



## Magical start to 2019 Oban Winter Festival



# Dismay as beach plastic 'flytipped' near airport

by Kathie Griffiths  
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Tons of beach plastic picked up by volunteers could end up in landfill after Argyll and Bute Council 'flytipped' it on land next to Oban Airport at North Connel.

Fishing nets, fishfarm pipes and packaging are among the haul cleared from remote coastlines and elsewhere across North Lorn.

Organisers behind the clean-ups were gutted to discover the plastic, previously stored at the council's Mill Park depot and part of a long-term project to have it recycled, had been dumped.

Two caged-council trucks were spotted tipping it on land used by the council's roads department more than two weeks ago, attracting complaints from people in the area about flytipping.

Work on the £1.4 million redevelopment of Oban's new council depot at Jackson's Quarry, freeing up land at the Mill Park site for new business and industry op-

portunities, meant the plastic had to be shifted.

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson said the council had supported volunteers by storing the debris for them until they could move it on for recycling.

'Work at Jackson's Quarry means our normal storage spaces are full, which is why we moved it to North Connel. We had hoped to have a container, but unfortunately one was not available,' she said.

The spokesperson added: 'Our thanks go to the volunteers who give up their time to remove plastic pollution from our beautiful beaches.'

But volunteers responsible for collecting the plastic waste, including Janie Steele from the developing environmental social venture Footprint Alba, are now left with a dilemma. They have until December 17 to move it from North Connel.

'We are desperate for it not to go to landfill but somehow we need to find the transport to get it to the Central Belt, where a process for recycling

this waste material is in development. Ideally, we need someone with empty lorries who would take it for us,' said Janie, who is trying to self-source a container to store it in the meantime.

'Volunteers have spent hours cleaning up our coast, grading and sorting the plastic to save it from landfill. We are gutted this has happened. The council team at the local depot has been incredibly helpful, we cannot thank them enough for their assistance in storing various hauls for onward recycling. We've been working so hard to get it back into the value stream rather than landfill.'

'Even without the container, if it had been placed in a reasonable fashion at North Connel rather than just being senselessly dumped, it would have been clear to people it was not flytip waste,' added Janie.

Anyone who can help transport the waste to the Central Belt should contact janie@footprintalba.org.uk



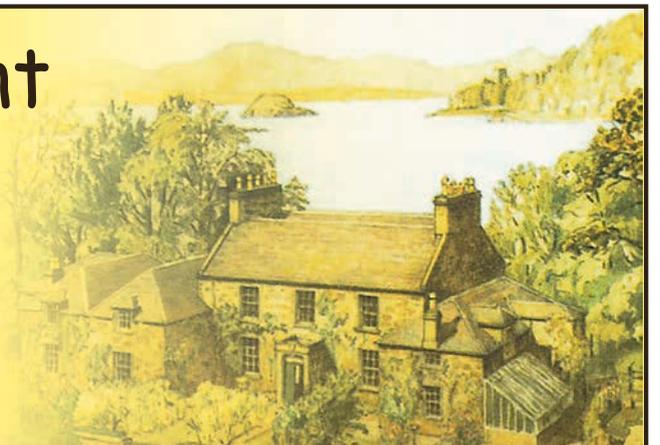
## Scouting for Christmas post

Oban Beavers are restarting their Christmas post service to help raise funds for camps, trips and activities. Fraser Pollock, Donald Wilson and Jack Adam are just some of the young festive posties who will be delivering seasonal greetings this year. Turn to page 11 to find out where the post boxes will be.

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OT

## Path closure at Shian Wood Wildlife Reserve

Footpaths at the Scottish Wildlife Trust's Shian Wood Wildlife Reserve near Benderloch closed on Monday November 18 for essential repairs.

Reserve manager Billy Gray said: 'Parts of the path through the reserve are in urgent need of an upgrade.'

'Unfortunately, while these improvements are being carried out, we will need to restrict access to ensure public safety.'

### Improved

'I'd like to thank the local people who regularly visit and value this wildlife reserve for their understanding while work is carried out and look forward to welcoming them back to enjoy the improved paths.'

Work is expected to take six weeks.

Shian Wood Wildlife Reserve is a fragment of ancient Atlantic woodland jutting out of Loch Creran.

The reserve is an important habitat for woodland birds and, in spring, a carpet of wildflowers acts as a magnet for butterflies.

## CONTACTUS

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# Safer school crossing campaign progresses

by Kathie Griffiths  
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Campaigners for a safer school crossing at Benderloch are hoping work on improvements will start soon.

BEAR Scotland has come back with revised drawings for the risk area near Lochnell Primary School and wants to hear people's opinions and comments before they progress.

Proposed improvements include a wider footpath, better paths into the car park and tactile surfaces at the crossing.

Details have been posted on the Keep Our Kids Safe on the A828 Facebook page.

Beth Hadden, from the campaign group, said: 'BEAR has asked for comment on the plans and I invite people to please do so in order that we can demonstrate strong local support.'

'I hope BEAR Scotland would then proceed swiftly and we can get effective change in place.'

Go to [facebook.com/LochnellA828crossing/](https://www.facebook.com/LochnellA828crossing/)

Parents and concerned villagers have been running

a campaign to make the road safer for a long time.

Last year, The Oban Times reported a near-miss when a young boy was saved from being struck by a car – with just an inch to spare.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has been among those lobbied for action, along with Transport Scotland, BEAR Scotland, the police, Argyll and Bute Council and Ardchattan Community Council.

Argyll and Bute councillor Elaine Robertson said: 'This has been a longstanding issue which I am delighted has been brought to a successful conclusion.'

'I congratulate Lochnell school Parent Council in working with Transport Scotland and BEAR to address the road safety issues at the school.'

'Special thanks to DJ and Beth Hadden, who have pursued this tirelessly.'

Ardchattan community councillor Willie Barnett added: 'Ardchattan Community Council has been fully behind the excellent campaign run by parents and the Parent Teacher Association at Lochnell school.'



School mum and road safety campaigner Beth Hadden with Nell the scarecrow, reminding drivers to slow down on the approaches to Lochnell Primary School.

'This is an excellent result and will improve safety at this dangerous crossing.'

Mr Barnett is also raising serious concerns about unofficial car parking by parents who he says are 'too lazy' to use the official car park at the village hall.

'This space, originally for

two cars, has been extended to four cars by inconsiderate parents on the Keil Crofts/Tralee Bay Road.

'This is by far a more dangerous area as it is not in the control of Transport Scotland but Argyll and Bute Council.'

'Cars travelling from Connel Bridge turning in to

the Tralee Bay Road cannot see the children until they are right on them.'

'The risk of an accident is very high. Transport Scotland and Argyll and Bute Council should get together and solve this problem.'

'I will be raising it at the next community council meeting.'

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David Graham gets ready for retirement after 50 years at the family's Combie Street shop.

## Bike shop owner ready to take his feet off the pedals

Three generations and 50 years later, Oban bike seller David Graham is shutting up shop ready for retirement.

It was his grandfather David Graham who first opened the Combie Street shop in 1949 to be joined soon after by his son, also a David, after he was demobbed from RAF wartime service.

When current shop owner David was just 17 and at college in Glasgow studying to go to sea as a radio operator, his dad had a heart attack and he went to join the family business instead.

Forward half a century of making Oban's wheels go round and he is now looking forward to spending more time with his wife Betty, three children and

six grandsons. Oban-born and bred, he has no plans to leave the town but is excited about having the 'freedom' retirement will bring.

'I've been rather tied to the shop all these years and the thing I'm looking forward to the most is having the freedom and spending time with my family. There'll be lots of exciting things to do together.'

He hopes Betty, a cardiac nurse specialist at Lorn and Islands Hospital, will also be retiring next year.

With the trend in electric bikes growing, retiring now seemed the right time to go, he said.

Mr Graham is putting the shop on the market and hopes to find a buyer soon.

Being called David is not essential.

# Airport fuel dilemma adds extra air miles

by Kathie Griffiths  
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Lifeline flights from Oban to the islands are notching up extra air miles because there is still no fuel at the airport.

After the existing aviation fuel provider cut short its contract by nine months, Hebridean Air Services Limited (HASL) flights have to go to Islay Airport to fill up. The journey is a 110-nautical-mile round trip taking about 30 minutes each way.

News of the extra air miles has fuelled concerns among climate campaigners and coincides with the start of an online petition at change.org calling on Argyll and Bute Council, which runs Oban Airport, to declare a climate emergency.

HASL's public service obligation contract manager Martin McWilliam told The Oban Times it was continuing to operate despite the lack of fuel at Oban Airport and had not had to cut back 'yet' on the subsidised public service flights it runs for Argyll and Bute Council.

