to Fort William second team keeper Stuart Disher.

Glengarry manager Ewen Cameron followed up his 2017 Mowi North Division 2 Manager of the Year gong with this year's Mowi North Division 1 Manager of the Year award. Elaine Cameron won WCA Mowi Development Coach of the Year and Mowi Youth Coach of the Year.

The awards were handed out by Mowi communications manager Ian Roberts and colleagues Angus MacKay and Jayne MacKay.

Overall awards

Mowi Coach of the Year - John Gibson, Kingussie.

Mowi Player of the Year - Craig Morrison, Caberfeidh.

Mowi Club of the Year - Fort William.

League coach awards

Mowi National Division Coach of the Year - Victor Smith and Adam Robertson, Fort William.

Mowi North Division 1 Coach of the Year - Ewen Cameron, Glengarry.

Mowi South Division 1 Coach of the Year - Lisa MacColl, Aberdour.

Mowi North Division 2 Coach of the Year - Murdo John Fraser, Lochcarron.

Mowi South Division 2 Coach of the Year - Ronnie Campbell, Kilmory.

League player awards

Mowi National Division Player of the Year - Arran MacPhee, Fort William.

Mowi North Division 1 Player

of the Year - Stuart Disher, Fort William.

Mowi South Division 1 Player of the Year - David MacKenzie, Aberdour.

Mowi North Division 2 Player of the Year - Bruce Grant, Strathspey Camanachd.

Mowi South Division 2 Player of the Year - Steven Gilmour, Kilmory.

Women's Camanachd Association Awards

Overall awards

WCA Mowi National Division 1 Club of the Year - Badenoch.

WCA Mowi North and South Divisions 2 Club of the Year - Lovat.

WCA Mowi Development Club of the Year - Kinlochshiel.

League coach awards

WCA Mowi National Division 1 Coach of the Year - Scott Campbell and Iain Robinson, Badenoch.

WCA Mowi North and South Division 2 Coach of the Year - James Gallacher, Lovat.

WCA Mowi Development Coach of the Year - Elaine Cameron, Glengarry.

League player awards

WCA Mowi National Division 1 Player of the Year - Kirsty Deans, Badenoch.

WCA Mowi North Division 2 Player of the Year - Laura Gallacher, Lovat.

WCA Mowi South Division 2 Player of the Year - Lisa Ford, Ardnamurchan.

WCA Mowi Service to Womens Shinty Award - Katie Drain.

WCA Mowi Service to Womens Shinty Award - Laurene Cameron, Dunadd.

Youth awards

Mowi Youth Coach of the Year - Elaine Cameron, Glengarry.

Mowi U14 Player of the Year - Archie MacRae, Kinlochshiel.

Mowi U17 Player of the Year - Daniel Sloss, Oban Camanachd.

Mowi U21 Player of the Year - Calum Grant, Kingussie.

Donella Crawford Award for Youth and Schools - Lyndsay Bradley, Ardnamurchan.

Gary Innes Award for Youth Club of the Year (Youth Development) - Fort William.

Gary Innes Award for School of the Year (Youth Development - Uddingston).

Referee awards

Johnny 'Ach' MacRae Quach for Referee of the Year - Graham Cameron, Caol.

Emerging Referee of the Year - Tina Marshall, Kiltarlity.

Volunteer awards

William Paterson Salver Volunteer of the Year - Linda Bell and Martin Bell, Lovat.

Fair-play awards

Mowi Fair Play Award - One Team Club - Ardnamurchan.

Mowi Fair Play Award - Two Team Club - Kinlochshiel.

Media award

Media Award - Fraser MacKenzie.

The awards took place alongside the Shinty Surviving and Thriving Conference where delegates attended workshops including fixtures and competitions, facilities and ground maintenance, coaching philosophy and tactics, funding for clubs, Go Membership support for club secretaries, club culture, shinty ambassadors, child protection and moving your club forward in Scottish sport.



WCA Mowi South Division 2 Player of the Year: Lisa Ford, Ardnamurchan.



Mowi South Division 1 Coach of the Year: Lisa MacColl, Aberdour.



Mowi North Division 1 Coach of the Year: Ewen Cameron, Glengarry.

Top flight win for Oban Camanachd

There was a top flight win for Oban Camanachd, the Newtonmore second team rescued a point as they bid for a fourth successive Mowi North Division 1 title and the Mowi annual shinty award winners were announced on Saturday November 9.

Mowi Premiership

Kinlochshiel 0 Oban Camanachd 2

Oban Camanachd go third in the Mowi Premiership after beating Kinlochshiel 2-0 in their 1pm throw-up at Reraig.

Kinlochshiel were 1-0 home winners against Newtonmore three weeks earlier, whilst Oban Camanachd also came out on top against the Camanachd Cup winners, triumphing 4-1 the week after, also on their own patch.

Kinlochshiel and Newtonmore have taken the chance in recent matches to give valuable game time to a number of their promising youngsters and this match was no different.

This was Kinlochshiel's third match on their new pitch. They won the previous encounters 7-0 against Caberfeidh and 1-0 against Newtonmore. Jordan Fraser was again unavailable and Finlay MacRae, John MacRae and Conor Cormack were also missing. Keith MacRae started in attack and Duncan Matheson dropped back into defence. Andrew MacKenzie, Donald Nixon and Duncan 'WD' MacRae made up the centre line, whilst Martin MacRae started in attack. Boss Johnston Gill was unwell so Scott Kennedy took the side.

Oban Camanachd boss Stephen Sloss and assistant Kenny Wotherspoon travelled without Daniel Sloss, Lorne Dickie, Keith MacMillan, Malcolm Clark, Willie Neilson and Aidan MacIntyre. Daniel Cameron was at full back, whilst Gary McKerracher started at full centre, flanked by Scott MacMillan and Andrew MacCuish. Blair MacFarlane and Ross Campbell were on the away bench.

It was a bright but cold day on the west and Kinlochshiel started playing towards the Kyle end of their ground.

The Oban side created the first chance of the match with Kinlochshiel keeper Josh Fraser palming away Lewis Buchanan's shot which was going inside the keeper's right post.

Oban Camanachd forced a series of early corners and Daniel MacVicar was next to test Josh Grant.

Gary McKerracher was revelling in his midfield role and his long ball sent Daniel MacVicar through on goal, one-on-one with the keeper,

but Josh Grant again stood between the visitors and an early score.

Kinlochshiel threatened on 15 minutes when Keith MacRae showed good control inside the 'D' before pushing the ball goalwards, but Oban Camanachd keeper Cameron Sutherland did well, first blocking MacRae's effort before scrambling the ball away for a corner as the home forwards closed in.

Good play from Daniel MacCuish, who had come deep, saw him find Chrissie MacMillan who sent the ball long into the danger area and keeper Grant had to come off his line to get the ball away for a corner.

The match was now flowing from end-to-end and Martin MacRae, on the right, turned the ball inside to Donald Nixon but his shot went by the keeper's right post.

Kinlochshiel replaced Andrew MacKenzie with Arron Jack midway through the half before Keith MacRae sent a good effort narrowly off target following good lead-up play from Duncan 'WD' MacRae.

The visitors responded and Chrissie MacMillan sprayed the ball wide to Lewis Buchanan who picked out Daniel MacVicar, but his shot went wide.

Oban Camanachd made their first change on the half-hour mark as Ross Campbell took over from Chrissie MacMillan in attack with Fraser Reid replacing Martin MacRae in the Kinlochshiel forward line soon after.

Scott McMillan was booked with five first half minutes remaining for saying too much to referee Archie Ritchie.

There was late first-half action at both ends. Cameron Sutherland parried a dropping Donald Nixon ball from wide on the left and play then switched straight up the park where Mark MacDonald raced across goal to clear a dangerous Daniel MacVicar ball at the expense of a corner. Ross Campbell played in the resulting corner from the left and Daniel MacCuish took the ball down but couldn't get a shot on goal and the first half ended scoreless.

Oban Camanachd boss Stephen Sloss made changes at the break. Gary McKerracher came off, Scott MacMillan went to full centre, Blair MacFarlane came on at wing centre and Andrew MacCuish went to full forward.

Ross Campbell was looking lively for Oban Camanachd and Scott MacMillan sent him racing down the left and it took a good challenge to get the ball out for a corner as Campbell cut in towards goal. The same duo combined again as Scott MacMillan took the corner and Ross Campbell flashed a low shot by the

Continued on page 60.

new SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

Win!
THIS WEEK'S
JACKPOT
£3900

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph below. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

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Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 2pm Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline.

You may hand it into any of our offices - The Oban Times, Lochavullin, Oban; The Lochaber Times, High Street, Fort William; The Campbelltown Courier, Main Street, Campbelltown; The Argyllshire Advertiser, Argyll Street, Lochgilphead or the Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

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In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company. The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Winners agree to have their photograph taken for publicity purposes. Winners' names and home towns will appear in the newspaper. Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition. Entry data will be deleted/destroyed within 30 days of the competition entry deadline and in a manner appropriate to GDPR regulations. Entrant's details will not be used for any other activity.



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- T Campbell Sept '18 £2500
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LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



The two entries who got nearest the ball and each receive £25 are:

- JMcNeill
Oban
- J Millar
Oban

OT

Continued from page 59.

keeper's left post. Blair MacFarlane sent a low ball from the right fizzing into the 'D' where Josh Grant saved with his feet and full back Paul MacRae got the ball away to safety.

There was a sense an Oban goal was coming and it duly arrived on 56 minutes. A clever turn inside from Scott MacMillan got him free of his marker and he got a shot on goal. Paul MacRae did well to stop the low ball with his stick but, as he stumbled backwards, Andrew MacCuish raced in to thump the ball low past a helpless keeper. It was a good finish from the Scottish international and MacCuish became the first opposing player to score a senior goal at Reraig.

Kinlochshiel then enjoyed a period of pressure during which they had two penalty claims before a deft flick from Chrissie MacMillan allowed Scott MacMillan to surge forward but Josh Grant saved with his feet.

Oban Camanachd doubled their lead on 67 minutes following quick thinking from a set-piece. No-one spotted Garry Lord galloping forward from the half back position, except Andrew MacCuish, who played a clever free-hit to the Oban left. Lord dribbled the ball into the 'D' before showing great composure to tap the ball low past Josh Grant to make it 2-0.

As the match drew to a close, Cameron Sutherland saved a Keith MacRae shot from the right. The Oban keeper then moved smartly to adjust his feet to keep out Donald Nixon's strike. Ally Nixon couldn't get onto the rebound and the danger was cleared.

The win lifts Oban Camanachd to third place in the division, only a point behind Lovat with a game in hand. However, third-placed Kyles Athletic, with two games remaining, are just a point behind Oban Camanachd.

Speaking just after the final whistle, Oban Camanachd boss Stephen Sloss said: 'The guys did well in what was a typical end-of-season game. It's always hard here, but we had another good look at some of the young guys and they did well today.'

'We tried using some of the younger boys in different positions from the start but switched it to something more familiar at half-time. We put Papa up front for his presence and he scored the first goal then set up the second.'

Stephen didn't read too much into being the first away side to win at Kinlochshiel's new Reraig pitch. 'I think it will be different here next



Oban Camanachd's Daniel Madej, right, in action against Kinlochshiel on Saturday. Photograph: Annie MacDonald.

year,' he said, 'as both ourselves and Kinlochshiel are just trying to get the season over the line. The new pitch is good though. What a difference to Kirkton, but I think it will be a different game here next year.'

The match completes Kinlochshiel's season, whilst Oban Camanachd end their campaign against Lochaber at Spean Bridge this Saturday.

Kyles Athletic P Newtonmore P

Paul John MacKintosh will have to wait a couple of weeks to bring the curtain down on his seven-year reign as Newtonmore manager as their match against Kyles Athletic at Tighnabruaich was postponed because of an unplayable pitch.

Mowi North Division 1

Newtonmore 3 Glenurquhart 3

The Newtonmore colts gave themselves a great chance of sealing a fourth successive Mowi North Division 1 title when they beat challengers Glengarry last weekend.

With a match at home to bottom side Aberdeen University still to come, Newtonmore went into their penultimate fixture against the Glenurquhart second team at the Eilan knowing two wins would guarantee the title.

However, importantly, it would also be possible to lift the title with only three more points if they could increase their goal difference sufficiently to better Glengarry's count.

Newtonmore went in front on eight minutes through top scorer Craig MacLeod. But Jed Stoddart hit a double on 17 and 30 minutes to give Glenurquhart a 2-1 lead at the break.

When Glenurquhart's David MacLennan made it 3-1 a minute after the restart, a shock result was a possibility.

The visitors held their two-goal lead until nine minutes from time when Glen MacKintosh made it 3-2.

As the clock counted down, Glengarry were just seconds away from being crowned champions but it was Glen MacKintosh, again at the death, who made it 3-3, earning Newtonmore what could prove to be a priceless point.

Orsten Gardener's Newtonmore side must now beat already relegated Aberdeen University by at least five goals at the Eilan this Saturday to win the league.

Aberdour are also more than interested bystanders because if Newtonmore win North 1, the Fife side will be automatically promoted to the National Division as only Glengarry are eligible to take part in any play-off match.

Aberdeen University P Kingussie P

The game between Aberdeen University and the Kingussie second team was called off on Saturday morning as the pitch at Balgownie was frozen.

This was to be the first meeting between the sides this season and would have been played as a four-pointer.

All throw-ups are at 2pm, unless the match report states differently.

This weekend's fixtures

Oban Camanachd complete a long season against Lochaber at Spean Bridge, whilst Kilmallie head to Tighnabruaich for a noon throw-up against Kyles Athletic.

The Newtonmore second team can clinch the Mowi North Division 1 title if they beat Aberdeen University by at least five goals at the Eilan.

Oban Camanachd dance and awards

Oban Camanachd host its 130th year dinner dance at the Royal Hotel, Oban, on Friday November 29.

There will be a three-course meal and music comes from Gunna Sound. Everyone welcome. The club hopes many former players will attend. Tickets cost £20 and are available from committee members.

The club's annual player of the year awards will also be made.

Oban Camanachd's annual general meeting will be held on Wednesday December 4, with the venue still to be confirmed.

The club needs to increase the numbers on their committee and the Lochside Rovers management role needs to be filled.

Kilmallie awards night

Kilmallie's annual awards and dinner dance takes place at the Moorings Hotel, Banavie, on Saturday November 16.

It is sure to be a busy time for the club as they travel to Tighnabruaich for a Mowi Premiership meeting with Kyles Athletic earlier in the day.

Lochaber annual general meeting

Lochaber Camanachd host its annual general meeting at the Station Restaurant on Friday December 6 at 7pm.

The club also has its annual dinner dance at Spean Bridge Community Centre on Saturday November 16.

All tickets should be bought before the event.

Lovat award winners

Lovat named their award winners at its annual awards night.

Scotland defender Daniel Grieve was first team player of the year with Bailey MacKay collecting the second team prize.

Laura Gallacher was Lovat Ladies player of the year, with Laura MacKintosh the most improved player.

There were youth prizes for Harley Marshall, under 17; Angus Mearns, under 14, and Ally White and Cody Tinney, under 12.

Sheila Matheson was presented with flowers for her contribution and dedication to the club.

Caberfeidh holds prize day

Caberfeidh announced its awards at the club's annual dinner dance at Strathpeffer Spa Golf Club on Saturday November 9.

Scottish international Craig Morrison, who was earlier in the day named Mowi National Player of the Year, collected the first team and

players' player of the year prizes.

Ruairidh MacLeman was second team player of the year, with Connor MacGregor, under 17, and Taylor Condon, under 14, also recognised.

The Murdo MacDonald Trophy for most commitment in training went to Kian Macleod, whilst the RJ Macleod Trophy, awarded to the person who has gone the extra mile for the club throughout the year, was presented to Gail Coburn.

WCA looks for new recruits

The Women's Camanachd is looking to fill a number of vacant posts. The positions offer a great opportunity to become involved in the women's game and boost the sport.

Committee meetings are held monthly via Facebook call so there is no need for any travelling.

The vacant posts on the WCA committee include secretary, treasurer, coaching, education and development officer, publicity officer and events co-ordinator.

'Amazing contribution'

Aird and Loch Ness councillor Emma Knox recognised the 'amazing contribution to shinty' made by coach, official and player Tina Marshall at the recent full Highland Council meeting in Inverness.

Councillor Knox said: 'I wanted to say a few words to recognise the achievements of one of my constituents, Tina Marshall, who lives in Kiltarlity. I want you to celebrate her amazing contribution to shinty. Tina has been breaking boundaries in women's shinty for years as a player, a coach and as an official.'

'This year, Tina became the first woman to officiate at the Camanachd Cup final when she ran the line in the original abandoned match and the replay. And the week after, Tina was a goal judge at the Strathdearn Cup final, another milestone.'

'Tina's illustrious shinty career has spanned four decades, including playing for Lovat Ladies, which recently won the League and Challenge Cup double, as well as previously representing Strathglass and Inverness.'

'I think Tina would say she is most proud of her role as a youth coach, helping to ensure the future of shinty.'

There was warm applause in the chamber following Councillor Knox's words. Tina Marshall was also named Emerging Referee of the Year at last weekend's annual Mowi Shinty Awards.

Greater Glas remain divis only undefe

Ferguslie Star	2
Oban Saints GG	2

GGAFL Division Three

A re-arranged Scottish Amateur Cup third round tie for Oban Saints scheduled Central Scottish Amateur Football League Cinema Cup opponents St Patricks FP handed the Division 1B league leaders an unexpected day off last Saturday.

The first team's free Saturday allowed Saints' Greater Glasgow Premier side to call on the services of teenagers Gavin Forgive and Aaron McKay to bolster their numbers for the visit to Ferguslie Sports Centre to face Division Three promotion rivals Ferguslie Star.

Unlikely goal hero Kenneth Black opened the scoring for Saints in the first half, with Martin Bonar adding a second on the hour. Unfortunately, a below par Saints were pegged back twice and were left hanging on against an impressive Star to claim a share of the points and maintain their position as the division's only undefeated side.

In a good opening spell from Saints, Dean Smith twice tested Star keeper Raymond Brown before Rory Dowd sent a decent effort just wide of the target. Dowd, whose appearances so far this season have been limited, continued to impress sending in a teasing 16th-minute cross which Raymond Brown did well to take off the toes of Aaron McKay.

Dean Smith, who put in a typically energetic shift up front, won a 24th-minute corner kick which Gavin Forgive swung over from the right. The home defence struggled to clear the danger and Aaron McKay delivered a telling cross from the corner of the 18-yard box in behind the advancing Star defence. Saints captain Kenneth Black timed his run well to remain inside and showed good composure to cushion a volley into the roof of the net and give his side the lead.

Ferguslie Star's David Cunningham failed to recover from a head knock sustained in an accidental clash with Martin Bonar



Oban Saints' Martin Bonar and Graeme Fraser of Ferguslie Star.

gow team ion's ated side

and was replaced in the 27th minute by Leon Morrow, who would go on to produce a man of the match performance for the home side.

After a quiet start, the home side were slowly beginning to pose more of a threat to the Saints defence.

An Aaron McKay cross from the right was cut out on the corner of the Star box from where the home side launched a swift counter attack. Morrow again picked out Graeme Fraser racing through the inside right channel who this time went for goal himself and found the net.

Saints made a double change for the start of the second half sending on Aiden Campbell and Keith Millar to replace Nathan Allan and David Smith.

Saints regained the lead on the hour when Dean Smith raced through on the end of a Gavin Forgrieve pass. Smith was pushed wide by Sean Morrison but still managed to pick out the supporting run of Martin Bonar whose nose for a goal edged him ahead of Richie Macavoy to poke the ball home from two yards.

Falling behind again provoked a positive reaction from the home side who came close through Martin Stewart, Jack Deeney and Ross Hamilton before Hamilton deservedly found a way past Murdo MacKenzie. A good turn on the edge of the Star box by Rory Dowd set up Gavin Forgrieve for a shot which cleared Raymond Brown's crossbar before Dowd was replaced by Fraser MacFarlane for the closing 20 minutes.

Andrew Love earned a 75th minute caution after he hauled down Dean Smith in the centre circle as the Saints striker looked set to burst through the middle. That proved to be Love's last significant contribution as he was removed from the proceedings to be replaced by Dylan Caldwell.

The home side completed the final five minutes with 10 men after Graeme Fraser's reaction to an Aaron McKay challenge earned the Star wide man a straight red card. McKay saw yellow for his part in the incident.

Saints couldn't capitalise on their numerical advantage, forcing just one more save from Raymond Brown who pushed a Gavin Forgrieve shot over his crossbar before referee Smith, who had a good game, signalled the end of the match and Saints' 100 per cent league record.

The Greater Glasgow Premier League side are on the road again this Saturday with a trip to Dumbarton to face Westcliff, while the first team resume their Central Scottish Amateur Football League Division 1B campaign at John Brown's Pitches against Clydebank.



The Scottish AFA international squad which took on Whitburn Juniors last week. Oban Saints pair Scott Maitland, number three, and Lewis Cameron, number 10, both impressed. Photographs: John Rodgers.

Saints players impress in international squad

Scottish AFA Select	4
Whitburn Juniors	0
Friendly match	

With the season now well under way Scottish Amateur international manager Colin MacLeod and his coaching team have begun their longer-term preparations towards this season's international fixtures in May of next year.

Colin organised two training sessions for November: Sunday 3 November and Sunday 24 November. The Scottish Amateur FA Select followed up the first session

with a friendly match against Whitburn Juniors on Tuesday November 5 at Dalziel Park, Motherwell.

The management team will arrange a second friendly for either Monday 25 November or Tuesday 26 November. Both the opposition and venue for this match have still to be confirmed.

Oban Saints duo Scott Maitland and Lewis Cameron featured in the SAFA Select team who recorded a convincing win in their friendly match against Whitburn Juniors last Tuesday.

The Select opened the scoring on 16 minutes. John

Robertson started the move with a ball wide to Ciaran McElroy. McElroy curled a precise cross to the back post. Lewis Cameron rose unchallenged to direct a precision header back across goal and into the top corner to make it 1-0.

Daniel Finnigan extended the lead after 25 minutes. Finnigan reached the ball ahead of the advancing keeper.

He took the ball wide and calmly angled a shot into the unguarded net from 16 yards for 2-0.

The third goal came on the stroke of half-time. Scott Maitland broke down the left and fired a cross into the box. A Whitburn defender miscued his attempted clearance and sliced the ball into

his own net, with the keeper helpless. Colin MacLeod introduced all six of his substitutes at the break.

Select keeper Greg McGuinness saved low to his left after 55 minutes as Whitburn looked for an early way back into the game.

The Select regained their momentum and continued to threaten from the wide areas, with Ciaran McElroy looking particularly dangerous down the left.

Despite several close efforts, it took until the 85th minute before the Select sealed their win with the final goal of the match.

The impressive John Robertson sent Michael Osborne clear on goal with a slide-rule pass. His club team-mate finished with

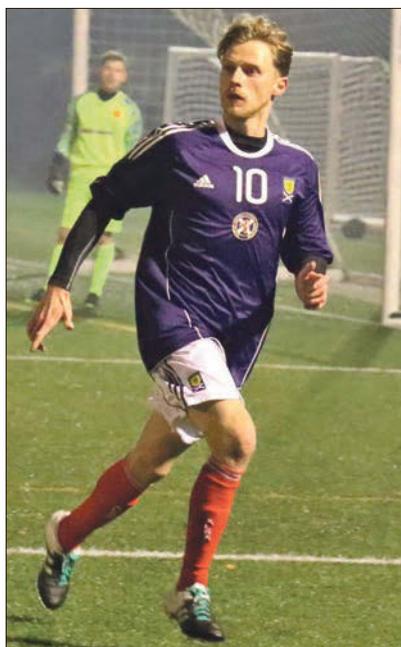
FOOTBALL

aplomb, confidently drilling home from 14 yards to make the final score 4-0.

Scottish Amateur FA Select: Scott Urquhart (St Josephs); Tyler Fulton (Eastfield), Joe Coleman (St Patrick's FP), Liam Taggart (Eastfield), Scott Maitland (Oban Saints); Lewis Cameron (Oban Saints); Jason Cassidy (Giffnock North), John Robertson (Sandys); Daniel Finnigan (St Patricks FP), Ryan Hynes (Drumchapel United PYM), Ciaran McElroy (St Patrick's FP)

Substitutes: Greg McGuinness (Eastfield), Gary McCulloch (Eastfield), Bradley Grieve (Bowhill Rovers), Mark Hansen (Eastfield), Ryan Weir (Bannockburn), Michael Osborne (Sandys).

Referee: Sean Murdoch.



Left: Lewis Cameron opened the scoring for the Scottish AFA Select against Whitburn Juniors at a foggy Dalziel Park.



Right: Scott Maitland, number three, looks on as Select keeper Scott Urquhart makes a fine save.

OT

SWIMMING



Oban Otters at the regional heats in Helensburgh.

Impressive haul of medals for Oban Otters swimmers

Otters Swimming Club stormed the Scottish Schools Regional Heats in Helensburgh on Wednesday, fielding an impressive turnout of 26 swimmers – 16 from Oban High School and 10 from local primary schools.

Their enthusiasm was infectious as they cheered on their team mates, resulting in a huge medal haul of eleven gold, seven silver and thirteen bronze for the various events.

The club were particularly pleased to welcome a couple of young swimmers to their first competitive event.

Congratulations to all those who took part and thanks to the volunteer coaches, parents and teachers who supported the swimmers with transport, poolside roles and encouragement.

Otters Swimming Club Annual Gala takes place on December 1.

FOOTBALL



Oban Saints FC.

Rothie v Saints – again

For the second time in two years Oban Saints have been drawn away to Rothie Rovers in the Scottish Amateur Cup. The teams met in the fifth round last season with Saints gaining a 1-1 draw in Rothienorman thanks to a last minute Lewis Cameron penalty, but the Aberdeenshire side won the replay in Oban 9-8 on penalties after the teams had finished all square in a 2-2 draw. Saints goalscorers that day were Daniel Croarkin and Dene Cassells.

The game against Rothie Rovers is scheduled to be played at Rothienorman on Saturday November 30.

Saints get back to league duty on Saturday when they take on Clydebank at John Browns Playing Fields with a 2pm kick-off.

OBAN SAINTS YOUTH TEAMS

Last Sunday's results: **Under-13s 5, Dunoan 5.** Scoring for Saints were Kai MacKechnie, 3; James Muir and Rhys Millar. **Helensburgh 0, Under-15s 9.** Saints' scorers were Cooper MacIntyre, 2; Ruairidh Buchanan, 2; Lewis Campbell, 2; Kyle Cooper; Ross MacKay and Andrew Nicol. Friendly – **Fort William 0 Under-17s 4.** Saints' goalscorers were Ross Campbell, Pearce MacBeth, Fergus Carmichael and William Duncan.

This Sunday's fixtures: Lochgilphead Red Star v Under-13s; Under-14s v Cranhill; Kilbowie Union v Under-15s; Cambuslang v Under-17s.



The young rugby stars from Oban, Mid Argyll, Lochaber, Kintyre and Taynuilt who took part in the rugby festival at Oban Lorne



Action from the weekend's mini rugby match between Oban and Oban 1.



Some of Oban Lorne Rugby Club's youngsters were delighted to run out with the first team and have their photograph taken before Oban Lorne's league match.



Oban Saints Greater Glasgow team pictured with new training tops kindly donated by club sponsors D & K Lafferty Contractors. Photograph: Derek Black

Oban Saints Greater Glasgow team travelled to Paisley last Saturday for a league fixture against Ferguslie Star with the boys returning home with well

deserved 2-2 draw under their belts thanks to goals from Kenneth Black and Martin Bonnar. The team sit third in Division Three, four points behind

leaders Kirkfield United, but have three games in hand. This Saturday the boys are away again when they travel to Dumbarton to take on Westcliff.



Rugby Club. Photographs: Kevin McGlynn.



Right: Action from the match between Mid Argyll and Oban.



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Mini rugby players enjoy Oban festival

It was the turn of Oban Lorne to host their mini rugby tournament on Saturday.

Participating were teams Etive Vikings; Mid Argyll; Lochaber; Kintyre and Oban Lorne.

There were four games for each team in the primary 4/5 section, five games each in the primary 6/7 section and development games for the primary one, two and threes, with more than 100 participants in total.

Lochaber also played Oban Lorne at S1/S2 level. All the matches took place before the first team's match against Uddingston.

It was an excellent day, with fantastic rugby on show at all levels. The weather was kind, despite concerns about frost on Friday evening.

Volunteer referees from the senior Oban team kept to the tight time schedule, before handing over to others when they had to go and prepare for their match.

Walter Speirs, Oban Lorne's mini rugby convenor said: 'Primary school rugby has really grown in Oban over the past few years, with around 70 children now regularly training on Wednesday evenings.

'This would not be possible to manage without the assistance of the army of volunteer coaches and parent helpers. We can still use more coaches if there is anyone out there willing to help and, of course, would welcome more players.'

The next tournament will be hosted by Lochaber Rugby Club in Fort William this Sunday, starting at noon.

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Action from Oban Lorne Rugby Club's game against Uddingston on Saturday which Oban won 97-0. Left: Lorne MacLachlan dives over to open the scoring for Oban Lorne. Right: Robert McLaughlin goes over to score for Oban Lorne.

Photographs: Kevin McGlynn.



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WEATHER

Thursday
Sunny intervals and a moderate breeze
Temperatures 2°C to 7°C.

Friday
Sunny and a gentle breeze
Temperatures 2°C to 7°C.

Weekend Outlook Saturday
Light cloud and light winds
Temperatures 3°C to 6°C.

Sunday
Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze
Temperatures 2°C to 6°C.



FRIDAY

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday November 14, 2019** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

	00.27	0.9	06.17	4.0
Thur	12.43	1.1	18.42	4.0
Fri	01.00	1.0	06.47	3.9
	13.16	1.2	19.14	3.8
Sat	01.34	1.1	07.22	3.8
	13.53	1.3	19.51	3.7
Sun	02.14	1.2	08.02	3.7
	14.39	1.5	20.36	3.4
Mon	03.02	1.3	08.50	3.5
	15.40	1.7	21.32	3.2
Tues	04.02	1.5	09.53	3.3
	17.02	1.8	22.50	3.0
Wed	05.15	1.6	11.21	3.3
	18.33	1.8	***	**

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

Chain, shackles and buoys all available to purchase.

Mini rugby players enjoy Oban festival

Impressive haul of medals for Oban Otters swimmers

Oban golfer's brilliant show in Turkey

Magnificent 10-under-par round

Another brilliant performance from Oban's Bob MacIntyre at the weekend saw him just miss out on a maiden European Tour victory.

Playing in the Turkish Airlines Open in Belek, Bob finished 18 under par, two shots behind eventual winner Tyrell Hatton, who prevailed after a six-man play-off.

Bob's performance was underpinned by a stunning bo-

gey-free second round 63 on Friday. He backed that up on Saturday with a 67 that owed a great deal to patience and a sparkling back nine. That left Bob going into Sunday three shots behind leader Mathias Schwab of Austria.

Playing in the penultimate group alongside former Masters winner Patrick Reed, Bob got off to a perfect start with two birdies in the first

three holes to close within a shot of the lead.

The fourth hole was to prove his undoing. While the other contenders were making birdies or eagles at the reachable par five, Bob's approach fell short and found water. His eventual bogey six felt like two dropped shots and was followed by another bogey at seven.

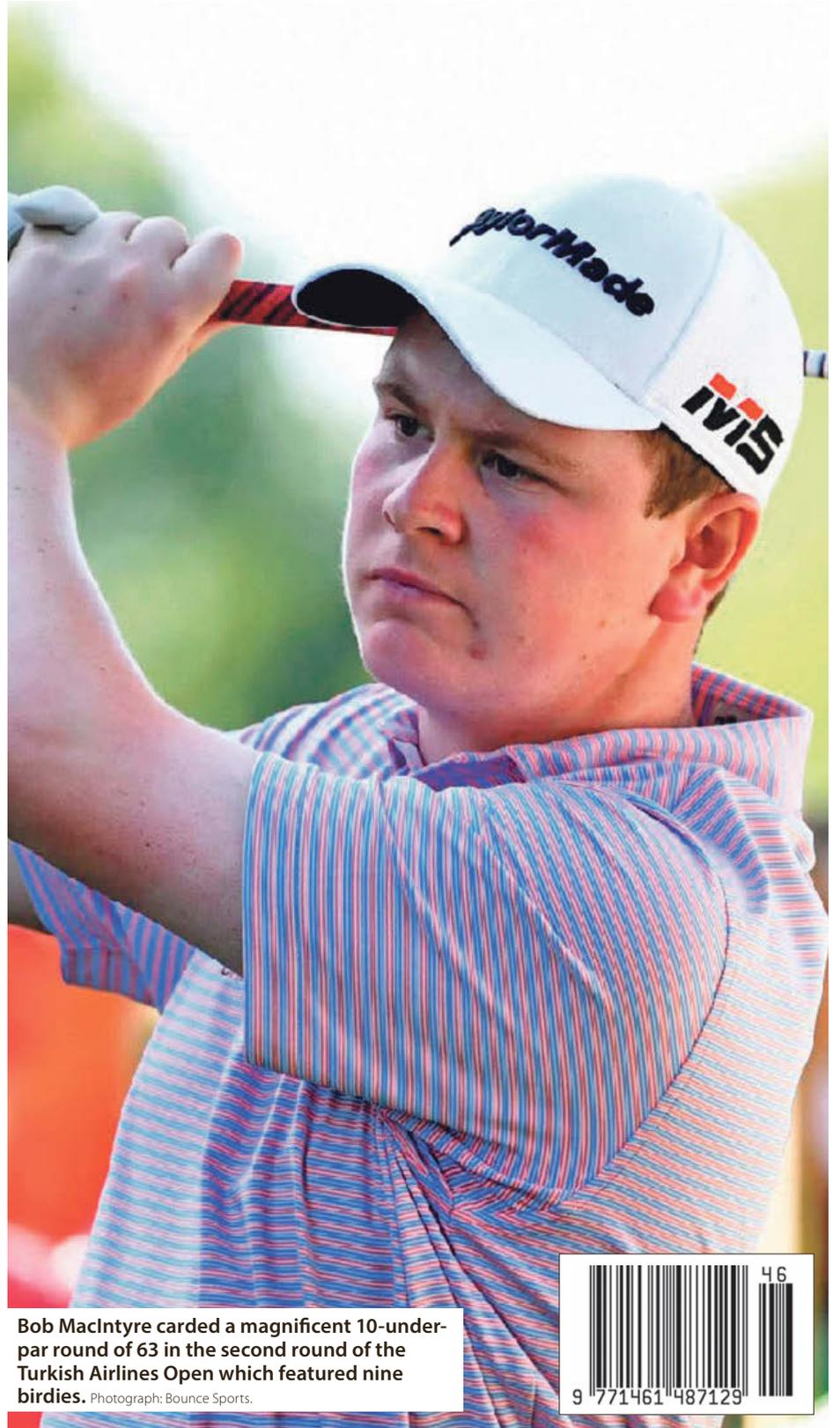
A spirited rally saw Bob produce three birdies in the closing 11 holes to finish with a three-under-par 69 and leave him in joint seventh place, banking a cheque for almost 150,000 euros.

Bob's performance in Turkey also means he jumps another 10 places in the rankings and now stands at number 73 in the world - a stunning achievement in his first year on tour.

Bob will have little time to reflect on another outstanding performance as he now heads off to South Africa for the Nedbank challenge starting today, Thursday November 14. He concludes his season the following week in the final event of the year in Dubai. Strong finishes in both tournaments could see him break into the world's top 50 as well as earn him the Rookie of the Year title.



2018 Masters champion Patrick Reed congratulates Bob on his superb round of 63 after the second day of the Turkish Airlines Open. Photograph: Warren Little/Getty Images



Bob MacIntyre carded a magnificent 10-under-par round of 63 in the second round of the Turkish Airlines Open which featured nine birdies. Photograph: Bounce Sports.



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No 8485

Thursday 14 November, 2019

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Remembrance parades from around the area

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Lochaber Ideas week
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Campaigners vow to appeal over rejection of castle bid

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

The board of Kinloch Castle's owners Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) has approved a recommendation that its staff investigate an alternative way to dispose of the historic Rum property after the heritage body knocked back a bid by a community group wanting the castle transferred to it.

However, this cannot proceed until after any appeal is lodged or heard, and Kinloch Castle Friends' Association (KCFA), which had applied for an asset transfer of the A-listed building, has confirmed it will appeal to the Scottish Government over last week's refusal of its application.

Issuing its decision last week, SNH said it had concerns over a

lack of sufficient funding being identified and had worries that the KCFA's business case had a 'high level of risk' of failing.

Nick Halfhide, SNH's Director of Sustainable Growth, said: 'Having carefully considered all the evidence presented, we concluded that the merits of the request fell short of the necessary requirements for a successful asset transfer application.'