'We are continuing to operate and are popping across to Islay for fuel. We are operating as advertised and as before. We've not had to cut anything yet.'

When pressed about how the refuelling trips must be bumping up HASL's costs, Mr McWilliam said he could not



Oban Airport.

comment. He said it was the council's responsibility to organise fuel for Oban Airport.

Private company TLC (Total Logistics Concepts) announced in September it would only supply the public service flights with fuel until October 17. Sales to private pilots had stopped earlier.

Pupils and health workers are among regular passengers on HASL's flights connecting the mainland to the islands.

Despite the council agreeing options in 2018 to boost its airport income, including selling aviation fuel itself, Argyll and Bute did not have a solution ready when TLC cut short its contract.

A spokesperson for Oban Extinction Rebellion said: 'This problem with aviation fuel at Oban Airport highlights the dependency we have developed on fossil fuels. We don't know how to

manage without it so will go to ridiculous lengths such as this to obtain it.'

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson said: 'This is a short-term solution to enable lifeline flights to continue to our fragile island communities following the early termination of the contract between the commercial fuel supplier and the air services operator. Working in partnership with the air services operator, we hope to have a solution by the end of the month. We are committed to keeping disruption of flights to an absolute minimum.'

Lewis Ward from Appin, who set up the change.org petition with Freya Fletcher from Luing, said: 'Flying all those miles to fill up with fuel is ridiculous. It rubs salt into the wound that Argyll and Bute Council has not declared a climate emergency yet while the rest of the world is facing one.'

## POLICE FILES

### Drug possession

A woman aged 19 was searched and found in possession of cannabis at 9.40pm on Monday November 11 on Ferryfield Road, Connel. She was issued with a recorded police warning.

### Men arrested

About 4pm on Wednesday November 13, on Corran Brae, Oban, two men aged 30 were allegedly seen running from police. Subsequently, a quantity of heroin was found where the men had been. They were later arrested and charged and a report will be submitted to the fiscal.

### Drink driving

Police were called to a car crash involving two

vehicles at 6.45pm on Friday November 15, on the A816 at Kilmore. Subsequently, a man aged 32 was arrested for allegedly driving dangerously and failing a roadside breath test.

### Assault allegation

Two men aged 35 and 37 allegedly behaved in an abusive manner at 9.30pm on Saturday November 16 in Shore Street, Oban. The 35-year-old allegedly assaulted another man. Later that night, at licensed premises in Oban town centre, the 37-year-old allegedly assaulted another man. Police were called and he was arrested, charged, held for court and a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal. The 35-year-old will be charged when he is traced.

### Car damaged

The back bumper of a blue Mazda CX5 was allegedly damaged by another vehicle which failed to stop and report the incident sometime between 10am and 2pm on Saturday November 16 in the road next to the Columba Hotel, Oban.

### Charged

A man aged 22 was arrested and charged by police with being in possession of MDMA (Ecstasy) at 12.15am on Saturday November 16 on George Street, Oban. The man was released and will appear in court later.

Anyone with information in relation to the above should contact police on 101, or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

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OT

# Ganavan concerns raised at Dunbeg 'have your say'

by Kathie Griffiths  
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Tensions are rising over the next 'boomtown' phase at Dunbeg.

Ganavan residents worried about new housing encroaching on recreational land near the beach and its sacred shinty pitch made up a majority of people turning out to the 'have your say' event at Dunbeg Primary School last week.

An image of the area's masterplan had appeared on Facebook heightening concerns that the area was earmarked for more houses with a link road leading to it.

But representatives from the developer, Link Group, insisted there were no plans for that as part of the Phase 4 stage that the session was focusing on.

One woman said: 'It's the area at the back of the beach

we are worried about. It's already been spoiled by the existing development of new-builds at Ganavan. I feel reassured at the moment there's no immediate plan to build more houses on the open land but it needs keeping an eye on.'

Others were worried the Dunollie road to Ganavan would become a 'rat run' to new homes at Dunbeg if another phase of housing went up at the back of the beach.

'The Dunollie road's not fit for purpose as it is. It's already dangerous and an accident waiting to happen,' said another woman.

She added: 'People wouldn't go all the way from Oban round and out to Dunbeg to get to the new houses if there was a link road from Ganavan.'

An alleged rise in people seeking transfers out of Dunbeg since building work

**'The Dunollie road's not fit for purpose as it is. It's already dangerous and an accident waiting to happen'**

began was also highlighted by some at the session. People are worried residents would be living 'on top of each other' and that clumping low-earning occupants all together could create anti-social problems.

A mix of high-end and affordable homes would be preferable, rather than segregating them and risking creating a ghetto, some said.

A lack of green space, which is good for mental health, was also brought up. Wildlife was also on the worry list, with populations of birds,

insects and other animals diminishing since building work began, some claimed. However, as part of the development's planning approval, there is a condition there has to be an area of community woodland. Link says it will also be carrying out a range of ecology studies.

After the meeting, Link said it and its subsidiary, West Highland Housing Association, had been working closely with the council and were not aware people were seeking transfers out of Dunbeg. 'In fact, more positive feedback has been given around the new homes for rent and for sale which suggests an incredibly high demand already exists,' said a spokesperson.

There will be another chance for people to have their say and look at new designs on December 5 from 4.15pm until 8pm at Dunbeg



Having a say at the latest pre-application consultation for the Dunbeg corridor development.

Primary School, before plans are put to Argyll and Bute Council.

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.

People turning up at Thursday's meeting wanting to see where a school, shops and other services would go were stumped at not seeing locations marked out. But much of that could still be pie in the sky unless funding and investment is secured.

A Link spokesman added: 'The next event on December 5 will have further engagement on the community's priorities

and how they wish to see this taken forward. We will be looking at jointly working up what amenities are required and where they may be best located. The event will be supported by members of the design team who will engage in more detail to further discuss placemaking within the Dunbeg community.

'We are in ongoing discussions with the council on potential funding solutions while the affordable housing element is already contained in the council's Strategic Housing Investment Plan.'

Planning applications will be submitted for Phase 4 in early 2020 with building starting in 2021.

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Maisie and Archie give their approval as Oban Times deputy editor Martin Laing presents Kirsty MacIntyre with a £100 cheque.

## Mascots lead the way in high school charity drive

Oban High School's new mascots – Archie and Maisie – were put through their paces last Friday when they made their first public appearance.

Believed to be modelled on head teacher Peter Bain's two West Highland terriers, the duo led the warm-up routine, along with the S6 coaching team, for the Race for Life in aid of Cancer Research in which S1 and S2 pupils participated.

Later in the day the duo joined the rest of the school

for an afternoon of karaoke and games in aid of Children in Need.

Sixth-year pupil Kirsty MacIntyre was responsible for overseeing the mascot project which wasn't without its setbacks.

'They were supposed to be here in time for our Highland Games in August but there were a few hitches.

'We have them now though and we're absolutely thrilled with them. They have been a while in the planning.

The two girls who won the competition to design them have now left the high school but I'm sure they would be pleased too.'

Archie and Maisie, who are dressed in Oban High School tartan, were designed by Neve Davies and Katie Barlow and chosen from 27 entries.

During their first photo call, the mascots witnessed Martin Laing, deputy editor of The Oban Times, presenting a £100 cheque to Kirsty to go towards the costs.

# Dad's bench the perfect spot for Uisken selfies

by Kathie Griffiths  
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A bench built to remember a happy camper is becoming a top selfie spot on Mull.

Leo Norris's dad Peter first took his young family to spend the summer at Uisken near Bunessan in 1966 and it flourished into a tradition lasting more than 50 years.

Peter and his wife Binkie were 88 when they reluctantly gave up their tent for a cosy caravan.

For the former head of a Barnardo's residential school in Peebles, discovering Uisken was love at first sight and, after he died three years ago, his son Leo wanted to find a unique way of celebrating his dad's passion for the place. 'We don't have a grave-stone, so the bench is special to us. It's a fitting tribute to dad and Uisken,' said Leo.

With ideas from family and fellow Uisken campers, he came up with the idea of the scallop shell-shaped bench made from oak and inscribed with Peter and Binkie's names and the message To All Who Love Uisken. Under the bench is a plaque inviting people to email Leo with their selfies.

To date, he has received about 50 selfies and he is 'open to suggestions' on finding a way to share them with others.

'They're all very different but what they have in common is their love for Uisken. It would make a great installation. I'm open to suggestions,' said Leo.