'KCFA carries out a range of important work and we fully understand that they will be disappointed by this decision. We hope it does not discourage them from engaging with SNH and partner organisations which are looking to secure the best interests for the castle.'

KCFA has expressed extreme disappointment at the decision and vowed to fight on, with a

spokesperson for the organisation commenting: 'If this castle was on the mainland there would no question about its continuing survival.'

'We are determined to continue to fight for the castle and the opportunities which our business plan provides to contribute to the economic regeneration of the island and the wider community.'

'We have identified potential alternative sources of funding, and we will be pursuing further discussions with SNH and the Scottish Government.'

'Our exploration of other funding mechanisms within the financial community has provided independent corroboration that our business plan is robust.'

KCFA says the castle, built

Continued on page three.

Lochaber honours fallen heroes



It was a cold but dry and bright sunny day for this year's Remembrance Day parade on Sunday in Fort William. Among those laying wreaths were Lochaber Schools Pipe Band musicians Millie Jackson and Reinis Cameron, pictured, who placed a wreath on behalf of Lochaber High School pupils. Turn to page 10 for our special four-page Remembrance Day coverage. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

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Belford Hospital hosts wedding charity ball

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Stunning wedding outfits were carefully removed from their storage places and given a special airing in the name of a charity appeal for the Belford Hospital in Fort William.

The Belford Hospital Wedding Dress Charity Ball was staged at the town's Nevis Centre on Saturday night and saw around 70 people attend the event, including brides, gents, Highland and ballet dancers, amateur ballroom dancers and even an appearance by 'Elvis'.

The idea for the ball came about after Deneil King, Bonny Watkins and Michelle Purcell decided to do some fundraising in honour of their late parents.

Ms King told us: 'We started a fund called The JJS Fund in honour of Janice, John and Sabrina – a parent to each of us – who lost their lives too soon battling difficult health conditions.'

'Although none of our parents was treated locally, we thought to do something to honour each of them and the healthcare professionals who helped them and us through difficult times, we would focus on our local hospital.'

'We heard about a piece of



equipment that could assist in lots of different circumstances called a Motomed [motorised movement therapy device] and decided that would be our first cause, to raise money to purchase this for the Belford Hospital.'

And, as both she and Ms Purcell were also married in 2018, with Ms Watkins doing their hair and make-up for the

big days, that the ball would be a fun way to relive those days and fundraise for their cause.

Ms King continued: 'Our event went really well and we had a great time and managed to raise a good chunk of cash for a good cause. We received an overwhelming amount of support from local businesses, directly involved in the event

There were some stunning bridal outfits on show and, left, charity ball organisers Michelle Purcell, Deneil King and Bonny Watkins.

Photograph: Abrightside Photography.

– The Nevis Centre, Oban Creations, Cheesy Beats, Abrightside Photography, Dean Cameron Videography, Brakes Scotland and Cakes by Sandra. And many businesses who donated raffle prizes and made contributions to our go-fundme page. The ball and the gofundme page together so far have raised a total of £1,013 towards the Motomed. With it costing £9,000, there will be a few more fantastic events planned to help us achieve our goal, so keep an eye on our Facebook page for more news.'



Rotarians John Rosie and Donald Young, school mentor Trish Kennedy, Brian Hume, principal judge, with Kayla Burgess, Helen Jones (winner), Sophie Herron (runner-up) and Ailsa MacGillivray.

Young chef Helen has recipe to win competition

Young Helen Jones is the toast of Lochaline this week after triumphing in the Lochaber Rotary Young Chef Competition.

Helen, 12, who is an S1 pupil at Ardnamurchan High School, excelled in the recent challenging contest to produce a healthy meal for two people within two hours and on a limited budget.

The Young Chef Competition is a well-established and successful event open to pupils from all four of Lochaber's secondary schools and organised and promoted by the Lochaber Rotary Club.

Runner-up Sophie Herron from Ardgour is also aged 12 and in S1 at Ardnamurchan High School.

So high was the standard of culinary skills among the competing young chefs that Helen only pipped Sophie by half a point.

To win, Helen produced a menu of mustard-stuffed chicken breast wrapped with pancetta, pea mash and honeyed carrots, followed by a dessert of crunchy apple and bramble crumble with vanilla ice-cream.

Sophie pushed her all the way to the trophy by preparing a starter of smoked salmon mousse, followed by a main of chicken saag balti with turmeric rice and cucumber dip.

School young chef mentor Trish Kennedy told us: 'Helen is an inspired young chef and worked really hard to achieve this result.'

'Sophie and Helen could not cook at all before the start of the competition.'

'She has progressed so rapidly through her own hard work, determination and commitment, and support from mum!'

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Campaigners to appeal over rejection of castle bid

Continued from page one.

in 1900 by Victorian playboy and textile tycoon Sir George Bullough, has deteriorated substantially since the closure of its hostel in 2013 with repeated outbreaks of wet and dry rot, and water ingress.

Rum, a national nature reserve, is mostly owned by SNH, although the houses in Kinloch village were transferred to the community.

Asked if the reference to the possibility of a 'beneficial owner' in the paper discussed by the board last week meant the castle could be put for sale on the open market in the near future, SNH said it would not be appropriate for it to comment further while the legislative process is still under way.

Local MSP Kate Forbes told us: 'I recognise that people will be very disappointed by the decision, and I hope this isn't the end of the road for Kinloch Castle.'

'I am keen to support Friends



Kinloch Castle on the Isle of Rum.

of Kinloch Castle to look at this again and see if there is another way of achieving their aims.'

Sylvia Stirling is a long-term Rum resident and curator of the Rum Heritage Centre on the island. She says islanders have mixed opinions when it comes to the fate of the castle and there is a view that the 19th-century crumbling property overshadows much else of interest on the island.

'The community was realistic about the amount of money required to restore and maintain the castle, and the funds are

just not out there,' she told us.

'To my knowledge, KCFA hasn't approached us over an appeal yet, so I couldn't say what level of support we would give.

'It's a shame that after all the KCFA effort which was put into their campaign they didn't get it, but it also shows the public doesn't feel as passionately about their quest as they do.

'Historically, Kinloch Castle was never a popular building and has been met with a lot of scorn since it was completed.

'By 1937, the roofs were

already letting in water. We have one of Scotland's earliest human settlements, dating back 8,500 years ago. Early Christian occupation, Viking occupation, the clan system and not forgetting the Clearances. The Bullough era is a very small part of history here but overshadows other important times.'

However, KCFA secretary Catherine Duckworth says the fight goes on.

She added: 'We are very disappointed, not only having expended a huge amount of time and energy on this but we have always been committed as we feel the castle, which is operational and working to provide both accommodation and enormous employment opportunities, both on Rum and in the wider Small Isles and Lochaber area, is of paramount importance, especially at the time of such growing opportunities on Rum. But we will appeal.'

Kind-hearted youngsters bring Christmas cheer



Strontian pupils are hoping to make other people's Christmas a little better by volunteering items to be sent around the world to people less fortunate. The Blythswood Care Shoe Box Appeal sends boxes as far afield as Ukraine, Albania and Kosovo. This year, 51-3 pupils from Ardnamurchan High and the Pupil Council of Strontian Primary included items such as toothbrushes, scarves, small toys and sweets in their boxes. Pictured, left to right, are Jean Campbell, Blythswood Care; pupils Megan MacDonald and Isabella Sutherland; Debbie White, Ardnamurchan High School.

Photograph: Ardnamurchan High School

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LT

Community chair calls for calm on social media spats

by Richard Mason
rmason@obantimes.co.uk

As community councils across Lochaber fold due to a lack of nominations, Kinlochleven is holding elections as nine people were nominated for eight places.

At the final meeting of the current Kinlochleven Community Council, this commitment by the village was praised by chairwoman Yvonne Rosie but she wanted more constructive discussions on issues that affect everyone.

In a statement she made to the council, Ms Rosie talked about the dangers of making Facebook the public forum for discussion, especially on contentious issues such as the proposed zipwire project.

'We no longer have timely discussions at village level,' said Ms Rosie. 'No, we go immediately to air points of view on social media, often to the detriment of fact and

truth. Sadly, these are often an afterthought.

'On this platform, we lose the nuance of our wording, statements taken out of context, tones misinterpreted,' continued Ms Rosie. 'References made about the village which are derogatory yet supposed to be amusing, all of these and more can erode the very semblance of community.'

Discussion about the zipwire has overshadowed other issues and divided the community. Ms Rosie believes this is due to the discussions happening through Facebook.

She said: 'Social media is difficult to regulate but those who can should make an effort to nip in the bud those threads that are detrimental or scathing about any of our village organisations or individuals. We can't battle on all fronts so it is high time this behaviour ends.'

The zipwire was proposed to be built going across Loch

Leven but some residents complained due to potential impacts on wildlife and said it would obscure the view down the loch, among other issues.

An opposition group was set up on Facebook and its petition has been signed by almost 1,500 people at time of publication.

A spokesperson for the group, who preferred not to be named, told the Lochaber Times they were saddened Ms Rosie felt the need to chastise them.

They said: 'We see our role and remit as extracting truth from fiction and keeping on point rather than making matters personal, despite receiving numerous individual attacks on ourselves.'

Project lead of the Leven Adventure Zipwire Project Stephen Connelly said its Facebook group had to go private due to similar attacks.

The opposition spokesperson added: 'We are delighted this

proposal has motivated our community and created a wonderful opportunity for people, near and far, to participate in the future of Kinlochleven. It is fantastic to have reached a point whereby the community want to work together, despite our differences of opinion over this one idea.'

Some members of the opposition group have been nominated for the community council, as has Stephen Connelly.

He said: 'I am standing for election out of a deep-seated desire to help make Kinlochleven as good a community for the residents and as nice a place for tourists to visit as possible. I see the zipwire project and my support of village organisations/projects (the community trust, litter picks, social projects) as two separate sides of my life.'

'Our door is always open for face-to-face discussions with members of the opposition group.'

WHAT'S ON in Lochaber

■ The Leanachan Challenge cross-country running race for high school pupils takes place today (Thursday November 14). Open to all high schools. For more information, contact isabel@bosslochaber.co.uk.

■ There will be a quiz night in the Railway Club, Inverloch, tomorrow, Friday November 15, from 7pm. Teams of four or five (£10 entry). Raffle. Raising funds for Friends of Invernevis.

■ The next Lochaber Music For All concert takes place in Kilmallie Community centre on Saturday November 16 at 7.30pm. The evening will see Scotland's world-class saxophonist Tommy Smith and pianist Brian Kellock perform jazz standards.

■ Lochaber Athletic Club's annual general meeting will take place on Sunday November 17 at 7.30pm at Lochaber Yacht Club, Fort William. Everyone with an interest in athletics is encouraged to attend. It will be a great opportunity to discuss the sport, make suggestions and have your say on how the club is run. There will be opportunities

to join the committee. Refreshments and log fire. ■ Friends of Nevis will hold its autumn Glen Nevis litter pick and curling ponds clear-up on Sunday November 17. Meet at 10.30am at Ben Nevis Highland Centre, at the entrance to Glen Nevis, also known as the Woollen Mill Shop.

■ Kilmallie Christmas tree lights will be switched on officially at 7pm on Friday November 22. The ceremony will be followed by tea, coffee and homebaking in the community centre. All welcome and remember to bring a torch.

■ There will be a bird ringing event hosted by the Friends of Nevis at the Ben Nevis Visitor centre, from 9am to 3pm, on Sunday November 24.

■ St Bride's Primary School Christmas fair is on Thursday November 28, 7-9pm at the school. Usual stalls including raffle, homebaking and crafts.

■ Songs of Praise in Kilmallie Free Church, 7pm, on Friday November 29. A social evening of singing and music. Everyone welcome.

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Pastures new for former Kinlochleven primary head

Kinlochleven Primary School pupils, staff and parents said an emotional farewell last week to former head teacher Louise Chisholm.

The pupils presented her with a specially-framed collage of all their faces entitled 'Mrs Chisholm's Bairns' – a nice pun on her care for the young people as well as her passionate support of Falkirk FC.

The collage was made by the pupils, with a little help from teacher Mrs Johnstone.

Mrs Chisholm, who has been at Kinlochleven Primary School since 2015, leaves to take up the head teacher post at Lochnell Primary School in Argyll and Bute.

Mrs Chisholm had been acting head teacher since 2018 and had worked in partnership with Mrs Rebecca Machin at Kinlochleven High School to manage the transition to a new look three to 18 model for the schools.

Mrs Machin said: 'Louise has been an amazing colleague and friend, and I will



Louise Chisholm and pupils Declan and Zoe Dunn.

miss her, as will the pupils, staff and parents.

'We could not have had such a smooth transition to the three to 18 model without her

hard work and support, and I know she will go on to be a very successful head teacher at Lochnell. Argyll and Bute are lucky to have her.'

Meeting to discuss jetty at Strontian

by Nic Goddard
fort@obantimes.co.uk

The Sunart Community Company recently took ownership of the land and jetty in Strontian and, after discussion within the Loch Sunart Development Working Group, a public meeting was held in Strontian Village Hall last week to present the proposed ideas for development so far and begin wider consultation with the community.

The jetty and slipway both require repair work, as does the land around the jetty, which includes a small amount of parking and a currently unused shed.

As well as being a fairly busy area for loch users, sitting as it does at the mouth of Loch Sunart, it is regularly used as an access point for wild swimmers. It also marks the gateway to Strontian for anyone arriving from the Corran ferry direction.

'It is regularly used as an access point for wild swimmers'

Proposals for development include various options of jetty or pontoon to allow easier access to and from boats at differing tide levels. There are resident and visitor

moorings on the loch which are well used and this would both improve the offering and attract more users.

Discussion over use of the current shed, with either improvement or replacement, also took place, with suggestions including changing rooms, toilet and shower facilities, secure locker spaces for swimmers, an information point or viewing area all put forward as possibilities.

Some of these were ruled out as impractical or requiring large amounts of upkeep.

Further contributions to the discussion and more information should be addressed to enquiries@sunartcommunitycompany.org.uk



Ian Blackford

SNP candidate for Ross, Skye & Lochaber

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XR gives planning rules review a guarded welcome

The Scottish Government's decision to review rural planning legislation to tackle depopulation, support economies and help tackle the global climate crisis has been given a cautious welcome by environment campaigners in Fort William.

Andrew Squire, one of the branch founders, warned that deregulating rural development was a risky strategy, which he claimed had often shown benefits for developers and landowners but not for the environment or communities, adding: 'As a step towards addressing the global climate and ecological emergency, of course Extinction Rebellion welcomes any development of renewable energy, provided that it is carried out in an environmentally sensitive way with minimal damage to peat land and wildlife habitat.'

'Similarly, while encouraging rural repopulation by building affordable, low-energy homes for permanent residents, this should be coupled with provision of a sustainable transport network to minimise the dependence on cars.'

Man found guilty of Fort William assault

COURT

A man was found guilty of assault at Fort William Sheriff Court last Thursday following an altercation in Cinema Lane.

Lewis Simpson, 21, originally from Fort William, but who now lives in Glasgow working as a trainee architect, had pled not guilty to kicking a man in the head during a fight involving five men that broke out in the early hours of May 14, 2017.

The court heard multiple accounts of the event from all parties involved, but both sides agreed that the evidence was confusing.

The liberal consumption of alcohol by all involved, and distance time-wise from the event, led to spotty recollections, with only the police witnesses giving a clear account of what they saw.



Fort William Sheriff Court.

Procurator fiscal Martina Eastwood said that while there was some mystery in the case, the 'credibility and reliability' of the police officers could be counted on.

Ms Eastwood said Simpson was seen exiting the alley and returning to the brawl a few times, adding: 'The CCTV shows him clearly being able to avoid the situation and even if there was an initial aggression from [the complainer], he has admitted that he chose to go back in.'

The court heard it was unclear how the fight started due to the position of the CCTV camera, but what was clear was that Simpson, his co-accused – who was found to have no case to answer – and a friend who was seen pulling the boys away from the lane, ran from the alley when police arrived. Two older men were left on the ground.

PC John MacKerlich was the first out of the car and saw what appeared to be Simpson

– who was standing – kick the complainer – who was lying on the ground – on the head. He then chased the young men as they ran.

PC William Quinn was driving and had to turn the car engine off when they arrived so did not see the incident happen, but tended to the two men who were injured on the ground.

Ankle

The court also heard that as the fight was happening, the man with the complainer fell backwards and, in the process, broke his ankle. The complainer had a number of injuries, but none was serious.

Defence agent Gerry Sweeney that Simpson and the complainer were grappling on the ground and as Simpson attempted to free his foot from the other man's hands, it would seem that he kicked.

Sheriff Gary Aitken found this to be insufficient to prove Simpson not guilty.

Sheriff Aitken said: 'He comes before me with no previous convictions and has had the benefit of seeing his behaviour on the CCTV and hearing what various witnesses described. Alcohol seems to be a serious factor in this case.'

'Mr Simpson seems to be at the start of a promising and pro-social career and I would be willing to defer sentence for some time so he can prove himself better than this.'

Then speaking to Simpson directly, Sheriff Aitken said: 'I sincerely hope you have learned something from this and I will give you a chance to show you have. I will defer sentence for 12 months.'

'It would be very much in your best interest that you do not find yourself involved with the police in any way.'

Corpach man sentenced to unpaid work over thefts

COURT

A Corpach man was given 109 hours of unpaid work at Fort William Sheriff Court after admitting to an amended charge of theft.

Connor McCulloch, 22, of 35 Lady Margaret Drive, Corpach, had originally been charged with forcing entry with the intent to steal tools and technical equipment from Marine Harvest, Ardnish, on June 30, 2017, Garvan Mussel Farm on August 30, 2017, and Marine Harvest, Gorsten, on October 18, 2017.

Toolboxes and their contents, a swaging machine, a chainsaw and fuel containers with their contents had been taken from the various sites.

Procurator fiscal Martina Eastwood told the court: 'On

November 2, 2017, police received information that the items concerned were in two vehicles that belonged to Mr McCulloch in Inverness. The owner of the Mussel Farm then identified the items as his.'

The sheriff asked Ms Eastwood how McCulloch got into the premises.

She said: 'The police report said the gate was unlocked. Police did not detail any damage or forceful entry to the site. Mr McCulloch's position was that there was no forced entry and he got in by unlatching the gate.'

The court heard that there was no evidence to prove McCulloch forced entry to any site and so the charge was dropped. All the tools and equipment were returned.

Defence agent Hamish

Melrose told the court that in August 2017 McCulloch had been living with his grandparents who put him out, saying he was lazy.

At the time of the majority of the offences, he was living in his car.

Mr Melrose said: 'He has three children aged between two and six which he pays child maintenance to the mother, but is in regular contact with them.'

'He has moved on in life, working in an assistant managerial position in a company providing tyres locally.'

Sheriff Chris Dickson said: 'I accept you were having a hard time in your life at the time of these incidents.'

'As an alternative to custody, I will issue you with a community payback order of 109 hours of unpaid work.'

Accordion and Fiddle Club

The club chairman Alisdair MacDonald was back at the helm on Tuesday November 5 in the usual place of the Railway Club, Inverloch.

The guest artists were The Ally MacKenzie Trio, with

Ally on piano accordion. Ally travelled from the Black Isle, where he currently lives, but all three are Lochaber lads. Garry Robertson was on fiddle and Hugh MacCallum set the tempo on drums.

They were stunning with great harmonies throughout and they received a rapturous applause from the well

attended crowd. There was also performances from local players, Hector Henderson, Donald Cameron and Lucy MacIntyre, a welcome return from Liam Stuart, and Craig Kennedy gave a performance on his new accordion.

The next meeting, on December 3, welcomes The Ross MacPherson Trio.

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A Write Highland Hoolie has Mallaig buzzing

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Visitors and local people came together for a Write Highland Hoolie at the West Highland Hotel last weekend, writes Kirsteen Bell.

A wide range of writers and musicians celebrated under one roof for the weekend, which is Mallaig's Book Festival, and which included writers' talks as well as music and storytelling in the oral tradition.

The Hoolie opened on Friday night with a celebration of Carnegie prize-winning author Teresa Breslin's recent OBE award for Services to Literature.

Guests also sang a round of Happy Birthday to Sine Davis, manager of the West Highland Hotel and co-founder of the book festival along with naturalist and writer Polly Pullar.

Graeme Hawley, head of General Collections at the National Library of Scotland (NLS), then gave his highly entertaining presentation on The Joy of Spines.

The NLS holds more than 30 million titles as it aims to retain a record of every printed publication in Scotland, from the well-known to the obscure: from fiction to academic titles, from church pamphlets to football programmes, and from 13th-century manuscripts to the 1970s Argos catalogues.

Mr Hawley said that the library holds 'the possibility of everything' and for the Mallaig audience that included an old advert for the West Highland Hotel advertising 'hot and cold faucets in every room', and 'A History of the Mallaig Herring Industry'.

Mr Hawley's celebration of



John Lister-Kaye in conversation with Polly Pullar was one of the festival highlights.

books was a fitting opening to the weekend programme of events that saw a diverse group of authors speaking to audiences who came to Mallaig from near and far.

Two ladies told organisers that each autumn they choose a new book festival to visit, and that they were 'absolutely blown away' by the Hoolie.

The final event of the weekend was a special afternoon tea which included Gaelic singing from Mallaig Primary pupils. Ron Butlin, novelist and former Edinburgh Makar, also presented the prizes for the children's writing competition.

One of the key aims of the Hoolie this year was to involve more children. Mick Kitson visited Mallaig High School to talk about his new young adult novel, Sal, and Teresa Breslin visited both the high school and primary school along with illustrator Kate Leiper.

Ms Leiper also did an art workshop with senior pupils. Primary pupils were treated to a visit from Ron Butlin and award-winning Argyll children's author Alan Windram.

Speaking at the opening event, Ms Breslin said they had been given a lovely welcome at both schools, and that the questions from the pupils were unusual and challenging, making it a 'joy and a pleasure' to be there.

Ms Pullar, founder and chairperson of the Hoolie, said: 'I grew up in Ardnamurchan with the hoolies where everybody got involved, so we wanted to create the ceilidh atmosphere.'

'People can have a preconception of book festivals as high-brow - so the Hoolie aims to get everyone involved. On Saturday night, we had great participation from the audience, with Charlie MacFarlane especially delighting us all.'

'This year we were thrilled to have managed to put on so many school events and this is our aim in future. We are also particularly pleased to work closely with the Highland Bookshop in Fort William and to support the vital need for independent bookshops in Scotland. It was such a happy atmosphere overall.'



There was singing, dancing and lots of fun when Oban author Alan Windram visited Mallaig Primary School with his book One Button Benny.

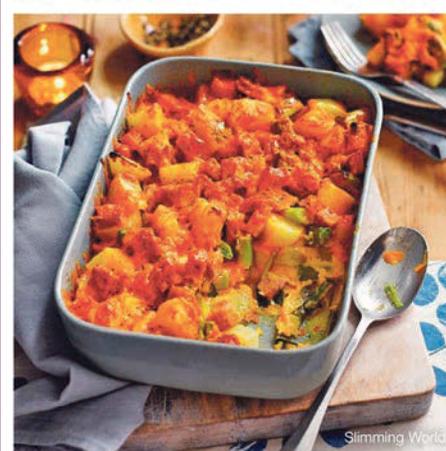


Sue Lawrence delighted her festival audience.



Left, Polly Clarke held her audience captive with her talk about her new book, Tiger; and, above, Polly Pullar interviewed author and renowned bookseller Shaugh Bythell at an event on the Saturday morning.

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- 120g Red Leicester, grated

Method

1. Preheat your oven to 200°C/fan 180°C/gas 6. Boil the potatoes in a large pan for 10-12 minutes, adding the leeks for the final 2 minutes. Drain well and transfer to a baking dish. Add the ham and toss well.
2. Season the egg lightly with salt and freshly ground black pepper and pour over the potato mixture. Scatter over the cheese and sprinkle on a little more black pepper. Bake for 35-40 minutes, or until golden and set. Divide between 4 plates to serve.

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Baptist Church
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Tel: Rhona 07880 878 906

FORT WILLIAM
Salvation Army Hall
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Thursday 3pm, 5pm & 7pm
Tel: Gillian 07796 040 803

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LT

Fort Town Team AGM hails very busy year of success

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Fort William Town Team has had an extremely busy year, the organisation's AGM heard last month.

In her annual chairperson's report, Moira Robinson outlined many of the highlights that had team volunteers busy over the course of the preceding 12 months.

'We've seen cruise ships come and go, DV8 disappear and the new cinema emerge, as well as hanging baskets go up and down. More spring bulbs have been planted by keen volunteers, we've watched the Adopt a Plot come to life, organised litter picks, weeding days and the Christmas Gathering is creeping up on us and is keeping us all very busy,' she said.

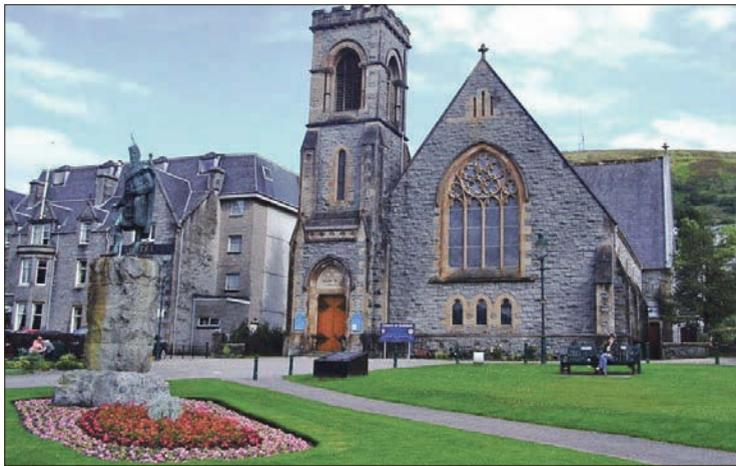
Ms Robinson said the town

team committee had worked really hard to keep the group working for the community and had managed to deliver all the projects which had been planned.

'The hanging baskets in 2018 went on until well into October and this year has been the same. It's been a mixed year for the weather in 2019 and we went from having a reasonably dry first half of the year to an extremely wet August and September,' she continued.

'The baskets coped very well, helped along by our new guardian of them, Jamie Hail. In total, we had 98 hanging baskets sponsored this year, and we would like to extend our thanks to the many businesses and individuals who have supported us again.'

Ms Robinson said the Sundial Garden had contin-



The beautiful flower bed outside the Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church in Fort William.

ued to be looked after by the Rotary Club, which sourced the plants and funded its own plot this year, which is the way the scheme was originally envisaged to work.

'Town team planted up the Cameron Monument garden, War Memorial garden, and James and Sarah continued

looking after the Old Police Station bed. Mary-Catherine and Gunther became guardians of Sore Feet and they also sourced and donated the plants to the town,' said Ms Robinson.

'Sue, Alan and Victoria have done a fabulous job of managing the Adopt a Plot

scheme and have some great ideas for how we can evolve the scheme, so watch out for that in 2020.

'The Royal British Legion War Memorial competition was a success this year with Fort William being placed in the regional competition. Unfortunately, we didn't

make it through to the nationals but it was a good result anyway for everyone involved.

'The RBL is proposing to make changes to the War Memorial for next year, so we hope that goes well for them and look forward to continuing to support them.'

Ms Robinson went on to outline the team's cleaning days since the last AGM, saying: 'We've worked on so many areas around the town and we've had some fantastic feedback from people who have noticed all the hard work that it takes to keep Fort William tidy.'

'Some of the volunteers have also received some lovely feedback from guests visiting the area and also cruise ship visitors. Everyone is very complimentary about what we have all achieved, so well done everyone.'

Get in to the Christmas spirit with festive cocktails at

Bar Rio

White chocolate martini

Winter mojito punch

Prosecco punch

Blue smurf

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Jennifer gets on her bike for wool shop

Fort William High Street has a woolly new presence with the opening of The Caledonian Wool Company by Jennifer MacKenzie.

Also known as Jam, she has been knitting and crocheting since leaving art school in 2007 and began spinning her own wool five years ago. Her work can also be found at www.applejam-fibre.co.uk

When Jennifer moved to Fort William, she founded a local crafting circle and realised there was nowhere to buy Scottish wool locally.

In order to address that issue, The Caledonian Wool Company will be a wool shop focusing on Scottish wool, sourced directly from the producers as well as Jennifer's hand-spun yarn.

There will also be weekly courses, drop-in classes and private tuition available throughout the year.

And to mark the opening of the shop and announce Jennifer's arrival on the High Street, friends helped her knit, weave and crochet special coverings for a bike which has drawn admiring glances from passers-by.

'Thursday night's opening was fantastic - the shop was mobbed with people queuing,' Jennifer said.



Jennifer MacKenzie with the 'knitted bike' outside The Caledonian Wool Company. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Citizens' network hosts positive Strontian event

The Highland Senior Citizens' Network (HSCN) works across the Highlands to ensure this growing section of the population is represented and heard, writes Nic Goddard.

It runs a series of events in local communities to gather older people, organisations and members of older people's groups and those who support older people to come together and network, sharing information and discussing issues in an informal setting.

Last week, Strontian village hall held a Communities Connecting event with people attending from the Sunart Community Council, Age Scotland, HSCN, Macular Society, Alzheimer Scotland, Scottish Dementia, Kinlochleven and Strontian Men's Sheds, Ewen's Room, Care Lochaber, West Lochaber Hospital Transport Project, Dail Mhor and local residents.

The day was an informative and enjoyable event for all who attended, with reports from the various agencies about progress on a variety of projects, issues faced and ways of overcoming them, sharing of successes and good news stories and plenty of opportunities for sharing ideas and supporting each other.



The issues faced by older people in our communities were highlighted by the organisations attending and include social isolation, mental and physical health challenges specific to ageing, along with certain barriers to accessing care and services particular to a remote and rural location.

Initiatives such as the fortnightly lunch club, Ewen's Room weekly open doors event, the Men's Shed and a proposed choir in Strontian are offering opportunities to manage some of these issues, while projects such as the West Lochaber Hospital Transport Project and Lochaber Care and Repair offer practical solutions to some of the logistical problems.

There were also ideas and suggestions shared from other areas, including the longer running Kinlochleven Men's Shed. There was also

talk of social media and how a Facebook group for sharing memories past and present of the area had bought together old and new residents and created spin-off events such as baking competitions, photography displays and included the local library.

A delicious lunch was provided by the Dail Mhor kitchen and pupils from Strontian Primary School attended to sing, recite Gaelic poems and play guitar songs.

This delightful interlude sparked the idea of a regular get-together between the oldest and youngest members of the community for future events such as whist games and beetle drives.

The event was a largely positive and uplifting gathering as many of these issues have been recognised and solutions are being developed or are already in place, with gatherings like these a large

The event recognised that groups, such as Fort William Men's Shed help alleviate social isolation among other challenges specific to ageing. Photograph: Abridgeside Photography

part of the Strontian community's aim to ensure the older residents are recognised as an asset, with plenty to offer in terms of their life experience, knowledge of the area and local history.

The HSCN motto is 'Nothing about us without us' in recognition of the idea that nothing pertaining to senior citizens should be discussed without their participation. The communities connecting events are perfect opportunities for just that.

For more information or details of other events in the area Highland Senior Citizens' Network, visit www.hscn.co.uk.



Lochaber troops are involved in the exercise.

Highlanders battalion prepares for battle

Local soldiers are among those from the 4th Battalion (The Highlanders), Royal Regiment of Scotland, who are currently taking part in a military exercise on Salisbury Plain, writes Mark Entwistle.

Also designated as 4 SCOTS, the battalion's troops are enhancing their fighting capability as well as taking the opportunity through experimentation and study to assist the development of the British Army's STRIKE capability.

The 4 SCOTS Battle Group is operating as conventional sub units in a role as a heavy mechanised unit. This is in preparation for the unit's

deployment next year. Lieutenant Colonel Tim Draper, commanding officer 4 SCOTS, told the Lochaber Times: 'We have a number of soldiers down on Salisbury Plain perfecting the skills required to be an effective Scottish infantry soldier.'

'The battalion is usually based in Catterick, North Yorkshire, but our spiritual home has always been the Highlands of Scotland.'

'We take pride in our local towns and cities. Scottish soldiers cannot operate without the support we receive from the communities we proudly serve.'

VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER

Lochaber Ideas Week is now an established fixture in our local events calendar, offering something a bit different and punching well above its weight in attracting top-class speakers and events.

Ideas Week started in 2013 and has continued to expand its reach, with a range of events every November.

The week of events is timed to be part of Global Entrepreneurship Week, a time when inspiring business events take place throughout the world.

But Lochaber Ideas Week isn't just for those in business - our events are open to everyone who is interested, whether you want to motivate yourself for a challenge or explore your creativity in one of our training workshops, or add your voice to the local debate at Question Time. This is a week for the whole community and



everyone is welcome. This year's Question Time has moved from an afternoon to an evening slot on Tuesday November 19 to allow more of the community to come along and get involved.

With an election not far away, it's the perfect opportunity to discuss the major issues affecting Lochaber.

The annual Charles Kennedy Lecture is always a popular event with the whole community, attracting a diverse audience to hear from a noted speaker on a personal topic of their choosing.

This is a non-political lecture and they always provide food for thought and reflection.

This year's lecture delivered

by Lord David Steel is now sold out, but if you'd like to go on the waiting list, just contact the office.

We always start the week with an inspirational speaker from the sporting world and this year's talk from former shinty star Russell Jones will kick us off in style.

Russell traded in his shinty stick for a road bike and took to the road as an ultra long-distance extreme bike-packing racer.

Join us on Monday November 18 to find out just what it takes to complete a 4,267-mile race across the USA without any help.

There's so much going on and everyone's invited. We look forward to celebrating the power of ideas with you during Ideas Week.

For all details and to book, visit www.lochaberchamber.co.uk or call the office team on 01397 705 765.

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LT

Remembrance Day: Lochaber

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

The cold but dry and bright weather that graced Lochaber on Sunday saw large turnouts for Remembrance Day services across the area.

As usual, the two biggest events were those staged in Fort William and at the Commando Memorial at Spean Bridge.

At Fort William, Parade Commander James Porter and Lord Lieutenant Donald Cameron of Lochiel, who were on the saluting dias, and a large crowd watched a parade march up to the town's war memorial.

As well as serving marines from 43 Commando Fleet Protection Group RM and serving soldiers from army Commando units, the parade also contained local veterans and representatives from organisations, including all three tri-service cadet forces, Police Scotland, Royal British Legion Scotland, St Andrew's Ambulance Service, British Red Cross, Lochaber Schools Pipe Band, local councillors, Scouts, Guides and Boys' Brigade.

Ahead of the two-minute silence at 11am, a bugler played The Last



Post and the Colours were lowered. After the silence, a piper played The Lament and the bugler sounded Reveille.

There followed a prayer and a reading after which wreaths were laid on behalf of Highland Council, Royal British Legion Scotland, Commando veterans, Royal Navy, Army, Royal Air Force, police and other uniformed organisations.

Lt Col Kevin Lane MBE, president of the Fort William and District branch of the RBLs, was pleased with the turnout for the Fort William service.

He told the Lochaber Times: 'It was a bitterly cold day, but it did not deter a really good crowd of people coming out and attending to pay their respects.'

Lt Col Lane's wife, Jeanette, sec-

retary of the branch, added: 'There was also a contingent of Dutch marines on parade, and it was really nice to see representatives of the fire brigade, police and ambulance service as well.'

Lt Col Lane continued: 'And it was also lovely, for the first time in many years, to see members of the Scouts there alongside all three cadet services.'

In front of a large crowd, air cadets honour the fallen in Fort William on Sunday.

All photographs: Iain Ferguson, alba. photos

'We must also thank James Porter for the sterling job he did as parade commander on the day.'

At Spean Bridge, the parade and service were attended by a large number of service personnel and Commando veterans.

Among them were marines from 43 Commando, as well as a number of soldiers from army Commando units.

The brief service was conducted by Reverend Richard Baxter, while music was provided by Lochaber Wind and Pipe Bands.

On Saturday, ahead of Sunday's Remembrance Day services, a dawn to dusk vigil was maintained at the Fort William war memorial by veterans from the local RBLs branch and members of the cadet services to recognise those from Lochaber who had given their lives in the service of their country.

The event also saw the unveiling of two new memorial benches for the town's war memorial which pay homage to those who fell in both world wars.

Lt Col Lane commented: 'It was very cold on Saturday and I have to say that for Saturday's vigil, the cadets were absolute stalwarts for being involved and doing that.'



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Fort William War memorial.

Top, Derick Campbell leads the sea cadets to Fort William War Memorial; above, Lochaber Schools Pipe Band leads the parade to the Commando Memorial; and, right, Fort William Army Cadets march smartly along the High Street.