In the 1960s, it was just the Norris family and one other who set up their camps at Uisken but even when the beach's popularity grew and more tents and caravanners arrived, Peter was happy to share it, said Leo, who lives

in Fife, and was just 11 on the first holiday there.

The bench has a bell attached for people to ring. The Morning Bell, as it is called, is a nod to Peter's habit of making porridge then ringing an improvised bell made out of a fishing float to call other campers to join them for breakfast.

'I got the idea at dad's memorial service from a young person who used to camp next to them. It was also a way of remembering his extraordinary capacity for being inventive. Every year he'd put something in the Bunessan Show that he'd made out of found objects, often bringing a prize home from the craft tent,' said Leo.

Significantly, the scallop shell also symbolises pilgrimage. 'It's a measure of the place that so many of the visitors return year after year and each new generation



Leo Norris with his family on the bench at Uisken.

keeps coming back,' added Leo. Peter also started off the first Uisken Beach Games, rounding up children to take part in the fun. The August event, with races on the sand and home-made rafts, still

continues and is the biggest single fundraiser for the Ross of Mull RNLI, said Leo, who brings his grandchildren on holiday every year. 'We'll be back at Easter,' he added.

## Christmas fair fun in Oban

Oban Congregational Church is holding a Christmas fair on Saturday November 23.

The event, in the church hall at the top of Argyll Street from 11am to 2pm, will have stalls and attractions for all the family.

As well as tea, coffee and home-baking, there will be Christmas gifts and crafts, cakes, marmalades, jams, bric-a-brac, books and toys.

Visitors can also try their luck in the raffle and at the tombola and bottle stall.

All proceeds will go to church funds.

## Merry makers sell wreaths at fair

Argyll College's gardening club will be selling its produce and merry festive wreaths in Oban this Saturday November 23, at the Winter Festival food and craft market in the Corran Halls from 10am to 4pm.

Hand-made goods and craft markets are also being held in Oban Distillery's Cask Room and Old Milling Room and at the town's Perle Hotel.



Jordan with, left to right, Gavin Wright, Kevin Thomson and Paul Swinton.

## Chef meets crew who saved his life after horror crash

A Taynuilt chef who was seriously injured in a crash has been reunited with three emergency responders who saved his life following the accident.

Jordan Foster, who was working as head chef at Brander Lodge at the time of his accident, was seriously injured as a result of the crash in June, breaking his neck, pelvis and vertebrae.

He was airlifted to Queen Elizabeth University Hospital and spent two weeks in ICU, HDU and the rehabilitation ward as a result of the accident on a stretch of the

A85 between Taynuilt and Dalmally.

Along with wife Lesley, the 28-year-old recently met Gavin Wright and Paul Swinton of Helimed 5, and Kevin Thomson, of the SCOTSTAR EMRS Trauma Team. David Gowans and Lorne Campbell, of Inveraray Ambulance Station, and Sophie MacDougall, of the Trauma Team, also attended the incident.

Jordan's mum Sara said: 'I know how much this has meant to my son and his wife. It's made a massive difference to Jordan's recovery. His

recovery has been nothing short of remarkable.

'They are all true heroes and I will, as a mother, forever be in their debt and remember them in how they all saved Jordan's life. They deserve to be commended for their compassion, hard work and expertise in saving lives.'

Since the accident, the family have been raising money for Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA). Although SCAA wasn't involved in the incident, the family wanted to donate to the charity as it relies solely on public donations.

# BLAS festival 2019

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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  
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**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](http://www.blas-festival.com) - fiosrachadh

OT

## Festive fun this weekend

Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

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### WHERE IS THIS?



I usually look forward to a wee lull after the summer season finishes and the run-up to Christmas begins, but this year it hasn't happened.

The season has just finished and here we are getting ready for Christmas!

We're heading into a busy weekend full of fantastic things to do, but for me the crowning glory is the Reindeer Parade on Saturday night. I love everything about it, from the excitement of seeing the first reindeer led into their pen at the Corran Halls, to the anticipation of watching for Santa arriving at his sleigh and the sheer joy and excitement on the faces of children as the parade begins and we follow the pipe band down George Street culminating in the switching on of the Christmas lights, especially the tree in Argyll Square. It's magical.

This year Santa and the reindeer have an extra job to

do before the main event as they're nipping up to Eader Glinn to visit residents.

This will be followed by a Holly Tea at 1.30pm, to which everyone is welcome, in aid of the residents' Comfort Fund.

Unfortunately the reindeer won't be able to stick around as they have to have a rest before pulling Santa and his two companions through the town.

Don't forget to check the Town Diary and the Winter Festival events guide to keep up-to-date with everything that's on.

The photograph last week was of a window beside the door at Oban Parish Church. This week's is a bit harder but if you went to school in Oban it's a blast from the past.

# An extra helping of Mary's Meals

## Children in Madagascar now being fed by charity

Mary's Meals is feeding an extra 9,231 hungry school-children after taking its charity work to Madagascar.

The Dalmally-founded charity is now serving bowls of rice with pinto beans, lentils or greens with peanut sauce at 68 schools on the African island.

Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, who started Mary's Meals in 2002 after a visit to Malawi, said: 'I visited Madagascar earlier this year and was lucky enough to meet the incredible community surrounding just one of the new programme schools.

'Their parents spoke of the daily pain and hardship they face as they struggle to feed their children. They pledged to cook and serve the meals themselves if we could pro-

**'I am so glad and humbled that, thanks to the generosity and goodness of our supporters, we are able to transform the lives of children.'**

vide the food, saying it would change everything for them.'

Mary's Meals attract children into the classroom, giving them the energy to gain an education, which the charity hopes will one day be their ladder out of poverty.

The charity feeds more than 1.5 million children in 18 countries every school day. The food is cooked by com-

munity volunteers, giving local people ownership of the programme.

The new expansion into schools has been supported by Mary's Meals' partner Feedback Madagascar – another Argyll-based charity.

Feedback Madagascar's managing director Jamie Spencer said: 'It is fantastic two charities from Argyll are partnering to launch this new project in Madagascar. Many of us take for granted that we will have three meals a day – with extra snacks when we feel peckish. Children in these areas will usually only eat once a day at most. Providing daily food at school will help the children to perform better in the classroom and feel safe in the knowledge they will receive a nutritious

meal every day they attend.' Mr MacFarlane-Barrow added: 'I am so glad and humbled that, thanks to the continued generosity and goodness of our supporters, volunteers and our new partner, we are able to transform the lives of children at this school and many others throughout Madagascar.'

Other countries benefiting from Mary's Meals include Liberia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Haiti, Kenya, India, South Sudan, Uganda, Ethiopia, Benin, Lebanon, Syria, Myanmar, Thailand, Ecuador and Romania.

The average cost to feed a child with Mary's Meals for a school year is just £13.90.

To find out more or give support go to [marysmeals.org.uk](http://marysmeals.org.uk)



Mary's Meals is now feeding an extra 9,231 children after expanding into Madagascar.

## BT apologises to pensioner left without phone line for a week

BT has apologised to an Oban pensioner after cutting his phone line for more than a week at the request of a third party.

Kenneth McLennan said his line was disconnected on Friday November 1 without his knowledge after someone phoned BT to say he had died.

The following Friday the telecommunications company apologised and said his

line would be reconnected by midnight. Mr McLennan said the ordeal was a massive inconvenience, which could have been a lot worse.

The 70-year-old, who worked for BT for 39 years, uses his modem to monitor his pace maker, which he said he could not do.

A BT spokesperson said: 'We're really sorry for the interruption to Mr McLennan's

services. We made a mistake when processing another customer's request.

'We arranged for Mr McLennan's service to be reconnected as soon as possible.

'We have rigorous processes to prevent errors like this happening, but on this occasion the correct process was not followed. We're in touch with Mr McLennan to discuss compensation.'



**"The quality of the workmanship was excellent, they left the place clean and tidy every night and we thought it was extremely good value for money."**



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# Hero Gramps Harvey always remembered



by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A Dunbeg granddad has shared a heart-breaking letter remembering the war hero father he never met.

This October, 73-year-old Bill Harvey travelled to the Netherlands with other families of the Spean Bridge-trained No 4 Army Commandos as part of the 75th liberation commemorations.

It was the third time he had made the journey to pay tribute to his dad, also called Bill, who, aged just 29, selflessly gave his life to save the best friend who had also been bestman at his wedding.

The army pals had landed at Uncle Beach in Flushing, Vlissingen, and were making their way into German-occupied Nieuwstraat on November 1, 1944, when Bill was machine gunned down. A wall plaque now marks the spot where he fell.

Bill had decided he had the better gun and pulled back his friend Alex 'Mac' MacAuley saying: 'I'll go first.'

Last week, Bill's son, named after his dad, showed his daughter Susan Simpson a letter for the first time that Mac had sent to his pregnant mother just a few weeks after the shooting.

It read: 'I know that no-one can possibly presume your feelings at this time Margaret, and no words of mine can lessen the blow you'll be suffering now that Bill has gone. But you have the knowledge that Bill died a hero, fighting for what we all believe in, and hold dear.

'Small consolation to you Margaret, but it is Bill and

forever have to remember and thank with all our hearts for the freedom and peace which is, I hope, not far away.

'No-one knows better than you Margaret the merits of Bill as a husband and pal, but I'd like to say that all who knew him mourn the loss of a great friend and a man respected and liked by all those with whom he came into contact.

'I won't say any more now Margaret - letters are such empty and impersonal things when one wishes to convey their true feelings. I hope I might see you soon and express my feelings to you in person. Meanwhile Margaret I know that you will try to bear up under your great loss, as I know he would wish it so at this time, and may God be with you and yours.'

After the war, Mac remained great friends with Margaret and young Bill as he grew up. Margaret never remarried and Bill still meets up regularly with Mac's daughters Janet and Irene MacAulay.

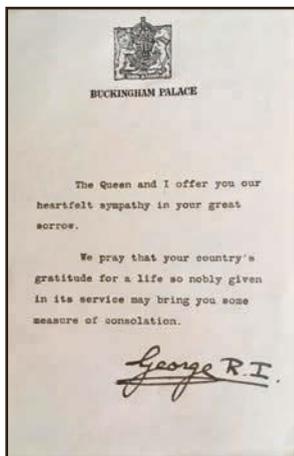
Hero Bill's family traditionally attend the Remembrance weekend event at the Commando Memorial. His great-granddaughters Charis and Niamh, living in Appin, have joined the Sea Cadets.

'Despite the friendly rivalry between the Army and Navy, we hope Gramps Harvey is very proud of them - just as they are proud of him. My sister Alison's girls Isla and Isobel also know the story of their great-granddad's heroism and sacrifice. I think the ripple effect of his achievements will continue through the generations,' said Susan.



'Gramps' Bill Harvey who gave his life liberating a German-occupied Dutch town.

all our other heroes who have given and will continue to give their lives whom we shall

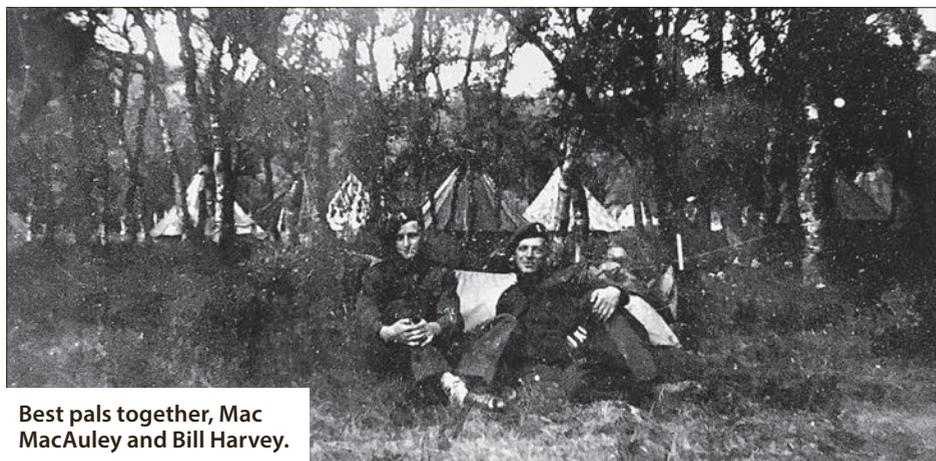


Above: Bill Harvey visiting his dad's memorial plaque in the Netherlands with Mac's daughters Janet and Irene MacAulay.

Left: The Queen's sympathy letter sent to Gunner Harvey's pregnant wife.



Bill Harvey marrying Margaret Laing with best friend and bestman 'Mac' MacAuley by his side.



Best pals together, Mac MacAuley and Bill Harvey.



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# Lifeboat volunteers sail off with awards

RNLI volunteers from Oban and Tobermory have been recognised with Excellence in Volunteering Awards.

Oban lifeboat's deputy coxswains and press officers received awards in recognition of their invaluable service to Oban lifeboat station.

Mark Scott, Finlo Cottier, David Isaac and James Hardie were recognised for their dedication to the station and received certificates from the RNLI's chairman and council recording their 'sincere thanks' for 'giving time to help provide full-time coxswain cover at the station' and for their 'commitment and leadership'.

Both the station's press officers, Iain Fulton and Leonie Mead, also received Excellence in Volunteering Awards for their 'invaluable support'.

The RNLI's prestigious Excellence in Volunteering Awards recognise staff and



From left: Caroline Isaac, Karen Scott, Mark Scott, Leonie Mead, Andrew Mead, David Isaac and James Hardie.

volunteers who have gone above and beyond what is expected of them.

Tobermory lifeboat station

received an Excellence in Volunteering Award recognising the crew's 'invaluable service to the institution'.

The citation went on to state that 'with a committed management team and crew fully engaged in all aspects



Tobermory crew and partners with RNLI chairman Stuart Popham. Left to right: Annette Stirling, chairwoman of the fundraising group; Mick Stirling, crew; Eug Thomasson, lifeboat administration officer; Simon Thomasson, crew; Will Thorne, crew; Stuart Popham; Kirsty Blackhall, education officer; Iain Malcolm, crew; Mhairi McAdam, crew, and Ian McAdam.

of the station, your focused team efforts, camaraderie and professionalism are greatly appreciated'.

Tobermory RNLI coxswain David McHaffie said: 'The awards to the station recognise the hard work of everyone involved, particularly our volunteers who give up so much of their free time for training, carrying out rescues and helping to make the station run effectively and

efficiently. I'm pleased some partners of the crew could attend the celebratory dinner in Edinburgh as we couldn't operate without the support of our families and friends.'

Some crew members also attended a dinner at the Playfair Library in Edinburgh on the evening of Saturday November 16, hosted by RNLI chairman Stuart Popham and Scottish chairman Roger Lockwood.

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## Oban student heads to UK national skills competition

Former Oban High School pupil Donna Blainey is representing City of Glasgow College in visual merchandising at this year's WorldSkills UK LIVE national finals, which launches today (November 21).

The 20-year-old is doing an HND Display Design for Retail at the college and has undergone intensive training in preparation for the competition.

Donna, who also works part-time, is looking forward to competing. She said: 'The WorldSkills UK LIVE competitions are beneficial for growing your skills in a specific field, mine being visual display. You learn organisational skills and time-keeping and how to work under pressure.'

'Getting into the finals of this competition is amazing for your CV and opens up opportunities for the future. There is the chance of being head-hunted by employers and you can join WorldSkills alumni to become a coach.'

Donna also has the potential to go on to the WorldSkills international competition in



Donna Blainey.

Shanghai in 2021, depending on how well she performs in the UK national finals this weekend.

She continued: 'I've been training for three months, which has been hard on top of my college workload and deadlines.'

'I also work at the weekends. But it's been an incredible opportunity for me and I have learned so much.'

'I'm looking forward to this week's competition, but am also slightly nervous as there will be thousands of people watching me build my display.'

'When I finish college, I hope to work in a fast-paced creative environment and I know the skills competitions

will give me an added advantage with employers.'

Margaret Darroch, head of Skills Academy and Development at City of Glasgow College, said: 'Donna has achieved her place at the national finals through hard work, determination and high levels of resilience. The past few weeks of coaching and fine-tuning have helped boost her confidence and skills levels. It is now over to Donna to let her talent shine and we all wish her all the very best.'

WorldSkills UK LIVE is the country's largest skills and careers event. At its core are the national finals of the WorldSkills UK competitions where young professionals compete against their peers for a chance to win medals in their skill and the possibility of representing the UK on the international stage.

The competition will run from today (November 21) to Saturday November 23.

A total of 530 students and apprentices will compete during the three days of competition, across a range of disciplines.

# Focus on film as island pupils eye top prize

## Workshop boosts creative skills

High school pupils on Mull this week enjoyed learning as part of the FilmG Gaelic Short Film Competition.

They were joined by broadcaster Calum MacAulay and former Tobermory High School pupil Shannon MacLean.

Calum works as a freelancer across news and sport and is experienced in front of camera and in technical elements of filmmaking.

Shannon is a FilmG

ambassador, having made independent entries while at school and as she continues to study Gaelic media at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

The workshop was one of 35 being delivered by FilmG across Scotland, giving children the opportunity to make a five-minute short film in Scottish Gaelic which they can enter into the FilmG competition.