... pays tribute to its war dead



Left, bugler and piper at the Commando Memorial; and, below, representatives of the Royal British Legion Scotland and the local groups with the new memorial bench in The Parade in Fort William.



Above, local ministers Richard Baxter and Morag Muirhead, conducted the service at the Commando Memorial with Royal Marines Sergeant Major Dermot Buckley; left, former Commando Albert McNickle, 94, who trained at Achnacarry, laid wreaths at both Fort William and the Commando Memorial.

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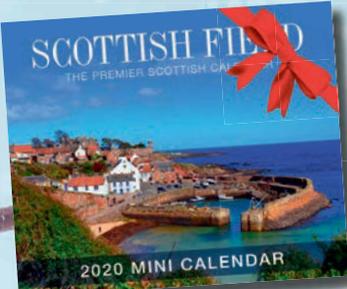
Above, a large crowd braved the cold weather to pay tribute at the Commando Memorial.

Far left, serving Commandos lay wreaths at the memorial and, left, Scouts were also present for the service at the Commando Memorial.

All photographs: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

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Taking the salute as serving soldiers parade to the war memorial, are from left, Lt Col Simon Giles, Lord Lieutenant Donald Cameron of Locheil and Councillor Allan Henderon.



Above, RAF veteran Mark McCann marked his 59th attendance at the Fort William Remembrance Day service. Above right, police officers attended the service in Fort William. And, right, Parade Commander James Porter (centre) who ensured the smooth running of the service at Fort William War Memorial.





It was a cold but dry and bright day for the annual Lochalsh Remembrance Day parade.

Lochalsh marks Remembrance Day with sunny annual parade

On a lovely sunny morning, the Annual Remembrance Day Parade was held on Sunday November 10 at Lochalsh War Memorial.

The Lochalsh Branch of Legion Scotland led the parade along with Sea Cadets, Scouts, Guides, RNLI, Fire Brigade and the Police.

The march to the war

memorial was led by the Lochalsh Junior Pipe Band. Reverend R Rankin conducted a short service and bugler Douglas Strachan sounded the Last Post for the two minute silence and the Reveille.

Parade Commander was Paul Newton and the Colour Party was Neil Marshall, Seamus Macguire and

Richard Talbot. Lt Cdr Andy Will took the Salute.

Niall Stewart played the pipes as wreaths were laid by several organisations, including Biz Campbell for the Highland Council.

Afterwards a service was held in Kyle Church of Scotland where a collection was made for Poppy Scotland.



Organisations and individuals pay their respects at the war memorial.

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



Armistice day has passed for another year and, as it does every year, it brings a multitude of mixed emotions and conflicting feelings that surround the subject of war.

It is a sad reflection on the lack of progress mankind has made since we emerged from the swamps that war is as much a part of life now as ever it was.

However, it is part of life and, while it remains so and while its history and its current presence continues to have direct impact on how we live, those who have sacrificed themselves for us all should be honoured and remembered.

Tunes and songs relating to war make up a large part of the repertoire of musicians, but as we happily play and dance to these tunes, little do we think of their brutal and harrowing origins. This is conveyed well in the poem below.

Na Puirt Dannsaidh by Flora MacPhail

Ceum an dannsaidh, òigridh à la inn

"Blàr an Somme", "Làraichean Àrras",

"Beaumont Hamel" - fuinn an àmhghar,

Fuinn an iobairt, fuinn a' chràidh, An dannsa siorraidh.

An danns' mu dheireadh "An Eala Bhàn".

The Dance Steps

Dance steps, beautiful youth

"The Battle of the Somme", "The Ruins of Arras",

"The Taking of Beaumont Hamel" - tunes of pain,

Tunes of sacrifice, tunes of anguish, The never-ending dance.

The last dance

"The White Swan".

The recruitment of soldiers, while of course necessary, is another area where reality can be far divorced from the images created.

Deise Mheallta (Beguiling

Apparel) by Flora MacPhail

Thàinig saighdear spaideil don sgoil an-dè

Le dheise, 's le bhutain 's le bhoineid -

Gille gasta.

Tharraing e dealbh dhomh

Air tursan do thìrean cèin,

Ciùirtean air mo chorraig

's dòigh-beatha eireachdail -

dealbh cho soilleir ris a' ghrèin.

A smart soldier came to the school yesterday

In uniform, buttons and bonnet -

A handsome young man.

He created for me an image

Of tours to foreign countries, Training for trades,

Such a wonderful lifestyle -

A vision bright as the sun.

Ach cha tug e diog fhathast air marbhadh,

air peilearan chuireadh as

do ghillean eile cheart cho snasail.

Cha tug e dealbh dhomh air deiseachan nan stròicean

ragach

ruadh le fuil -

dòigh-bàs cho grannda

dubh, dorcha sa th' againn.

But never yet did he mention the killing,

Of the bullets which would kill others -

Young men as handsome as himself.

He did not give me a vision

Of uniforms ragged and torn

Red with gore -

A way of death as ugly,

Black and dark as we can imagine.

Regardless of the politics and the complexities in the background and history of war, respect should be shown to those who have risked all on the behalf of others and remembrance should be marked for those who have given all and cut their own lives short for the good of others.

BLAS festival 2019

blas-festival.com Samhain 22-30 November

Friday 22 November - Dihaoine 22 Samhain
Astley Hall, Arisaig @ 7.30pm

Robert Robertson & Ross Wilson

(Tide Lines) with young musicians from Fèis Òigridh na Mara

Friday 29 November - Dihaoine 29 Samhain
Roybridge Village Hall @ 7.30pm

SIAN [Ceitlin LR Smith, Eilidh Cormack & Ellen MacDonald] and

Dawn & Margie Beaton in concert

Saturday 30 November - Disathairne 30 Samhain
Shielbridge Village Hall, Acharacle @ 7.30pm

Gary Innes Band in concert featuring
Kim Carnie, Ryan Murphy, Ali Hutton & Rory Matheson

Saturday 30 November - Disathairne 30 Samhain
Ben Nevis Distillery, Fort William @ 7.30pm

Gaol no Gonadh? with Rachel Walker & Ewen Henderson
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CMAL hosts Skye Triangle roadshow

Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL) will host community events in Uig, Tarbert and Lochmaddy this month to update communities on the Skye Triangle Infrastructure Programme, which will see significant investment made to upgrade the harbours and improve passenger experience.

CMAL has arranged a stakeholder engagement roadshow and will travel to each of the three communities that will benefit from the upgrade work to provide an update on the proposed works at each location.

Locals are invited to drop in to their community meeting at any point, where

they will be welcomed by representatives from CMAL, CalMac, Transport Scotland, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Highland Council.

The dates and times of the public drop-in events are as follows:

November 25 – Uig Village Hall, 4pm to 7pm.

November 26 – Harris Hotel, 4pm to 7pm.

November 27 – Lochmaddy Village Hall, 4pm to 7pm.

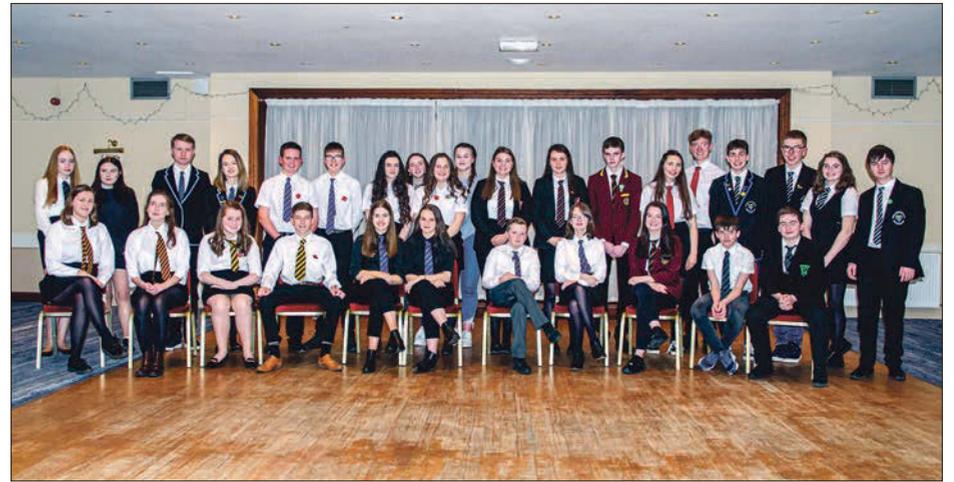
The Skye Triangle Infrastructure Programme involves significant upgrades to the ports at Uig, Tarbert and Lochmaddy to modernise harbour facilities in preparation for new vessels.

Work is already under way

at Tarbert Ferry Terminal following the award of a £14.3 million contract to civil engineering and building contractor, R J McLeod Limited.

CMAL is working in partnership with Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar to deliver the works at Lochmaddy. Tenders for the work are currently being assessed, and more information on the construction phase will be provided in due course. The tender to appoint a contractor for work at Uig has also been issued.

CMAL owns 26 harbours on the west coast of Scotland which support the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Service and 36 ferries, of which 31 vessels are leased to CalMac.



The competition's semi-finals will include teams from schools on Benbecula and Harris.

Benbecula and Harris schools through to debate semi-finals

The town hall building in Stornoway was the setting for the first two rounds of the National Gaelic Schools' Debate last week.

The judges, Iain Steven Morrison, Agnes Rennie and Boyd Robertson, had their work cut out whittling 16 teams down to four.

The four teams which reached the semi-final stages of this year's competition are Inverness Royal Academy B, Bishopbriggs Academy A, Sir E Scott School on Harris and Linciate School on

Benbecula. The first semi-final draw will see Inverness Royal Academy B against Linciate School.

In the second debate of the evening Bishopbriggs Academy A will be against Sir E Scott School.

The semi-finals will be held at the Macdonald Holyrood Hotel in Edinburgh on Wednesday December 4.

The final will be held the following evening, Thursday December 5, in the main chamber at the Scottish Parliament and will

be broadcast live on BBC Radio nan Gàidheal. The topic for the debate between Inverness Royal Academy B and Linciate School will be: 'Gadgets like Fitbits are helpful to keep us healthy'.

Bishopbriggs Academy A will debate against Sir E Scott School on the topic: 'It is better to follow than the be first'.

The winner of Debate A will face the winner of Debate B in the final on the topic: 'In 20 years, the proper Gaelic communities will be in the big cities'.

Inquiries into unauthorised excavation of Iron Age dun

Police in the Western Isles are carrying out inquiries into a reported unauthorised excavation of an Iron Age galleried dun.

Dun Torcuill – a fortified dwelling similar to a broch – sits on an uninhabited island on a loch on North Uist and is considered to be the finest and best preserved example of its type across both Uists and Benbecula.

As a scheduled monument, Dun Torcuill is legally protected and recognised as being of national importance. Officers are liaising with Historic Environment Scotland to establish the full circumstances.

The damage was reported to police on Tuesday October 22 and comprises the clearance of tumbled stone from the site.

Sergeant Gavin McDevitt, of Lochmaddy Police Station, said: 'Damaging or removing any part of a scheduled monument is a criminal offence. In this instance, there is the



Dun Torcuill sits on an uninhabited island.

potential for destabilisation of the monument and/or the loss of archaeological deposits previously protected by the tumbled stone.

'It is an offence under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 to undertake works without Scheduled Monument Consent. The penalties for offences under the act are considerably higher than those for damage to property or vandalism

offences, with fines ranging up to £50,000 or prison sentences of up to two years.

'Police Scotland and HES are working closely to investigate this report and we are particularly keen to hear from anyone who has visited the monument within the past six months.

'If anyone has any information that could help, please call 101 and quote the Police Scotland reference number 1652 of October 22.'

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Comhairle looks to a green future

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar hosted a seminar last week looking at the opportunities that hydrogen could offer the islands.

The manufacture of hydrogen is extremely energy intensive but, with the best wind resources in the northern hemisphere, the Outer Hebrides are well positioned to manufacture hydrogen from renewable energy.

As the comhairle continues to build on its hydrogen and wider energy strategies, a study has been commissioned, supported by Community Energy Scotland, to look at

where additional hydrogen opportunities may lie and how they can be accessed.

This work will run in parallel with the comhairle's ground-breaking hydrogen project - Outer Hebrides Local Energy Hub (OHLEH) - which has been shortlisted for an award at this year's VIBES - Scottish Environment Business Awards.

OHLEH is a partnership between the comhairle, Scottish Salmon Company, Pure Energy Centre and Community Energy Scotland that generates green hydrogen and oxygen from fish farm waste at the Creed Park Recycling Centre in a true, circular economy.

Councillor Uisdean Robertson, chairman of the comhairle's Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, commented: 'The comhairle has been active in hydrogen since 2010 when an electrolyser was installed at Creed Park Recycling Centre.

'Now we are powering our own hydrogen refuse collection vehicle, one of only five in Scotland, from electrolyser hydrogen and hydrogen produced by the innovative OHLEH project.

'In addition, over the past few months, the comhairle has engaged with commercial partners to explore the use of hydrogen produced in the islands in local heat networks.'

Lewis war memorial turns red for Remembrance Day

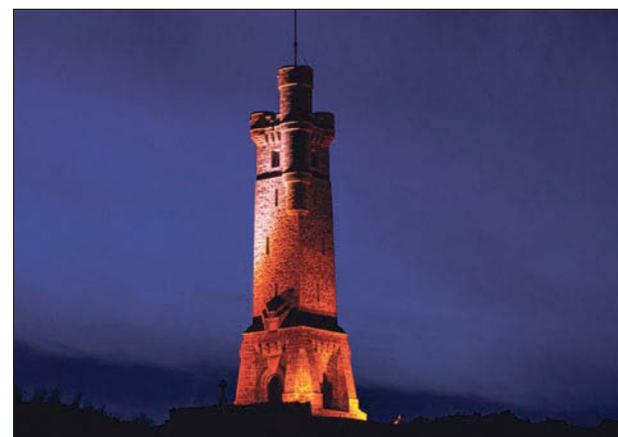
The Lewis War Memorial turned red for this year's Poppyscotland Light Up Red appeal, which was also being marked on the island by a projection of images of some of the islanders who made the ultimate sacrifice in conflicts.

Point and Sandwick Trust's engineering consultant Tony Robson fitted red filters onto Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's existing floodlights at the war memorial and arranged the slideshow projection, which was shown on the side of the Old Knock School in Point, where the community wind farm charity's offices are located. The school was also partly lit by a red LED light.

The red lighting and the slideshow were visible during the hours of darkness over the weekend.

They were launched on Friday night and remained in place until Monday night. However, if there is enough interest the slideshow could be left in place throughout the coming week.

Beinn Ghrìdeag developer



The Lewis War Memorial turns red for Remembrance Day.

Calum MacDonald said it was appropriate to light up the war memorial.

'The war memorial is something we've all grown up with and sometimes we ignore it or forget about it but at this time it's a really important and powerful monument. I think it should be the first building in our thoughts when we're thinking about lighting up for poppy day,' he said.

He also said it was ap-

propriate to expand on the slideshow as this was about those who sacrificed in all the wars, adding: 'All we can do is give an illustrative sample of photographs but I think it's important to represent the widest range we can.'

The Light Up Red appeal officially ran from November 4 to 11 and was part of the wider Scottish Poppy Appeal, running up to Remembrance Day.

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LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to editor@obantimes.co.uk
or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HBTown team deserves
the highest praise

In her annual chairperson's report to the Fort William Town Team AGM, Moira Robinson was understated in saying the organisation has had a busy year.

The town team has had an exceptionally hectic time in carrying out a impressive number of projects, all of which benefit Fort William's residents and visitors.

Mrs Robinson said: 'We've seen cruise ships come and go, DV8 disappear and the new cinema emerge, as well as hanging baskets go up and down. More spring bulbs have been planted by keen volunteers, we've watched the Adopt a Plot come to life, organised litter picks, weeding days and the Christmas Gathering is creeping up on us and is keeping us all very busy.

She went on to name some of those who have been especially active in their volunteering duties – praise that was well earned and deserved.

We would echo her sentiments but would like to add a thank you to Ms Robinson for all her efforts in chairing the town team.

Remembrance remains
important for us all

All across Lochaber and the Highlands this weekend were commemoration services to acknowledge the sacrifice made by those servicemen and women who have fought and died for their country.

Young and old have come together in dignified and respectful assemblies, with parades and services.

While there are, sadly, a diminishing number of veterans from the two world wars, the ceremonies featured prominently today's youth uniformed units, including army cadets, sea cadets, Scouts and Guides.

It is gratifying to see them all participate in what is such an important annual event for us all.

Cyclists should adhere to
same rules as motorists

Thank you for printing Tom Cullen's letter on November 7 about invisible cyclists, but I doubt very much if his appeal will make any difference to those concerned.

One day last year I was a passenger on the bus from Oban to Barcaldine and had a view of the road to the left and also forward through the bus windscreen. During the first half or so of the journey there was heavy and occasionally torrential rain with very limited visibility.

On the A828 main road between Benderloch and Barcaldine there is a long straight section with the Sustrans track immediately alongside, and about halfway along this stretch we caught up with a cyclist. As there was considerable on-coming traffic we had to wait quite a while before being able to overtake him and I was thus able to observe him.

The cyclist was a young-ish male, wearing a completely black outfit without any high-viz reflective material whatsoever. His cycle was also matt black with no mudguards, lights or reflective surfaces. On that morning, against the road and surroundings he was effectively camouflaged and pretty well invisible at any distance. Fortunately, a few minutes earlier the deluge had ceased or we may well not have seen him and there could have been a tragedy.

The Sustrans track was immediately adjacent, but the cyclist spurned it, preferring to risk his life by asserting his right to use the carriageway.

Cyclists using roads with speed limits above 30mph should be legally required to wear a high visibility garment and an approved brightly coloured cycling helmet at all times. The growing practice of using high intensity lights by day as well as by night should be encouraged. See and be seen must be the watchword.

The law relating to cycles and road cycling should be more rigorously enforced and amended where necessary to include compulsory bells, mudguards, efficient brakes, lights and so on. Dangerous and careless cycling should be as punishable in actual practice as careless and dangerous driving for motorists.

Cyclists using public roads should also hold at least third party insurance and the legal presumption of innocence on the part of cyclists should be removed and they should be regarded in the same way as other road users.

Given the huge (and welcome) increase in

YOUR PICTURES



We know our readers love to take photographs so we are happy to create this space to showcase these each week.

If you have a photograph you would like to see published here, send it to

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.

cycling as a pastime, but also bearing in mind the much greater speed and density of modern traffic, every effort should be made to separate cyclists from vehicles, especially on major roads. To this end, the provision of Sustrans and other cycle tracks should be accelerated and given priority. Where they clearly provide a viable alternative to roads (as in many places on the developing Oban to Fort William route), their use should be mandatory and legally enforced.