The FilmG project has been running for 12 years and the

youth category has grown beyond all expectation, from 12 films in the first year to 70 youth entries last year. The bulk of these entries come through FilmG's innovative workshops.

There are 15 tutors on the FilmG bank, based in regions from Lewis, to Glasgow, to Inverness.

Pupils on Mull prepared their own script, props and locations for their day of filming, followed by a day of editing. Much of the filming took place on the school's playing fields as their film follows a footballer who loses his job with a top squad and is making efforts to get back to the top. They look forward to unveiling the film in mid-December.

The main youth category prize is £1,000 for best film.

FilmG project manager Eilidh Rankin said: "The FilmG workshops are a fantastic opportunity for high school pupils to get their teeth into a project and to speak Gaelic outwith the classroom.

"We encourage pupils to



Cameras rolling as Tobermory High School pupils create their own film for FilmG.

use their individual talents within the team, with room for everyone to shine. We hope FilmG continues to uncover budding writers, actors, prop-makers, make-up artists, interviewers, social media officers, camera operators and directors.'

Independent film-makers of high school age are also

encouraged to go it alone, with a £500 for Best Young Film-maker, with other awards open to independent entrants.

The recent addition of the Best Youth Group Film award, open to primary classes and youth clubs for children of primary age, has also been a hit and organisers

of FilmG hope to see equally healthy entry numbers this year. The FilmG project is funded by MG ALBA and delivered by Cànan Graphics Studio on the Isle of Skye, with Bòrd na Gàidhlig also providing support.

The FilmG deadline is December 10. For more information, visit filmg.co.uk.



Editors busy making tough choices.

## Oban Aglow hosts Christmas meal

Oban Aglow is holding a Christmas meal on Friday November 29 in the Bay Great Western Hotel, Corran Esplanade, Oban.

Guest speaker will be Mervyn Milne, senior pastor with Mission Ministries, based in Perth. He speaks prophetically with passion and power.

Everyone welcome. The event starts at 6.45pm for 7pm and tickets cost £12.

For more information and to book a ticket, contact Beryl on 07761 127217 or 01631 562915.

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## 16 Days of Activism launched in Argyll

Argyll and Bute Rape Crisis is again supporting and highlighting the UNiTE 16 Days of Activism campaign.

The campaign, which runs from Monday November 25 to December 10, under the theme Orange the World: Generation Equality Stands against Rape!, will mark the 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence.

While the names, times and contexts may differ, women and girls universally experience rape, sexual violence and abuse in times of peace or war.

In recent years, the voices of survivors and activists, through campaigns such as #MeToo, #TimesUp, #Niunamenos and others, have put the spotlight on sexual violence to the point where it cannot be silenced or ignored any more.

As in previous years, the colour orange will be a key theme unifying all activities. Buildings and landmarks will be lit and decorated in orange to bring global attention to the issue of violence against women and girls and the campaign invites everyone to Orange the World, using the colour designated by the UNiTE campaign to symbolise a brighter future without violence. Across Argyll and Bute, it is planned to illuminate public landmarks including Oban's McCaig's Tower orange and display banners in Campbeltown, Dunoon, Oban and Rothesay. A march will be held in Dunoon on Monday November 25 to raise awareness and show support for the elimination of gender-based violence, meeting at the Queen's Hall at 6pm.

OT

## Ileachs produce spoof video

Pupils from Islay High School's FilmG Club had a great time taking part in a very special learning experience.

The event was organised by Comunn na Gàidhlig Gaelic officer Lynn MacLean and the group, made up of Gaelic learners, now has an 10 members who have been attending weekly sessions to plan their FilmG entry.

The workshop, which was one of 35 being delivered by FilmG across Scotland, gave the children a unique opportunity to work with a professional filmmaker and actor to make a five-minute short film in Gaelic which they can enter into a competition being run by FilmG.

The FilmG project has been running for 12 years and the youth category has grown beyond all expectation, from 12 films in the first year to 70



Islay High pupils preparing for filming and, below, get advice from Dòmhnall Eòghainn MacKinnon.



They were lucky enough to secure Islay House and the surrounding grounds as a location. The young creatives look forward to revealing it to audiences when the FilmG entries go live in December.

The FilmG deadline is December 10, for more information, visit [filmg.co.uk](http://filmg.co.uk)

entries last year, the bulk of which come through FilmG's workshops programme.

Last week, pupils on Islay worked under the guidance of freelance filmmaker, writer and actor Dòmhnall Eòghainn MacKinnon.

Originally from Scalpay, Dòmhnall Eòghainn is also a recent graduate of Glasgow Caledonian University's MA

Television Fiction Writing course, and appears in BBC Alba's Bannan.

Pupils prepared their own script, props and locations ready for their day of filming, followed by a day of editing. Their film is a comic take on struggles between old and new in a spoof tourism video, featuring an unexpected monstrous presence.

## Views sought to help remote communities

Kate Forbes MSP is urging Highlanders to respond to a consultation on proposed legislation that would seek to help safeguard communities in remote and rural parts of Scotland.



additional consideration when it comes to legislation and investment, as proven by the Islands Bill which has just gone through the parliament.

The Proposed Remote Rural Communities (Scotland) Bill, which was lodged last month by Gail Ross MSP, would enhance the consideration given to such communities by Scottish public bodies.

A similar piece of legislation for Scotland's islands has already passed during the present Scottish Parliament term, and it is envisioned this draft bill would have a similar effect upon far-flung areas on the mainland.

Ms Forbes, pictured, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, said: 'As much of my constituency is rural and remote, I would encourage as many people as possible to respond to this consultation.'

It is obvious that areas of the Highlands and Islands require

'This is a Member's Bill in Gail Ross's name, but I think this consultation raises awareness of the particular needs of rural areas and I commend Gail for taking this forward.'

According to Scottish Government criteria, remote rural areas are 'areas with a population of less than 3,000 people, and with a drive time of over 30 minutes to a settlement of 10,000 or more'.

The consultation, which includes a question on whether rural constituencies should become smaller despite their relatively small populations (similar to the like of the Western Isles), can be completed online at: [www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/RemoteRuralCommunities/](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/RemoteRuralCommunities/)

The deadline for responses is January 31.

# Sheriff says crofter died after being crushed by cattle

by Mark Entwistle  
[mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk)

A man died after being crushed by cattle at his North Uist croft, a sheriff has determined, following a fatal accident inquiry at Lochmaddy earlier this month.

Hector Macleod, 58, was trying to return an escaped Charolais bull to its pen in a cattle shed at his croft on Berneray, where he lived with his partner, Jayne Jackson.

Sheriff Christopher Dickson said there were no 'reasonable precautions' Mr Macleod could have taken to avoid the accident, which happened on April 24 last year.

In his determination, the sheriff noted the crofter had not previously experienced any signs of aggression from either his 19 cows or his eight-year-old bull, which was born and

raised at his croft. Berneray native Mr Macleod was in the main part of the cattle shed and returning the bull to its own enclosure when he was injured.

The bull, along with cows that got out of the shed, were safely returned to their pens and the bull, which was found to have blood on its head but was uninjured, was later put down.

Some of the cows were pregnant and others had calved. Ms Jackson presented her theory that the bull was seeking a female who was 'on heat' - as a calf was born almost exactly nine months to the day afterwards.

In her post mortem report, consultant pathologist Dr Natasha Inglis stated that Mr Macleod's injuries were consistent with him having been attacked by the bull.

After completing his education, Mr Macleod had served in the Merchant Navy and had then joined the Royal Air Force, serving with distinction as part of the crew for Nimrod aircraft during one of the Gulf wars. During the course of his service with the RAF, he had also received medals for bravery.

In 2005, Mr Macleod was given the opportunity to return to Berneray to take over the family croft and had, since then, successfully run the croft, acquired other crofts and built up a herd of cattle.

The inquiry heard that Mr Macleod was a skilled crofter and his death had come as a huge shock to his mother, Ms Jackson and the rest of the community.

Sheriff Dickson said his thoughts were with Mr Macleod's family.



# Christmas

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## Christmas Tree Festival at St Conan's Kirk

More than 60 Christmas trees will fill St Conan's Kirk this year.

The 2019 Christmas Tree Festival at Lochawe opens its doors to visitors on Friday November 29 until Sunday December 1 from 1.30pm to 6pm. All sorts of trees, decorated in amazingly imaginative ways by groups and businesses, will bring seasonal sparkle to the magical event, say organisers.

A festival spokesperson said: 'A cross-section of the community gets involved to have fun and showcase the many aspects of life here. Trees are contributed by individuals, businesses, organisations and groups. Visitors are asked to vote for their favourite tree. Younger visitors are asked to search for Santa's elves. The elves come every year to see the trees but like to play hide and seek with us.'

'Our Christmas Pop-up Café will be serving hot drinks and homebaking. Visitors may also like to take part in the festive raffle.'

This year, Oban Community Singers will perform on Saturday November 30 between 2.30pm and 3.30pm, with Tarbert Ladies Choir singing on Sunday December 1 at 2.30pm and 3.30pm. Entry by donation.

## Special Scout post delivery

Oban's Scout Post is back and ready to deliver!

Special post boxes are in shops all over the town and in Dunbeg, Connel and Benderloch. It costs 40p per card to have it hand-delivered, says Oban Beavers leader Katy Pollock. Last post is 5pm on Wednesday December 11. Funds raised will go towards activities, camps and trips away for youngsters in the 1st Argyll (Lorn) Beavers.

The Scout Post was once a regular Christmas service and after a gap of a few years is back on the winter scene.

'This is our big fundraiser, so we hope as many people as possible will post their cards for us to deliver,' said Katy.

Shops in Oban with boxes include The Factory Shop, Alba, Oban Cycles, Tesco and Soroba shop.

Out of town, the post boxes are at Dunbeg shop, Connel Post Office and the Pink Shop at Benderloch.

# Silver chess celebrations a matter for Congress

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



The 25th Oban Chess Congress was played in the Royal Hotel over three days last weekend.

Organised by Oban Chess Club, this annual event attracted 122 players of all ages and abilities, the youngest being eight and the oldest 81.

Enthusiasts and their families travelled from all over Scotland and England, with many staying in the town.

Split into four tournaments, depending on ability, the congress began on Friday November 15 with a five-

round Swiss format. With a prize fund of £1,925, as well as a stunning glass trophy for the top player in each tournament, there was much to play for.

This year there were 15 junior players aged eight to 15 playing all four tournaments, with Oban's young chess master Sam Coates, 17, playing in the top open event.

The Oban Congress is a popular event on the Scottish chess calendar and brings 100 players to the town each year as well as their friends and families. Over the years the event has received generous support from many local businesses. Duncan

Campbell from the organising committee said: 'We would like to thank the many local businesses who have supported us once again this year. Without their help and financial support, this congress would not be possible.'

'We must also thank Chess Scotland for providing the equipment and Andy Howie for setting up the live boards so that games could be viewed online.'

Oban players among the main prize winners were Lukasz Nowak, who was joint second in the Challengers Tournament, and Christopher Sharp, second equal in the Minor Tournament. Stephen Harvey shared a grading prize in the Challengers and Liam Richmond won a grading prize in the Major.

On Saturday night, many of the players and their families took part in the Congress's popular prize quiz, also held in the Royal.



Oban's Sam Coates enjoys a warm up session with Glasgow's Sambhav Chadha. 15\_T47 chesscongress\_Sam Coates

Results: Open: 1= Inn. Major: 1= Martin Brejter, FIDE Master Neil Berry, Edinburgh; Thomas Tait, Edinburgh; Andrew Newton, Inverness, and Richard Birkett, Inverness. Richard Birkett won the trophy.

Challengers: 1 Ralph Stirrat, Cumbernauld; 2= Lukasz Nowak, Oban; Jonathan McKay, Musselburgh, and John Cawston, Ye Olde Starre

Minor: 1 Alex Keenan, Hamilton; 2= David Watson, Corstorphine; Andrew McCulloch, Giffnock; Thor Saemundsson, Hamilton, and Christopher Sharp, Oban.

## Beetlewing dress on show at Dunollie

A stunning beetlewing dress has returned to Dunollie, Oban, straight from its debut at the Wild and Majestic exhibition at The National Museum Scotland.

The dress, on show until Saturday, November 23, is thought to have been worn by Mary-Jane MacDougall to meet King George IV when he made his celebrated visit to Edinburgh in 1822.

The garment is well-known for its striking green embellishment – the beetlewings – which came from India after the insects had shed them naturally.

The unique dress is on display for a limited time only throughout the Winter Festival in the 1745 House Museum at Dunollie



Museum, Castle and Grounds.

Opening times to see it until Saturday are 11am to 3pm.

## Animated over big screen premieres

Twelve short animated films created by students from across the region will be screened at Oban Phoenix Cinema on Sunday.

Set up by the BFI Film Academy and Screen Argyll, individuals aged 16 to 19 years came to Oban for a week-long animation course in October.

The students were taught how to make animated films using techniques that included stop motion and/or pixelation.

They animated films, recorded sounds for them and edited the finished footage.

The group is now inviting everyone along to Oban Phoenix Cinema on Sunday November 24 to watch their films, three of which have been shortlisted for the Scottish Youth Film Festival, on the big screen.

'Seven days of hard work, 15 talented students, 12 amazing animation films, hours and hours of filming and a million reasons why you should come and join us on November 24,' said participant Anakaren Maldonado.

The screening starts at 11am, with teas and coffees available.

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OT

# Oban lifeboat crew wants new recruits

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Oban lifeboat is searching for two new volunteer crew members.

To find out what it takes to be part of a life-saving team aboard the all-weather lifeboat, the RNLI is inviting potential volunteers to go along to a recruitment night on Monday November 25 at the town's station at the South Pier, starting at 7pm.

Launching the Mora Edith MacDonald 54 times in 2018 and helping 97 people, the station needs to build up its daytime crew and specifically wants to hear from would-be volunteers who could respond to call-outs from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday.

The charity is hoping to attract people from all walks of life and new recruits don't need to have sea-going experience to get involved.



Station coxswain Ally Cerexhe said: 'Volunteering with us gives people the opportunity to make a real difference in their local community, to save lives and become part of the larger RNLI

family. We can't keep people safe without the support of our wonderful volunteers, who truly make a difference every day, no matter which role they are fulfilling.'

The role of all-weather

## Could you join Oban lifeboat crew?

lifeboat crew is to keep up training, be on call for lifeboat shouts, to attend exercises and to contribute to the overall upkeep of the station, lifeboats and equipment.

Oban's Trent-class lifeboat is suited to the challenging conditions found in and around the sea lochs of western Scotland and successful applicants will get comprehensive training to serve as crew.

To fit the bill, recruits would need to live or work within 10 minutes' drive from the station, be able to commit to training, have a driving licence and access to a vehicle, be aged between 17 and 55 and be able to work well as part of a team.

Interested in finding out more? Turn up to the open night for an informal discussion.

## Increased uptake for bowel screening

Bowel Screening uptake has increased by 10 per cent in Argyll and Bute.

The figures cover January to December last year as part of an early detection programme.

Alison McGrory, Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership's public health principal, said: 'This report is really good news in that we're seeing a significant rise in screening uptake. Screening for bowel cancer saves lives, and the test has helped make it easier for people to be tested.'

'The increase in people taking part in screening is really encouraging because detecting cancer at an early stage means it's more likely to be successfully treated.'

Men and women aged 50 to 74 are invited to take part in the Scottish bowel screening programme by completing a home screening test every two years.

The test aims to detect blood in bowel motions as this may indicate a higher risk of bowel cancer.

People with a positive

screening test results are offered further investigations.

The test is completed at home with a kit sent to all eligible adults. It involves collecting one sample from a bowel movement and people who have a positive result are referred to their local hospital for assessment.

Anyone wanting to find out more or who is worried can call a free and confidential helpline on 0800 0121 833 / textphone 18001 or can email: bowelscreening.tayside@nhs.net.

People can also visit NHS Inform website at [nhsinform.scot](http://nhsinform.scot) to get trusted information about bowel cancer signs, causes, treating and preventing bowel cancer.

Some risk factors for the disease are unavoidable, such as age, sex or family history, but eating a healthy diet containing wholegrains and plenty of fruit and vegetables, avoiding fat or sugary foods and processed meats, staying active, stopping smoking and drinking less alcohol can all help to reduce the risks.

## TAX RETURN DEADLINE 31 JANUARY 2020

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



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From 2017 until now a total of 1,616 obstetric ultrasounds scans have been performed in Oban.

## Baby scanning service at Oban hospital is a record breaker

Pregnant women and their families have been saved more than 2,000 trips to Glasgow since the start of a special scanning service at Oban hospital, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) midwife sonographers have performed a record-breaking total of 106 obstetric ultrasounds in October to monitor how

babies are growing and developing.