Future publicity for cycling should put much greater emphasis on associated legal obliga-

tions, consideration for other road users and, above all, on safety – for the sake of everyone, and this is a surely a crucial responsibility for anyone involved.

John N Gosling
Barcaldine.

People with diabetes should
be given free flu jabs

Diabetes Scotland is urging everyone with diabetes to take up the offer of a free a flu jab through their local pharmacy or GP.



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DISTRICT NEWS

MORVERN

Morvern Community Development Company Ltd and Morvern Community Trading Company will hold their AGM at 7.30pm on November 28 at Lochaline Village Hall.

Immediately following the AGM there will be an ordinary meeting of the company at which the new board will elect office-bearers and future projects and business of MCDC and its subsidiaries MCTC and MorVolts will be discussed in detail.

Summary of the accounts to the end of March 2019 will be available at the AGM. Should any member wish to view the accounts prior to the meeting, please contact Angus Robertson (treasurer) or Lilia Dobrokhodova (company secretary).

FORT WILLIAM

One of a series of events aimed at raising awareness of the country's carers is to take part in Caol Youth Centre on November 21.

Connecting Carers is one of hundreds of groups across the UK taking part in Carers' Rights Day.

Carers' Rights Day is an annual national awareness campaign organised by the charity Carers UK, which aims to reach as many of the 6.5 million carers in the UK as possible with information about their rights and the financial and practical help they are entitled to, including benefits such as Carer's Allowance, breaks and access to equipment and technology which can help them in their caring role.

This year the charity is encouraging people to think about how caring might affect them now and in the future and what support they might need.

Connecting Carers will be hosting special Carers' Rights Day events in five locations across Highland.

Carers are invited to come along and meet their local Carer Link worker who will be available to provide information on the services

The Outward Bound Trust, which has its Scottish centre at Loch Eil near Fort William, is in line for a top award after being shortlisted as one of the best outdoor learning experiences in the UK. The School Travel Awards recognise the people and organisations which provide inspiring school trips. Outward Bound got a nod in this year's Best Residential category. Outward Bound's centre at Loch Eil specialises in providing life-changing educational experiences for nine- to 24-year-olds. The winners will be revealed in London tomorrow (Friday November 15).



and support that Connecting Carers can provide.

There will also be a demonstration of the Carers Portal, which is a new online service that will give carers secure access to their care documents.

The Fort William event will take place at Caol Youth Centre from 1-3pm.

All events are free and refreshments will be provided. For further information or to book a place please call the Carers' Centre on 01463 723575.

CAOL

Caol Co-op car park public realm improvements have been selected among 30 transformational projects to benefit from a slice of more than £2.3 million of investment across the Highlands.

The project is being overseen by Caol Regeneration Company which is leading on the enhancement and improved access of this vitally important neighbourhood centre.

The town centre capital grant fund from the Scottish Government is targeted to encourage town and city centres to diversify and flourish, giving new purpose and creating footfall.

Over the past few months, Highland Council's area committees have been actively engaging

with communities and involved in helping to identifying and recommend ranked projects that fit in with the criteria. A cross-party working group has then approved the successful projects.

Among the others is Bayfield car park, a partnership project between Highland Council, Portree and Braes Community Trust, and the Portree Tennis and Squash Club to provide enhanced parking facilities and alleviate pressure on existing infrastructure.

Chairman of the council's Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee, Councillor Allan Henderson (Caol and Mallaig) said: 'The purpose of this fund is to redress the decline of town centres, in particular by bringing empty buildings and unused floorspace back into productive use.

'I would like to thank communities for putting forward projects and to the cross-party working group and area committees for helping take these forward.'

LOCHALINE

Ferry operator CalMac has taken further steps to highlight service changes during the temporary service arrangements serving Mull and Iona during the Lochaline pier upgrade work. This follows feedback

from the local community. The company wants to alert passengers to the following:

Monday: additional sailing departing Oban 1810, arriving Craignure 1856, then departing Craignure 1910, arriving Oban 1956, operated by Clansman to allow shipment of dangerous goods.

Tuesday: no change.

Wednesday: first sailings brought forward and now departing earlier. New sailing times: departing Oban 0645, arriving Craignure 0731, then departing Craignure 0800, arriving Oban 0846. Also an additional sailing has been added for Wednesday evening, departing Oban 1800, arriving Craignure 1846, departing Craignure 1900, arriving Oban 1946. Operated by Clansman to allow shipment of dangerous goods.

Thursday: no change.

Friday: first sailings brought forward and now departing earlier. New sailing times: departing Oban 0645, arriving Craignure 0731, then departing Craignure 0800, arriving Oban 0846.

Saturday: no change.

Sunday: no change.

In addition, CalMac has developed a new page above the normal timetable showing the amended sailings for this service through to December 1.

'We value feedback and have amended our publicity material ac-

ordingly to make these temporary arrangements as clear as possible for passengers,' said CalMac director of operations Robert Morrison.

BALLACHULISH

Abbeyfield Ballachulish has been recognised as one of the leading care homes in Scotland at a prestigious awards ceremony celebrating the best of the independent care home sector in Scotland.

A total of 88 per cent of all care home support in Scotland is delivered by the independent sector, with these services caring for more than 33,000 older individuals and employing nearly 46,000 people.

Abbeyfield Ballachulish has been nominated in the Care Home of the Year category at the Scottish Care Awards 2019. This award celebrates an individual service at the forefront of excellent care home provision.

The winner will be announced at a ceremony tomorrow night (Friday) at the Hilton Hotel in Glasgow. The ceremony will be hosted by Michelle McManus, with nearly 700 people attending.

Louise Duffy, the registered manager of Abbeyfield Ballachulish, who put forward the nomination, said: 'The team is a dedicated, hard-working group who truly go above and beyond. They ensure every person who enters the building is welcomed and treated like one of the family, and every voice is heard. Their motto, which underpins every day and shows through their work, is: our residents do not live in our workplace; we work in their home.'

ARISAIG

A great evening is in store on Saturday at the Astley Hall in Arisaig with live music and family ceilidh from 7pm to celebrate 10 years of the Arisaig Community Trust working for the community.

Earlier in the day will be the Arisaig Eco Project creative willow workshop with Wildwood Arts and a clothes swap from 11am to 2pm, also at the hall.

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Retro Roamer

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More Roamerisms from the early 1990s

Lochside Recreation and Entertainment Committee's latest event – a bingo evening in Treslaig Hall – was well attended. The prizes, too, were widely distributed, with Blaich players faring best of all, followed by their counterparts from Achaphubuil, Duisky and Treslaig itself.

Two couples bowled in to the BA Club on Friday evening where one or two of the regular patrons were enjoying their recreation. 'Are we the first?' Ian asked when he got to the bar. 'Where are the rest of the members, the buffet and the band?' Which brought the response: 'The other members of what, sir?' Ian replied: 'Of the bowling club, of course. Are we too early?' Came the reply from behind the bar: 'Aye, you're too early, all right. The bowling club do isn't till the end of November!' Then, on Monday, the bowling club committee held one of its regular meetings. It was the right night and, on the table, there were the usual regulation carafes of orange juice, lime juice cordial and iced water. But also standing on the green baize-covered table was a 40-ouncer of Grouse. Or, to be precise, a 20-ouncer, as the bottle was only half full. 'That's a nice touch by John, the steward,' everyone agreed, prior to the drams being passed around. Some of the glasses had iced water added. But then the contents bubbled! Closer inspection revealed that the steward's 'nice touch' had stretched to half a bottle of cold tea!

Donald 'Skeegan' Cameron was the accomplished after-dinner speaker at the Rotary Club of Lochaber's annual charter night in the Grand. As the nickname – bestowed by Mrs Connochie – implies, Skeegan was comparatively brief with his address. So, here goes, for a few extracts which I've selected as the 'best' of

what certainly was All Right on the Night. As he stood up to speak he did a brief alphabetical check. ABC (always be comfortable) to XYZ (examine your zip). Then, majoring on local authority business, he regaled his audience of 100 by revealing that radio and TV interviews given by Lochaber District Councillors are to be dubbed by Gerry Adams so that the elected members will be seen and heard to 'speak with one voice!' Next Skeegan claimed that one of our local councillors is to have words with Archie at the bakery for using his signature on hot cross buns!

Off to Pitlochry went the Lochaber Curling Club members for their bi-annual match against Edinburgh Medical Curling Club. The Edina men 'sooped up' curling's equivalent of a couple of holes in one at golf by landing all eight stones in a counting position – with Lochaber registering a big round zero in reply. Still, our representatives did get some large drams out of it while their opposition went one over the eight to celebrate.

I promise I won't continue to go on about Lochaber District Council. I've written plenty about our local authority, in any case. However, in the midst of the Lochaber House turmoil there were a couple of cameos which, hopefully, will bring some light relief to Roamer readers. The eight members who were present at the latest Lochaber House meeting constituted a quorum. However, if one of them left the chamber for a fag, or to visit the loo, or made a foray to one of the downstairs offices, then, if you'll pardon the expression, the council would be caught short. Thus it was, on Tuesday, when Councillor Purdon excused himself as he walked out of the chamber, leaving the meeting inquorate. When he returned he received some baleful looks. 'I needed a comfort

break, chairman,' Councillor Purdon explained. After all, there was no mention on the agenda of the provision of a commode.

Norrie Bruce bought a car. Filled it up with petrol. However, a wee bit flustered, Norrie noticed that a red light had come on. So he called on Dougie's expertise. 'The petrol light keeps flashing – but the tank's full,' Norrie moaned. Till Dougie replied: 'Look, watch this,' he said. Dougie switched on the ignition and, sure enough, a red light came on. Whereupon Dougie let off the handbrake. And the red light went off.

'Please ring if you have any queeries.' That's a direct quote, including the mis-spelling, from The Star – The Morning Star – in its advertising rate card.

William Austen Duncan, of That Ilk has been haranguing me because Eric Wallace was credited in the paper with having been a joint founder of the Lochaber Soccer Sevens Primary School League. It seems that the Austen Sevens were set up by the schools themselves, and that Willie has been arranging their fixtures ever since.

I liked Benny's classic on Nevis Radio the other night. At the close of one delightful musical item, Benny told us: 'That was the unmistakable voice of Michael Marra. Oh, sorry, no it wasn't! It was Peter Nardini.'

I seem to have gone on at some length in Roamer this week. Maybe I should have remembered the Brevity Clause: 'The Lord's Prayer has 56 words', 'The Ten Commandments contain 297', 'The American Declaration of Independence 300. However, locally published Letters to the Editor from Councillors Michael Foxley and Eric Wallace average 3,000. So maybe there's hope for me yet.



Holly Gillibrand, centre, a pupil at Lochaber High School, gave a speech to the pupils attending the screening in Glasgow.

Holly speaks ahead of climate documentary

Lochaber teenage climate activist and environment correspondent for the Lochaber Times Holly Gillibrand attended the screening of a new climate change documentary at the seventh Into Film festival in Glasgow.

Holly gave a rousing speech ahead of the screening to the young audience of pupils from across Scotland who last week attended the free cinema trips, special film events and accessing free resources through the Into Film festival.

With more than 240 screenings taking place from Orkney to Dumfries, the festival – which runs until November 22 – is hosted by film education charity Into Film, and launched this week with pupil premieres across Scotland and the UK of new climate change documentary, 2040.

Cited as the first film aimed at young audiences to offer a hopeful response to eco-anxiety, 2040 is part of the festival's environmentally-themed screenings and events throughout the festival and is supported by Unicef.

The documentary explores what the future could look like by the year 2040 if we simply embraced the best solutions already available to us to improve our planet and shifted them rapidly into the mainstream.

This year's festival comprises eight strands that can help educators navigate the packed programme: Mental Wellbeing and Identity, Language and Creativity, The Natural World, Exploring History, Debate, Fantasy and Adventure, Rebellion and Musicals.

Scottish youngsters will also have their pick of historical dramas, such as Mary, Queen of Scots, documentaries such as Nae Pasaran, which chronicles how Scottish aircraft workers refused to fix engines in solidarity against Chile's fascist dictatorship, and films, including The Queen's Corgi, a Belgian animation in which the Queen's most beloved dog must find his way back to the palace after being betrayed by his fellow corgi.



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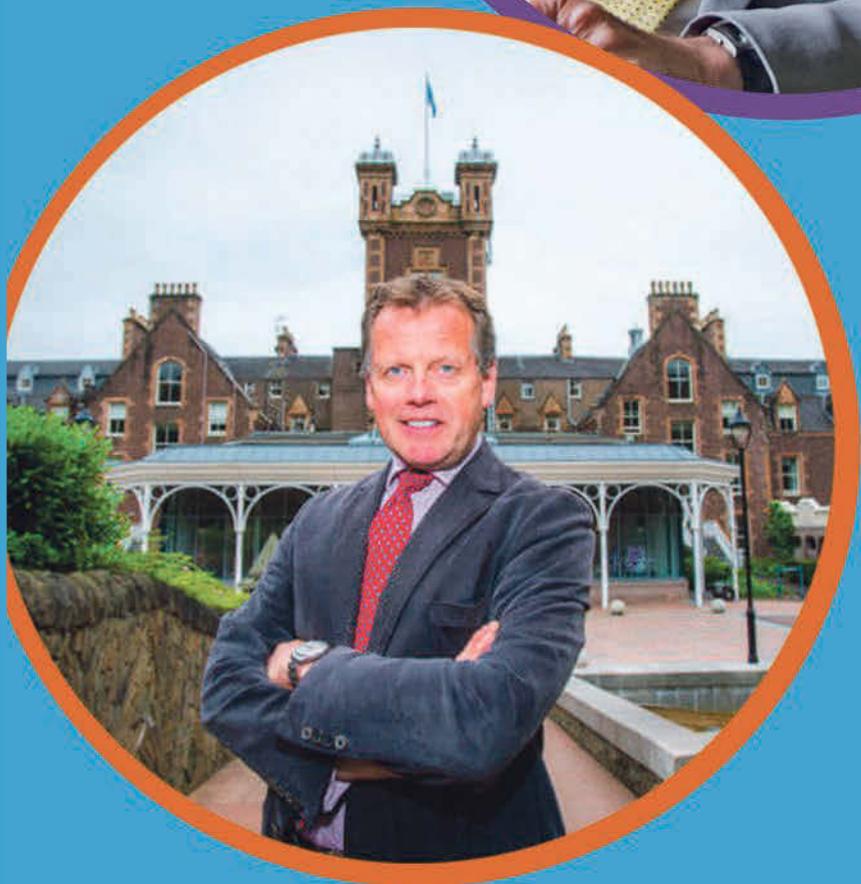
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Celebrate ideas at the Gala Dinner!

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Welcome to Lochaber Ideas Week 2019

Well folks, after months of planning and discussion with our member businesses, Ideas Week 2019 is almost here! We hope that everyone from the business and wider community will find events to inspire us all and get us thinking.

Ideas Week is a time for us to come together – to explore ideas, have great conversations, find out more and take some time to reflect and plan for the future. It's also a really fun week with something for everyone. Many events are free, and our paid-for-events offer fantastic value for money. You don't need to be a member of the Chamber of Commerce to come along to events, and you don't need to be in business! If it appeals to you, come along – we'd love to see you there!

We've got inspirational training seminars that will help everyone in their work... and life. Whether you want to think creatively about what you do and how to approach work differently; build strong teams and harness the power of small changes to create big results, to discovering practical and plain-speaking strategies for achieving your goals – Ideas Week has got you covered!

There's huge potential for business networking throughout the week – our informal and effective 'Around Lochaber in 80 Tables' networking event is a simple and fun way to get your business known locally and make valuable personal connections; plus, of course, all events include ample time for the all-important mingling.

On Monday 18th we're celebrating sporting achievement and determination with Russell Jones, who's gone from shinty star to extreme ultra-long-distance cyclist. Russell is a great storyteller with some amazing tales from the saddle to share with us all.

Don't miss Question Time on Tuesday 19th when it's your chance to ask

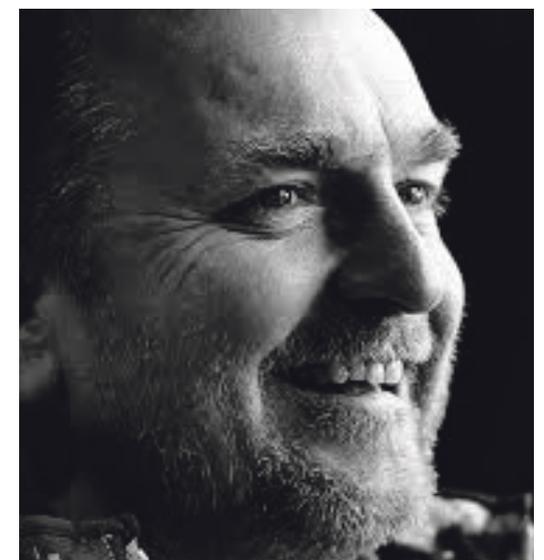
important questions and, of course, we're delighted to welcome Lord David Steel to deliver this year's Charles Kennedy Lecture on Wednesday 20th.

There's so much going on – don't wait any longer to book. Get your tickets now!

I've been involved with Ideas Week since the very start and now as CEO of Lochaber Chamber, I'm thrilled that it continues to grow in range of events, quality, prestige and numbers attending every year. I may be biased but I'm very proud of the dynamic, inspirational and topical programme of events we've put together for the benefit of our community.

So, if you haven't been before or if you're a bit busy, or you don't know if it's for you – don't worry about that, just give it a go! I guarantee you'll get a lot out of it.

I look forward to seeing you at Lochaber Ideas Week 2019.



Best wishes, Frazer

Frazer Coupland
CEO of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce

Small Steps to Big Success

Monday 18th November, 2-4pm, The Moorings Hotel, price: £30

Practical strategies for improving performance

Dr Cath Bishop is an expert in outstanding performance under pressure: from winning an Olympic gold medal to working as a top UK diplomat.

As part of Lochaber Ideas Week 2019, Dr Bishop will lead a special session on 'practical strategies' that allow you to take small steps in your business and yield BIG success.

About the event

Dr Cath Bishop will lead you through a session focusing on ways to improve performance and create strong teams. This practical session will help you learn the strategies for success and give you an opportunity to explore ways to improve your own business.

About Dr Cath Bishop

No stranger to tough situations, the decade Dr Bishop spent as a British diplomat in Bosnia and Iraq has equipped her with the highest level of strategy-building, resilience and a determination to do well in the face of adversity.

Success in both rowing and diplomacy rely on effective collaboration. In a unique combination of her experiences Dr Bishop relates genuine insights into how to deal with setbacks and forge strong team connections.



This event is kindly sponsored by Liberty British Aluminium.

Liberty British Aluminium own and operate the UK's last remaining aluminium smelter here in the heart of Lochaber. It is delighted to be a part of Lochaber Ideas Week 2019. Liberty is part of the GFG Alliance, with sister companies SIMEC Lochaber Power & JAHAMA Highland Estates also operating in Fort William.



Highlands and Islands businesses are never short of creative solutions and innovative ideas! But for many small businesses, lack of technical expertise and the need to prioritise resources means innovation sometimes takes a back seat to business as usual.

Academics often have the solutions to the technical challenges your business is trying to solve, and Co-Innovate could be the key to unlocking that expertise.

As an innovation support programme for West Highland and Argyll and the Isles businesses, Co-Innovate provides:

- A tailored matching service so you get access to the most appropriate academic expertise
- Help to recruit a project manager into your business to deliver your project over 12 months
- Grant funding to cover 50% of the project manager's salary

- Funding to fully cover the costs of 24 days of academic time on the project

Co-innovate is supported by the EU under the Interreg VA Cross Border programme and is delivered in the Highlands and Islands by Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

As Co-Innovate is a cross-border initiative led by Intertrade Ireland, businesses in the eligible areas of Scotland* can benefit from Irish academic expertise. One business already making use of this fantastic opportunity is Ayrshire-based RUA Medical (pictured), which is collaborating with the Institute of Technology Sligo to develop coating technologies for implantable medical devices.

If you can't make the event but would still like more information, contact vicki.hazley@hient.co.uk or register your interest at www.co-innovateprogramme.eu

*SMEs in the following areas are eligible for Co-Innovate support: Western Isles, Skye and Lochalsh, Lochaber, Argyll and the Isles, Ayrshire and Arran, Dumfries and Galloway.

Funding and academic expertise for West Highland businesses



Co-Innovate representatives from HIE will be at our 'Around Lochaber in 80 Tables' event on the 19th November. We would love to talk to you about your ideas and whether you could be eligible.



Visit: co-innovateprogramme.eu

The Co-Innovate Programme is supported by the EU's INTERREG VA Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)

Net Zero Business

Tuesday 19th November, 2-4pm

Scotland has set an ambitious target of net-zero emissions by 2045. What does this mean for business?



ZERO EMISSION

Come along to hear what other businesses are doing and get advice on steps you can take now to reduce your environmental impact and take action towards meeting the net zero target. There is lots of positive, practical action your business can take now that will make a real difference. Don't miss this key business workshop

on the most important issue of our times.

This event is kindly sponsored by BAM Nuttall.



BAM Nuttall is part of the Royal BAM Group of civil engineers. Established for more than 150 years, they deliver exceptional engineering, construction and investment services across private and public sector projects. Their goal is to build sustainable infrastructure that helps economic growth and allows us to be kind to our planet – today and in the future.

Volatile - Uncertain - Complex - Ambiguous (VUCA)

Wednesday 20th November, 2.30-5pm



Are these the words that sum up your ever-changing business environment? Could you do with a steer on how best to predict the future of your business and how to be ready for it?

Then join us for a special half-day VUCA workshop during Lochaber Ideas Week! The first cohort on the innovative new 'One Lochaber Leadership Programme' will officially begin their tailor-made year-long programme during Lochaber Ideas Week, with the inaugural training day taking place on Wednesday 20th November.

As a special offer to local businesses during Ideas Week, we're inviting staff from all local businesses to join in the afternoon session of the first day of One Lochaber: Come along to find out how to thrive in an uncertain business world with an interactive 'VUCA' workshop. ('VUCA' stands for Volatile; Uncertain;

Complex and Ambiguous.) During this workshop we will explore operating in a VUCA world, and look at how we can lead in a way that enables people to deal with work pressures more effectively.

More about the One Lochaber Leadership Programme

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce created the bespoke training programme to meet the needs of local businesses in developing their workforce to meet the challenges of the future.

This exciting new programme, delivered by expert management trainers, Ethos Consulting, will take participants through a specially structured training programme of seminars and one-to-one workshops, leading to an accredited leadership qualification from the Chartered Institute of Management.

Question Time

Tuesday 19th November, 7-9pm, FREE

A debate on the hot topics of Lochaber, focusing on the 'Future of Lochaber Business'



Join us for a lively debate on the hot topics in Lochaber today!

This is your chance to ask those questions you've always wanted to about the issues in Lochaber that matter to you. This event has moved to an evening slot to make sure as many people as possible can come along. Book your free place today and make sure your voice is heard!

Our panel is Craig Harrow, Liberal Democrat MP Candidate; Donna Manson, Chief Executive at Highland Council; Angus MacDonald, serial entrepreneur and local business owner, and Lydia Rohmer, Principal of West Highland College, UHI.

This event is kindly sponsored by ScaleAQ

ScaleAQ has extensive experience in delivering quality products to the aquaculture industry around the world as a global supplier of camera and feeding-related products.

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NEW EVENT

After the questions have finished keep the debate going and enjoy our whisky and gin tasting.

We have five whiskies from Benromach Distillery and three gins from Red Door Gin for you to enjoy.



£10 per person.



Lochaber Tourism Summit

Thursday 21st November



Sponsored by HWEnergy and hosted by the Kingshouse Hotel, Glencoe.

Don't miss this fantastic opportunity to get the inside track on the future of Scottish tourism. The region's premiere tourism event is a key part of Lochaber Ideas Week, Lochaber Chamber of Commerce's flagship week of inspirational business events.

Inspiring insights in an amazing place

Join us for an inspiring day in the stunning surroundings and first-class hospitality of the Kingshouse Hotel, Glencoe. This 17th-century historic coaching inn has now been sensitively restored and upgraded in a stunning £12-million refurbishment.

Overview

Breakfast Yoga: If you're an early riser, set yourself up for an excellent day with optional breakfast yoga led by *Hannah Barnes* at 8am. The main part of the day starts at 9.30am

Cycle-Friendly Tourism: *Sustrans Scotland* will present the opportunities and benefits that cycle-friendly tourism can bring to the Lochaber area.

Step Up Your Social Media: Outdoor brand ambassador and pro mountain biker *Hannah Barnes* and renowned content-



creator *Brodie Hood* take us through key steps to elevate your online presence and truly connect with your audience.

Lunch break – enjoy a delicious lunch as part of the day

Brand Scotland Briefing: We'll hear from *Cat Leaver*, Director of 'Brand Scotland' about the new national joined-up strategy for promoting Scotland as a great place to visit, live, work and study. Brand Scotland launches its new campaign in October, and we're delighted to be getting the inside track as this new Scotland-wide approach launches to the public.



Hannah Barnes with dog Lumi.



Stephen Leckie is the CEO and Chairman of Crieff Hydro Family of Hotels Group and Chair of Scottish Tourism Alliance (STA). Don't miss his talk on what fires his business imagination and where he believes the tourism industry is heading.

This event is kindly sponsored by HWEnergy

HWEnergy, founded in 2003, is one of the longest established biomass heating companies in the UK providing a complete turnkey approach to delivering commercial biomass heating. They have designed and installed more than 300 complex wood energy projects across Scotland and the north of England, including installations at Crieff Hydro Family of Hotels sites: Kingshouse and Ballachulish Hotels.



LOCHABER IDEAS WEEK



18 –
Present
Supporting

All events held at the Moorings Hotel, Fort William except where noted

Monday

WE'RE ALL CREATIVE!

10am–12pm Price: £30



Creativity isn't just for marketing! Renowned creative director John-Paul Hughes will help us to harness the power of creativity in all parts of our business. John-Paul's approach cuts through business jargon to get to the heart of your business aims and show you different ways to achieve them.

SMALL STEPS TO BIG SUCCESS

Sponsored by:
Liberty British Aluminium
2pm–4pm Price: £30



Dr Cath Bishop is an expert in outstanding performance under pressure: from winning an Olympic gold medal to working as a top UK diplomat, she's gained invaluable insights into what makes successful teams work. She'll lead a special session on 'practical strategies' for improving performance and creating strong teams.

SADDLE-SORE & SOLO!

7pm–9pm Price: £10



Russell Jones went from celebrated Kingussie shinty player to globe-crossing unsupported endurance cyclist. What does it take to complete a 4,267 mile race across the USA without any help? Come along to find out! Russell's humour, attitude and amazing tales of adventure from life on the road will inspire us all.

Tuesday

AROUND LOCHABER IN 80 TABLES

Sponsored by: *Lochaber Times*
10am–12pm Price: £50 per table



Join us for the fastest and funnest networking event in town! Our lively speed-networking is the informal, friendly way to expand your business network. Come along to make new connections... you never know where they'll lead!

NET ZERO BUSINESS

Sponsored by: *BAM Nuttall*
2pm–4pm Price: FREE



You can't afford to miss this critical business workshop. Join contributors from industry and environmental backgrounds to discuss how to tackle the challenges and imperative of becoming a carbon-neutral economy. What can we do right now and what will the future of business look like?

QUESTION TIME

Sponsored by: *ScaleAQ*
7pm–9pm Price: FREE

Come along and take part in a lively evening of debate when a diverse panel from business, community and politics face wide-ranging questions from the public.

Panellists include:
Donna Manson, Chief Exec of Highland Council,
Craig Harrow, Lib Dem MP candidate,
Angus MacDonald (serial entrepreneur and local business owner) plus more to be announced soon.

Followed by special Ideas Week Whisky Tasting

Wednesday

WOMEN IN BUSINESS: Networking Lunch

12–2pm Price: £10



Join us for a sociable lunch at our first-ever 'Women in Business' event, with special guest speaker Sarah Heward. Sarah is the inspirational business woman behind the renowned Real Food Cafe in Tyndrum. Hear Sarah's story of how she turned a derelict Little Chef into a multi-award-winning eatery with a strong environmental and ethical focus.

VUCA EVENT

Volatile – Uncertain
Complex – Ambiguous
Workshop

2.30 – 5pm

£30 to non One Lochaber participants

Could you do with a steer on how best to predict and prepare for the future of your business? Join us for this special workshop presented by Ethos Consulting to learn how to thrive in a VUCA world.



CHARLES KENNEDY LECTURE with Lord David Steel



Sponsored by: *Ferguson Transport & Shipping*
7pm–9pm Ben Nevis Hotel & Leisure Club, Fort William

Lord David Steel will deliver this year's prestigious lecture. Lord Steel is himself a former leader of the Liberal Democrats and a long-serving MP and Peer with a distinguished career in politics and public life. Don't miss this chance to see a superb orator deliver a thought-provoking lecture.

22 November 2019

Hosted by Lochaber Chamber of Commerce Engaging & Connecting Businesses Throughout The Outdoor Capital of the UK

For more information visit www.lochaberchamber.co.uk or call 01397 705 765

Thursday

Friday

LOCHABER TOURISM SUMMIT

Sponsored by: *HWEnergy* and kindly hosted by the Kingshouse Hotel Glencoe 8am-5pm £30 including lunch and refreshments. Breakfast yoga with Hannah Barnes. Join us at the Kingshouse Hotel, Glencoe for a day of insights and ideas about the future of tourism in Lochaber.



CYCLE-FRIENDLY TOURISM

Sustrans Scotland will present the opportunities and benefits that cycle-friendly tourism can bring to the Lochaber area.

STEP UP YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA

Outdoor brand ambassador and mountain-biker Hannah Barnes and photographer Brodie Hood take us through the key steps to creating social media that connects with your audience. They'll show us simple steps to elevate your online presence and make your message stick.

BRAND SCOTLAND BRIEFING



Cat Leaver, Director of the new 'Brand Scotland' will give delegates an early insight into the new joined-up approach to Scotland's strategy for success across tourism, business and communities.

STEPHEN LECKIE

Be inspired by the passion that the inspirational CEO of Crieff Hydro Hotels and Chair of Scottish Tourism Alliance brings to his business and the Scottish tourism industry.



GO FOR YOUR GOALS!



Sponsored by: *BSW Timber* 9-11am Price: £30

PLUS extra session by popular demand! Join Don MacNaughton at 12 - 2pm.

This man will get you motivated! Don MacNaughton, high-performance coach, is back by popular demand to help us identify what's holding us back and present straight-talking ways to overcome limiting beliefs and go for your goals!

GALA DINNER With speaker Mike Stevenson Hosted by Riddell Graham, VisitScotland



Sponsored by: *MOWI* 7.30pm-12am

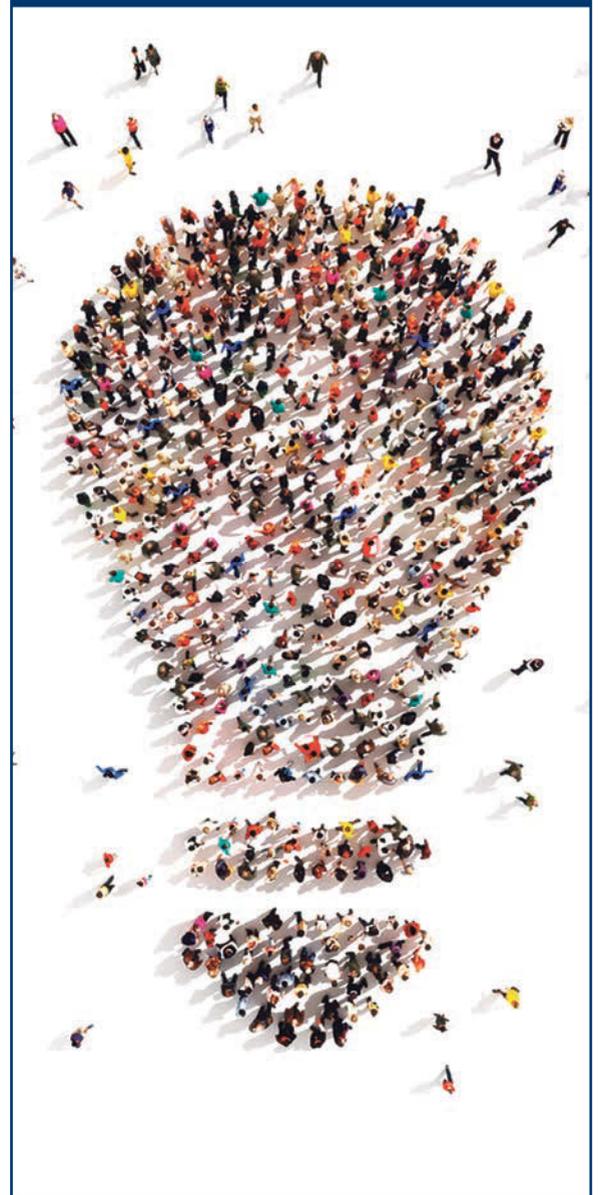
Get your business colleagues together for a fantastic gala dinner at the Moorings Hotel. Our after-dinner speaker is inspirational entrepreneur Mike Stevenson, whose journey from a life on the streets to business success is as riveting as it is uplifting.



WORKING FOR BUSINESS IN THE OUTDOOR CAPITAL OF THE UK

LOCHABER TIMES & Oban Times

PROUD MEDIA PARTNERS OF LOCHABER IDEAS WEEK



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or email alambert@obantimes.co.uk

Lord David Steel delivers the 2019 Charles Kennedy Lecture

SOLD OUT

Wednesday 20th November, 7-9pm

Call 01397 705 765 to be put on waiting list.



Image: Iain Black Photography

Lord David Steel, former leader of the Liberal Democrats and long-serving MP and Peer with a distinguished career in politics and public life, will deliver the prestigious Charles Kennedy Lecture during Lochaber Ideas Week this November.

About David Steel, Lord Steel of Aikwood

Lord Steel is a very well-known figure in UK political life, serving first as Leader of the Liberal Party at just 38 years old and later overseeing the formation of the Liberal Democrats in 1988.

David long campaigned for Scottish devolution and became an MSP and the first Presiding Officer of the newly formed Scottish Parliament when it opened in 1999. Lord Steel was made a Liberal Democrat Life Peer in 1997 and continues to sit in the House of Lords. Join us for an enlightening evening with a grandee of British politics.



The 'Charles Kennedy Lecture' is always an informative and inspirational evening. Set up in memory of the former Liberal Democrat leader and long-serving Lochaber MP, the lecture sees distinguished speakers deliver personal and thought-provoking lectures.

Past speakers have included Alastair Campbell, Baron Jim Wallace, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and Lord John Thurso.

Wednesday 20th November, 7-9pm

The Ben Nevis Hotel and Leisure Club, Fort William

(Please note: due to unforeseen circumstances, the venue has changed as Lochaber High School is now unavailable.)



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This event is kindly sponsored by **Ferguson Transport & Shipping.**

Ferguson Transport & Shipping, a family-run business since 1959, is now proudly one of the largest independent integrated road, rail and sea logistic companies in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. They proudly work 24 hours a day and 365 days a year to provide Modern Commercial Road haulage, Port, Shipping, Rail and Logistics and Warehousing.



Lochaber Ideas Week
November 18-22, 2019



Around Lochaber in 80 Tables:

A fast-paced and fun way to expand your business contacts



Join us at 'Around Lochaber in 80 Tables, sponsored by the Lochaber Times on Tuesday 19th November, 10am-noon

We all know networking is important but it's not always easy to make it happen. 'Around Lochaber in 80 Tables' makes it easy! This structured and fast-paced networking event allows

businesses to meet on 'speed-business dates' where each takes turn introducing themselves in a few minutes. It's quick, it's fun and it works!

Now in its sixth year, this is a proven way to make valuable business connections and promote what you do in one fast and furious morning of chat!

This event is sponsored by
Lochaber Times.

The Lochaber Times is proud to be the area's biggest-selling weekly newspaper, bringing you news, views, sport and entertainment 24/7, both in print and online. Lochaber Life is the region's number one local lifestyle magazine packed with community news, events, local stories, photographs and more.

LOCHABER TIMES
& Oban Times

Lochaber
life
Beatha Lochabar

Lochaber firms offered free innovation support as tour starts

Businesses and social enterprises across the Highlands and Islands are being encouraged to seek advice from innovation experts. Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) is touring the Innovate Your Business (IYB) programme in locations across the region, with business innovation support firm, True North Innovation.

The tour kicked off with a dedicated interactive workshop at HIE's office on the Inverness Campus and the next stop will be the Moorings Hotel, Fort William on November 19th, as part of Lochaber Ideas Week.