The service, which started at the hospital in April 2017, had been a much longed-for service in the area. Previously, women would have had to travel to Glasgow for obstetric scanning. From 2017 until now, a total of 1,616 obstetric ultrasounds have been performed in Oban.

Becky Brown, Argyll and Bute HSCP midwife and

sonographer, said: 'Women would have previously travelled to Glasgow to be scanned and all the team are really pleased to offer this service locally.'

'The service has been going really well since it started in 2017 and has easily saved women and families over 2,000 trips to Glasgow hospitals, including women from the scanning service in Campbeltown.'

# New support strategy will improve lives

Addiction support staff, community-based services and leaders are teaming up to form a new partnership.

The Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) was reformed this autumn to help those in need across Argyll and Bute.

ADP, a strategic partnership in Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP), has the job of preventing alcohol and drug problems and making sure people with alcohol and drug dependence get help to lead better quality lives.

This winter, the partnership's main focus will be to develop an overarching strategy to provide leadership and

direction for its work. Going out and talking to people affected by alcohol and drug substance use disorders will be its way of making sure priorities in its new strategy meet the area's needs.

Alison McGrory, Argyll and Bute HSCP health improvement principal, said: 'I am delighted to see the newly formed ADP coming together with such a vibrant and enthusiastic membership. Alcohol and drug substance misuse are a significant public health issue in Scotland and a partnership approach to addressing these issues is the way forward.'

'As a group, we will be aspirational in our approach to planning to ensure the cultural

factors associated with alcohol in Scotland and the increasing risks of drugs are reduced.

'We will do that by listening to people in our communities and working in a person-centred way to connect people experiencing problematic substance use disorders with appropriate support.'

She said the partnership will also prevent problems by working with children and young people to equip them with the skills, support and knowledge 'to live a good life.'

To find out more about alcohol and drug support, advice and services in Argyll and Bute, go to the ADP website direct at [argyllandbuteadp.info](http://argyllandbuteadp.info) or call 01546 604948.

## MacPhail

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For anyone needing a bit of escape from the rigours being bombarded by the bluster of the current General Election campaigning, give yourself a short therapy session and click on the Trad Music Awards website.

Here you can contemplate the placing of your votes without the worry that doing so will bring about the disaster that is being predicted and counter-predicted across most parties in current cartoon-like weavings of Westminster. Voting for one band over the other, for one festival instead of another, or being extreme in your choice of which album was best in the past year will have no more critical a potential outcome than who's buying the first round of drinks in Aberdeen in a few weeks.

The Trad Music Awards were born in 2003 and are powering proudly into their 17th year with the customary awards ceremony to be held in the newly-refurbished Aberdeen Music Hall on December 7.

Voting comes to an end this Sunday, November 24, with the results of the online ballot to be announced on the big night.

Musicians are a funny breed and the music industry with all its ups and downs, contradictions, complications, competition among those with no interest to compete and a myriad of other catalysts can cause an already generally eccentric group of people to become even more so. Despite the extra pressures felt by musicians faced with the horror of having to canvas for votes, the Trad Music Awards are a great way of bringing so many in the music industry together for one night every year to let their hair down and have a good party in the company of friends and colleagues.

The publicity brought about by winning some of the categories can be very important to the nominees but, as a whole, the awards are good for the entire presence of the traditional music industry. Who wins the individual

gongs is less significant than the overall benefit created.

One of the most valuable aspects of the awards is the retrospective showing of respect to figures of the past as they are inducted into the Traditional Music Hall of Fame. Many of the inductees are those whose contribution over many years have played an important role in creating the music scene of today. Many, too, have been inducted posthumously for important roles played in the music world.

It is for these people and the many volunteers, teachers, committee members and others working quietly in the background that the Trad Music Awards are most important. When awards are given to those who would never dream of seeking adulation or publicity for themselves, that is when they are most vital. It is these modest stalwarts that the publicity-hungry dandies like the rest of us will be toasting on December 7 in the Aberdeen Music Hall. Vote now!

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## Get to know your pension options

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

## Talk Money Talk Pensions Do You Know Your Pension Options?

If, like Citizens Advice, you have reached the age of 80 you may already be drawing on your pension savings. But if you are still to decide what to do with your pension pot, do you know your options?

Since April 2015, people who have a workplace or personal pension have had more freedom to decide how



to use their pension savings. So, if you don't know your options you should - Pension Wise from your local Citizens Advice Bureau is the UK government backed scheme that gives you free and impartial guidance about your options. Gillian McInnes Manager of Argyll and Bute Citizens Advice Bureau says:

"Choice can be good. But now there are more options available for those with personal or workplace pensions making a decision about what to do with your savings can seem daunting."

"If you are confused about your pension options or simply want to know more, help is at hand. Since April 2015, we have provided one-to-one guidance to thousands of people across Scotland helping them to make better decisions about pension savings in excess of £1 billion."

"Free and impartial Pension Wise appointment will set out the options available to you and explain the pros and cons of each taking into account your plans for the future. You can learn about the impact of each option on your tax and benefits, how to shop around for products and services and keeping your pension safe. Finally, we will set out the next steps for you to take and send you a written summary of our meeting."

Anyone aged 50 or over with a defined contribution pension scheme is eligible for a Pension Wise appointment. Call Pension Wise on 0800 138 3944 or go online at [www.pensionwise.gov.uk](http://www.pensionwise.gov.uk) to book your appointment. Contact your local Citizens Advice Bureau to find out more.

OT

# Epic sail raises £12,000 for Children in Need

The intrepid team that set out to sail for eight days non-stop round Mull under skipper Joey Gough for Children in Need have raised in excess of £12,000, with the amount still rising.

Having had to manage a range of weather conditions from flat calms to F9 winds and big seas, the crew of Tangle o' the Isles, a First 32s5, sailed back to Dunstaffnage Marina on Friday (November 15), coinciding with the end of The BBC Rickshaw Challenge. They had been at sea, or in shelter from gales, for eight days and seven nights and their achievement was recognised on The One Show as well as the BBC Children in Need TV programme.

Said Joey: 'We all want to say a huge thank you to everyone who donated so generously to raise such a fantastic amount. I had a distant hope that we may reach a five-figure sum, but this has really exceeded our expectations. I am keeping the JustGiving page open via our website for a time in case anyone else



**The crew of five faced some huge challenges during the Children in Need fundraiser.**

to some main sail sliders which were broken by a squall off Loch Buie.'

The non-stop circumnavigation in Tangle was a major offshore challenge and must have been one of the most difficult fundraising feats undertaken for Children in Need.

Skipper Joey Gough was also fighting his own personal challenge after a major operation at the end of August. He and his team pulled out all the stops for the charity.

The team streamed back live videos via social media and the boat was tracked on AIS throughout the journey. Contact was made with Joey's home club - Oban Sailing Club - during the club's annual prize-giving dinner and the proceeds of the raffle of £415 were donated to the fundraising for Children in Need.

Australian crew member Robert Bradley, who was experiencing his first winter sailing in Scotland on the challenge, flew back to Melbourne immediately after the sailing feat. 'I will be glad

to get back to temperatures in the high 30s compared to below freezing round Mull,' he said, adding that it had been quite an experience all round.

Joey and his team are now taking a well-earned rest, and Tangle o' the Isles has been lifted out of the water to her winter storage at Creran Marine.

A raft of commercial supporters gave help in kind to get the challenge off the ground - Oban-based Pole Position built the website, CGL (Oban) printed promotional material and Navigators and General supported with an insurance extension. Creran Marine donated an additional launch and recovery, and Dunstaffnage Marina gave free berthing before and after the event. Oban-based Art and Sea provided graphics on Tangle and PFM Pictures free use of photographs for publicity. Finally, the Bank of Scotland gave a free-of-charge account for the Challenge to use.

For full details of the voyage and the JustGiving page, visit [www.tangleotheisles.com](http://www.tangleotheisles.com).

wishes to contribute to boost this amount. I want to thank the crew who put themselves through some pretty tough sailing for the cause and also the shore team and sponsors for their support.'

The experienced sailors of Joey (Duro), Twig Olsen (Taynuilt), Christine MacFarlane Slack (Ballachulish), Colin Campbell (Acharacle) and Robert Bradley (Melbourne, Australia) circumnavigated Mull nearly four times during the

eight days, experiencing a wide range of weathers and sea states.

Joey said: 'The toughest thing was being stopped by the weather - safety was uppermost in our minds and we always said when conditions became too severe we would run for shelter as any experienced seafarer would do. However, we still encountered some pretty challenging and uncomfortable sailing conditions and, of course, extreme cold which at this

time of year can easily lead to hypothermia.