The Innovate Your Business (IYB) tour will offer attendees the chance to meet the innovation experts face-to-face and find out if their business could be eligible for innovation support, in the form of advice and funding. More than 700 businesses in the region have already benefitted from HIE's innovation support.

Gillian Galloway, head of innovation at HIE, said "Innovation is one of the main drivers

behind business growth and regional development, and is demonstrated constantly in companies across the Highlands and Islands. The tour is about supporting innovators, connecting them with experts who can help them take their ideas to the next stage of commercialisation. In turn this will ultimately increase the contribution they make to the region's economy, create employment and strengthen community resilience."

Rowan Norrie, director of True North Innovation, said: "Innovation is essential for companies to remain competitive. It comes in different forms and from organisations of all sizes and from all sectors, looking to improve the way they work and the products and services they are selling."

Details of the innovation tour is available on HIE's website at innovation.hie.co.uk.



L to R: True North Innovation's Joanne Hagerty, Rowan Norrie and Karine Burns.

**HIE TIME TO
INNOVATE
YOUR BUSINESS**

TO HELP YOUR BUSINESS FLY, INNOVATION IS THE KEY!

HIE's innovation team is on tour, bringing information and support to businesses across the Highlands and Islands. Our next stop is Fort William on Tuesday 19 November.

Come and meet our innovation experts at Around Lochaber in 80 Tables, part of Lochaber Ideas Week, to find out how you can take your business to new heights. Hear about the services on offer and talk to us about your ideas. Check if your business is eligible for support – and find out how to apply for advice and funding!

The Innovate Your Business programme is part funded with European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) under the ESIF Programme 2014-2020.

FIND OUT MORE AT HIE.CO.UK/EVENTS

EUROPE & SCOTLAND
European Regional Development Fund
Investing in a Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Future



Eòrpa agus Alba
Maoin Leasachaidh Roimhean na h-Eòrpa
A' tasgadh ann an Am ri teachd Gleusda, Seasmhach is In-ghabhail



Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd's nan Eilean

Saddle-sore and Solo!

Monday 18th November, 7-9pm, £10



What does it take to complete a 4,267-mile bike race across the USA without any help?

Find out from Russell Jones, who went from celebrated Kingussie shinty player to globe-crossing unsupported endurance bike racer! Russell's humour, attitude and tales of adventure around the world guarantee an entertaining and inspiring evening of sporting achievement.

'Women in Business' Networking Lunch

with guest speaker Sarah Heward of the Real Food Cafe, Tyndrum

Wednesday 20th November, noon-2pm,

The Moorings Hotel

Come along to our first-ever 'Women in Business' lunch during Lochaber Ideas Week. Enjoy a relaxed lunch, meet fellow women in business and listen to the inspirational Sarah Heward as she reveals how she has gone from being almost bankrupt to creating a business with a turnover of more than £1.5 million.

In 2005 Sarah gave up her job as managing director of a wine bar company in London and quit the rat-

race to pursue her dream of opening her own business. Sarah will discuss the huge obstacles she faced and the valuable lessons learned along the way.

Sarah moved to Tyndrum to open The Real Food Café, transforming a derelict Little Chef into an award-winning roadside diner. Famous for its award-winning fish and chips and homebaking, the cafe serves more than 200,000 people from all corners of the globe.

In 2018 the café was listed in The Lonely Planet Guide, and took home a 'Free From' Eating Out Award for its gluten-free fish and chips and was shortlisted for the VisitScotland Thistle Awards "Best Eating Experience", the Scottish Apprenticeship Award for "Best SME Employer" and 'Walkers Café of the Year' in Great Outdoors Magazine.

Sarah herself was awarded the NatWest Everywoman Athena award in 2014, a prestigious award given to the most inspirational women in business. More recently, in 2018 she was named one of Woman & Home magazine's '50 over 50' inspirational women.

We're delighted to welcome Sarah along to speak during Lochaber Ideas Week.

Tickets cost £10. Please book online, call us or pop into the office at 15 High Street to book your ticket today!



Sarah Heward, Founder & Marketing Director
The Real Food Café, Tyndrum.

Creativity isn't just for marketing!



John Paul Hughes

'No one will remember what you said or what you did, but everyone will remember how you made them feel.'

Renowned creative director John-Paul Hughes will help us to harness the power of creativity in all parts of our business.

As part of Lochaber Ideas Week 2019, John-Paul Hughes will lead a fascinating seminar into recognising and using the power of creativity in your working life, learning creative techniques to help you connect with your business audience.

About the event

John-Paul's approach cuts through business jargon to get to the heart of your business aims and show you different ways to achieve them.

With a multi-award winning career creating work for local clients and global brands, he's regularly invited to talk at events on creativity such as AdWeek Europe, IAB Festival and corporate seminars.

His immersive and interactive session will show you:

- why ideas and creativity matter

- how to recognise them
- how to use ideas to your competitive advantage
- how to get better at generating creative ideas
- how to avoid the most mistakes in advertising
- the key to unlocking the potential for creativity and innovation within your business

This seminar is for everyone in business – whatever the industry!

You'll be inspired to think differently about what you do...and how you approach your working life!

MORE ABOUT

JOHN-PAUL HUGHES
His 15-year advertising career has encompassed creative agencies and media owners alike, including Guardian Media Group, Bauer Media, and Communicorp UK where he is currently Group Creative Director as well as the founder of a creative agency.

Monday 18th November

Time: 10am-noon

Venue:

The Moorings Hotel
£30

Celebrate ideas at the Gala Dinner!

**Friday 22nd November 2019, 7.30pm–midnight,
The Moorings Hotel**

Get your gladrags on and join us to celebrate success and opportunities for Lochaber business at our annual Ideas Week Gala Dinner! We are delighted to welcome inspirational entrepreneur Mike Stevenson as our after-dinner speaker at this year's event, which is hosted by Riddell Graham, director of Industry and Destination Development at VisitScotland.

Always a great night, don't miss this chance to enjoy a delicious dinner with fantastic entertainment. Everyone is welcome and tickets can be purchased individually or in tables of eight.

Our after-dinner speaker, Mike Stevenson, is a tour de force who surprises and delights in equal measure. His own journey from homelessness to award-winning entrepreneur is filled with remarkable people and events. His stories amaze and shock, his humour captivates and his insights will inspire.

Don't miss this highlight in the Chamber of Commerce events calendar!

Tickets cost £65. Please book online, call us or pop into the office at 15 High Street to book your ticket today!



The Gala Dinner is kindly sponsored by MOWI.

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Aquaculture is transforming the seafood industry and Mowi is playing an important role in that change – leading the planet's blue revolution.

They raise their salmon in cold and clear Scottish Highland waters and employ 1,500 staff within all aspects of their business from feed to fork.

High-performance Seminar

Come along to be inspired and get motivated



This man will get you motivated! Don MacNaughton, high-performance coach, is back by popular demand to help us identify what's holding us back and present straight-talking ways to overcome limiting beliefs and go for our goals!

Unlock your potential and get the very best out of yourself and your team with top high-performance coach Don MacNaughton on Friday 22nd November. Come along to be inspired, get motivated and get the best out of yourself and your team!

Don is a widely recognised consultant, top-selling author, and keynote speaker specialising in High Performance. A leader in his field, he expertly integrates psychology, leadership skills, and talent development to help individuals and organisations achieve their highest performance levels.

**Friday 22nd November, 9-11am,
The Moorings Hotel.**

This event is kindly sponsored by BSW Timber



BSW is the largest integrated forestry business in the UK. It is a family-owned business that has four main operating divisions: forestry, sawmilling, timber manufacturing and energy.

Don is an exceptional communicator – his ability to inspire and engage is guaranteed to give you energy and motivation. Don has helped thousands of people in the business, corporate, community and education worlds to change the way their people think – and act.

Tickets cost just £30 and could be the best investment you ever make in your business! Book early to guarantee your place.

(If you can't make this early session, please note that there is a repeat session from noon-2pm)

LOCHABER IDEAS WEEK



18-22 NOVEMBER 2019

Presented by Lochaber Chamber of Commerce



EVENT SPONSORS



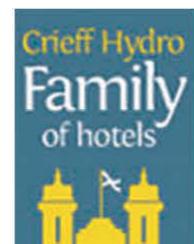
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OR CALL 01397 705765

LT

TEN-PIN BOWLING

Bowlers back in action

Ten-pin bowlers have restarted their leagues at the Nevis Centre, Fort William.

The leagues are again being supported by Lochaber Building Supplies.

After the first week, Alleycats and Retrovators are at the top of the scratch division with the maximum five points, followed by Team With A Bowling Problem and British Legion Fort William on three points.

In the handicap division, Rotavators are the only team with the maximum five points, followed by Alleycats, Team With A Bowling Problem and British Legion Fort William all on three points.

Individually, the best games in week one came from Pam Weller, Alleycats, with games of 178 and 170. Also this week, Iain Johnstone, Rotavators, rolled a 176; John Weller, Alleycats, a 171 and Ron Gretton, Retrovators, a 175.

Pam Weller had the top two-game scratch series of 348 and the top two-game handicap series of 385. Ron Gretton and John Harvey, Retrovators, had the top handicap games with 213.

The best team scores all came from Alleycats with the top scratch game of 651; top two-game scratch series of 1,235; the top game handicap game of 796 and the top two-game handicap series of 1,525.

SWIMMING



Oban Otters at the Heats in Helensburgh.

Impressive haul of medals for Oban Otters swimmers

Oban Otters Swimming Club recently stormed the Scottish Schools regional heats in Helensburgh, fielding an impressive 26 swimmers – 16 from Oban High School and 10 from the town's primary schools.

Their enthusiasm was infectious as they cheered on their team-mates resulting in a huge medal haul of 11 gold, seven silver and 13 bronze for various events.

The club was particularly pleased to welcome a couple of young swimmers to their first competitive event.

Congratulations to everyone who took part and thanks to the volunteer coaches, parents and teachers who supported the swimmers with transport, poolside roles and encouragement. The club's annual gala takes place on Sunday December 1.

LOTTERY NUMBERS

Lochaber club lotteries

Numbers drawn in the Ballachulish Shinty Club lottery on November 10 were 5, 13 and 19. There were no winners this week, so next week's jackpot will be £400.

Caol Community Centre Bingo Club's lotto numbers drawn on November 10 were 3, 10 and 11. No winners so next week's jackpot will be £500.

Numbers drawn in the Caol Regeneration lotto on November 7 were 2, 6 and 14. No winners, so the jackpot for next week is £1,000.

Fort William Golf Club's lotto numbers drawn on November 7 were 1, 9 and 12. There were no winners so next week's jackpot stands at £1,300.

Jags maintain winning ways with 3-2 win over Cambria

South Lochaber	3
Cambria	2
GGPL – Division One	

South Lochaber Thistle maintained their winning ways with a solid performance which saw off Cambria AFC in the Greater Glasgow Premier Division One encounter, writes Peter Newman.

A minute's silence was held before the game for two recent deaths in the community – Jane Morrison, mother of Chris, owner of the Tailrace in Kinlochleven, and Jason Jeffrey.

The Jags were playing comfortably in the first half, moving the ball about and not looking in any great danger of conceding. Returning to his preferred midfield berth, Dave Forbes and Andrew Maclean moved the ball well and Cameron Grant behind them put in his usual shift to shield the new-look defence.

As a result of absence and

injury, the defensive unit comprised player/manager Alan Gray partnering returning fans' favourite Mikey Rodger, while stalwart John Ferguson and debutant Steven Neil filled the fullback roles.

This new combination seemed to be working, keeping things tight at the back and allowing skipper Martin Munro to create havoc in the Cambria defence.

Munro scampered through the defence, only to see his finish rebound off the post before a second effort was scrambled behind for a corner. Half-time 0-0.

In the second half, things looked grim for the Kinlochleven club. A fine through ball from Cambria saw Andrew Brown commanding his area so forcefully that Gray was injured in the challenge and Neil could do little but divert the ball into his own net, making it 1-0 to the visitors.

However, second debutant

of the day Calum-Ruairidh Foxley came on for the injured gaffer, leading to a shift in formation to 4-4-2. Grant slipped in at centre half, while Munro moved up front to partner Lewis Morrison with Foxley taking the wide berth.

This soon paid dividends as Munro made a trademark jive into the box, only to be hauled down for a stonewall penalty. Penalty specialist Sean Noble stepped up as cool as an iced coffee and dispatched the spot kick to level the score.

The Jags extended their lead as Morrison made a mazy run to confound the Cambrian defence. Slipping the ball to Munro, the captain put away a neat finish for 2-1.

He was not done, however, as another finish from the makeshift forward saw him bagging a brace and ensuring three points for the Jags.

As Cambria tried to push forward, their efforts were rewarded with a back post header being planted past Brown by Yiorgos Kanellos



for a final score of 3-2. Manager Alan Gray said it was a good result with fine play on display. 'We definitely need to up the numbers at training as players' touches are noticeably suffering from lack of practice, but we had enough to get past a tricky opponent,' he said. 'It was great to see the return of Mikey Rodger, in a man of the match performance, and youngster Ross Maclean to the squad. Debuts for Calum-Ruairidh Foxley and Stevie Neil show we are moving the team in the right direction and broadening our player base.' Man of the match: Mikey Rodger.

Muscles flexed for strongman classic

Strongmen and women from across Scotland head for the Nevis Centre, Fort William, every November for a heavyweight contest in memory of a late fellow competitor.

Organisers hope this year's Haldenby Strongman Classic will be as big as ever with many locals flexing their muscles for the first time at this level of competition in the centre on Saturday.

The event, staged in memory of the late Mark Haldenby, is a family affair and, as well as the strongmen and women competitors doing their stuff, there is also a bouncy castle, face painting and a strong children's event with medals up for grabs.

Log lift, giant tyre flip, 320kg sandbag loading, team axle deadlift and Atlas stones will all feature as the athletes battle it out for the prizes.

For the third year in a row, the event will feature Scotland's Strongest Team Under 105kg event which has attracted seven two-man teams.

There will also be the Haldenby Strongest Woman competition with eight female entrants.

Local strongman and organiser Stuart Whyte told the Lochaber Times that this year the event will raise money in aid of local man Jamie MacDonald and his family.

Just last year, at only 34, Jamie was diagnosed with relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis.

The father of two and stepdad of two, a production operator with Liberty, has been a keen marathon runner.

Stuart said: 'We are delighted to help Jamie and his family as they face difficulties, just as we have helped others in Mark's name over the years.'

'Hopefully, we will get a great turnout of spectators and, while entry is free, we will be taking donations. Lots of companies have also stepped in to sponsor the event which means all the money raised will go towards helping Jamie.'



The event is staged in memory of the late Mark Haldenby. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.



Sean Noble in a tussle near the Cambria goalmouth.
Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos



Above: Martin Munro goes for possession in the midfield.
Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos



Double goal scorer Sean Noble dodges two Cambria players.
Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Left: Lewis Morrison in hot pursuit of the ball.
Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos



Organiser Stuart Whyte, second left, with the 2015 Lochaber team of, from left, Jeremy Vickers, Gary Robertson and Greg MacLean. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

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WEATHER

Thursday
Sunny intervals and a moderate breeze
Temperatures 2°C to 7°C.

Friday
Sunny and a gentle breeze
Temperatures 2°C to 7°C.

Weekend Outlook
Saturday
Light cloud and light winds
Temperatures 3°C to 6°C.

Sunday
Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze
Temperatures 2°C to 6°C.



TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday November 14, 2019** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Thur	00.27	0.9	06.17	4.0
	12.43	1.1	18.42	4.0
Fri	01.00	1.0	06.47	3.9
	13.16	1.2	19.14	3.8
Sat	01.34	1.1	07.22	3.8
	13.53	1.3	19.51	3.7
Sun	02.14	1.2	08.02	3.7
	14.39	1.5	20.36	3.4
Mon	03.02	1.3	08.50	3.5
	15.40	1.7	21.32	3.2
Tues	04.02	1.5	09.53	3.3
	17.02	1.8	22.50	3.0
Wed	05.15	1.6	11.21	3.3
	18.33	1.8	***	**

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

Chain, shackles and buoys all available to purchase.

Jags maintain
winning ways with
3-2 win over Cambria

Muscles flexed
for strongman
classic



Making a play for rugby's Calcutta Cup are top table guests and speakers Pauline Donaldson, Dee Bradbury, Donald Young, Charlie Donaldson, Callum MacDonald and Fiona Cameron. Photograph Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Calcutta Cup graces rugby club's anniversary dinner

The famous Calcutta Cup, contested annually by Scotland and England as part of the Six Nations rugby tournament, was the special surprise guest at Lochaber Rugby Football Club's 50th anniversary dinner at the weekend.

Staged at the Moorings Hotel, just along from the club's Banavie ground, the event attracted a good turn-out of 140 guests.

Among them was Scottish Rugby president Dee Bradbury and representatives of clubs from as far afield as Orkney and London.

'Dee Bradbury arriving with the Calcutta Cup was a lovely surprise. Representatives from clubs from London, Orkney, Inverness, Oban and Mull helped celebrate the evening with us,' said Lochaber RFC mem-

bership secretary Pauline Donaldson. 'Everyone had a lovely night.'

'It was over too quickly for most of us. Donald Young, president, started off the speeches, followed by Callum MacDonald, club captain, then Dee Bradbury.'

'Charlie Donaldson finished off the night with funny team stories and memories from over the years.'

Manager confident of good cup game

Fort William Football Club welcome Fraserburgh to Claggan Park for this Saturday's first round of the Highland League Cup and manager Russell MacMorran is anticipating a good game against a side currently sitting fourth in the table.

'We are looking forward to our fixture against Fraserburgh this Saturday. In comparison to previous years, we have had a very good run in cup competitions this year, having reached the semi-finals of the North of Scotland Cup, not forgetting our recent Scottish Cup run, earning a replay at Claggan Park after drawing with second division side Albion Rovers at their home ground,' Mr MacMorran told the Lochaber Times.

'Fraserburgh are a good side that play quality football and we will give them the respect they require with their current position sitting fourth in the league.'

'That been said, we have improved in many ways since we met in August and, despite losing 6-3, we came away from the game with positives. Not many teams travel to the Broch and score three goals, with what was an inexperienced side.'

'I have a full squad to select from with the exception of



Russell MacMorran.

John Treasurer, who has been ruled out for the remainder of the season.

'The lads are all looking forward to the game as we haven't been in action for two weeks. Claggan is looking in good condition again following the council's emergency repair. I am sure Saturday will prove to be a great game.'

Last Saturday's away match against Rothes had to be postponed because Mackessack Park was waterlogged.

Fort William v Fraserburgh at Claggan Park on Saturday November 16 kicks off at 3pm.



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