'The watch system was successful and we catered for high energy needs as well as having the heater in the cabin on full-time. However, the cockpit where the crew spent half their time when at sea, has no warmth or shelter. When the cabin heater broke down half way through the challenge it was a priority to dismantle, fix and rebuild it - quickly!

'Repairs also had to be made

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**Eye to eye** with John Wallace

## Wellie Boots or Sunglasses?

Isn't the weather fickle? Earlier this month we had gales and heavy rain and ...now...brilliant sunshine and freezing temperatures. Combine that with increasingly short days and long nights and, if you are a driver, you have the perfect storm. Dazzled with the low lying sun during the day and struggling to see at night.

Driving in Argyll is a dangerous occupation at the best of times. During the summer it's trying to avoid tourists stopping on dangerous corners to watch the Highland cattle and deer. At this time of year it's coming round a bend to find the sun straight in your face and being completely blinded. Even pedestrians have problems with the sun. Walking up from the pier



the other day I struggled to see the cars whizzing round the bottom of Argyll Square due to the sun shining into my face.

If you own a car you should have had it checked out to ensure all its systems are working properly. If you are intending to travel you are advised by all the motoring organisations to ensure you have adequate supplies of food, water and

warm clothes for the journey. As a driver you should also ensure your eyesight is performing well. If you need glasses for driving you should ensure they are up to date and the lenses are in good condition. You should also have up to date prescription sunglasses. Polarised lenses are best for around here as they reduce reflections and glare from the wet roads.

Most importantly, you should have regular eye examinations. Every day I see patients whose vision is below or just on the legal minimum for driving. Yet, despite my advice they continue to drive. Please, don't be an accident waiting to happen. Contact your optometrist and book your eye examination.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP

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# Celebrating 10 years of supporting uni students

The University of the Highlands and Islands Student Development Fund is celebrating its 10th birthday.

Launched in October 2009, it has supported more than 400 students to take advantage of personal development opportunities in connection with their course that would otherwise be missed due to financial constraints.

To mark the occasion, the university has created an on-line gallery of recipients from across the partnership to share their personal journeys.

Speaking about his experience, Matthew Snape, a Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) UHI graduate from Stockport, Cheshire, said: 'I studied a BSc Marine Science in Oban.

'As a mature student I did not qualify for student finance from the government or the university. Without



**Matthew Snape was able to undertake his studies at SAMS and further afield with the help of the Student Development Fund.**

the support of the Student Development Fund, I would have been unable to complete my degree.

'With the support of the Student Development Fund I earned a first-class degree and was able to attend a sum-



mer school on Mediterranean ecology in France and an Erasmus semester on Arctic environmental management in Svalbard.'

Alison Wilson, head of development at the university, reflects on how donations transform students' lives.

She said: 'This milestone is an ideal time to reflect on what the fund has accomplished. Grants totalling over £165,000 have now been awarded, made possible by kind donations from businesses and individuals.

'The impact of those gifts

has been huge. They have helped our students to feel supported, encouraged and motivated to succeed. They have provided unforgettable development experiences, opened minds to new ideas and helped develop connections with new people and places. They have allowed students to work in local communities and on research contributing to global social issues.

'Looking to the future, we want to continue to help many more students access unique learning experiences and we can only do so by securing new donors to fund future rounds of support for our students. No matter what size of donation, it really makes a difference and if any local business or individual feels they would like to help in some small way, I'd be delighted to hear from them.'

Dedicated donor Thomas Prag, who received an award for 10 years of regular giving to the fund, said: 'It came as a bit of a surprise to find out that my regular small donation had been going for so long, but perhaps that's the point - £5 or £10 a month is relatively painless and builds up, if enough of us do it.

'I particularly like being involved in helping students do things outside their course work - it's what being at university is all about.'

To find out more about making a donation, please get in touch with the team by emailing [development@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:development@uhi.ac.uk) or visiting the website [www.uhi.ac.uk/en/development](http://www.uhi.ac.uk/en/development).

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# BUSINESS NEWS

## Workshops prove popular for business

Business Gateway Argyll and Bute launched its autumn workshop in September and since then 28 free business skills events have taken place, with more than 250 attendees in total.

The programme features a wide range of new and refreshed topics, including digital skills, marketing, self-assessment, business start-up and book-keeping.

More workshops are running between November and January, but with spaces filling up fast anyone keen to take part is urged to book now via 01546 808363 or visit [www.bgateway.com](http://www.bgateway.com)

Workshops in Oban include Creating Killer Graphics with Canva on November 29, Developing Your Brand on December 4 and Producing Engaging Online Content on January 21. Mull has Digital Marketing Strategy on November 28.

## Brexit planning

Scotland's enterprise and skills agencies are urging all businesses in Scotland to continue to actively prepare for Brexit.

The advice is to act now to build resilience and ensure you have contingency plans in place to protect your business, supply chain and customers. Advice and information at [www.prepareforbrexit.scot](http://www.prepareforbrexit.scot) will help identify areas to consider and actions to take, as well as details of the £4,000 Brexit Support Grant.

# Success for business growth programme



Argyll and Bute Council is encouraging business owners to take advantage of its successful Business Gateway Local Growth Accelerator Programme, which is due to run until the end of 2021.

The programme – worth a total of £855,239 – is funded by the council and the European Regional Development Fund under the 2014-2020 Structural Funds Programmes.

The programme gives growing local businesses the chance to access specialist advice and grant funding to help them expand.

Councillor Alastair Redman, Argyll and Bute Council policy lead for economic growth, said: 'Support worth nearly £350,000 has been provided so far, helping 72 businesses across Argyll and Bute to deliver their growth plans.'

'We can already see that these supported



Councillor Alastair Redman.

businesses have grown their combined turnover by £3.1 million and taken on another 54 employees.

'With more than £500,000 still available

from the programme, we can assist the growth of many more businesses. Supporting businesses is a key part of our economic strategy and our drive to attract more people to live and work in Argyll and Bute.'

The growth grant funding can cover 50 per cent of costs up to £5,000 for projects linked to business growth. An employer/graduate placement grant can provide 50 per cent of basic salary costs up to £12,000 where a wholly additional full-time permanent employee or a graduate placement of six to 12 months is required to support business growth.

In addition, businesses in key growth sectors – tourism, food and drink, forestry, the creative industries, energy, life sciences, financial services or defence – can also access grants of up to £1,500 to support training, accreditation or attendance at trade fairs.

The specialist help on offer from subject experts includes up to two days of free advice on human resources, eCommerce, marketing, growth strategy, funding and tendering.

Anyone wanting to find out more or to check their eligibility should visit [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/bglgap](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/bglgap) or talk to a Business Gateway adviser on 01546 808363.

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## Have your say on Loch Awe's eco-tourism future

This December, tourism businesses and those interested in starting a tourism-related business can share ideas on new ways to promote the area at a meeting run by the Argyll and the Isles Tourism Cooperative (AITC), with support from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH).

SNH is supporting AITC to review sustainable, nature-based tourism businesses around Loch Awe, encouraging exciting new enterprises and marketing that attracts more people to explore the outstanding natural beauty of Loch Awe.

Stephen Austin, SNH operations officer in Argyll, said: 'Loch Awe and its natural heritage and landscapes are a valuable resource with potential economic benefits for our local communities.'

'This project provides an opportunity for connecting people with nature through tourism. With many people living in Scotland choosing to give flights a miss and help reduce their carbon footprint, exploring



all this country has to offer is becoming a popular choice. We hope this initiative could kick-start the longest loch in Scotland becoming a must-see destination for sustainable tourism.'

Fergus Murray, head of Development and Economic Growth at Argyll and Bute Council, added: 'We very much welcome this drive to utilise Argyll's fantastic natural her-

itage resource for sustainable economic growth. It is a very strong fit with the overall Wild About Argyll positioning and one we strongly support.'

Carron Tobin of AITC is coordinating the review and initial meetings will be held next month. The first meeting will be held on December 4 at Ford village hall from 3-5pm and 5.30-7.30pm. This is followed

**SNH is supporting AITC encouraging new enterprises and marketing that attracts more people to explore the outstanding natural beauty of Loch Awe.** Photograph: Lorne Gill/SNH

by a meeting on December 5 in Dalmally New Village Hall from 3-5pm and 5.30-7.30pm.

The meetings are open to anyone with an interest in starting a business or who has an established business related to tourism in the area around Loch Awe. For more information about meetings email [info@wildaboutargyll.co.uk](mailto:info@wildaboutargyll.co.uk) or phone 07715 773660.

In 2020, Scotland is celebrating the Year of Coasts and Waters. This review is part of AITC's work leading on a major pan-west coast initiative known as West Coast Waters, aimed at encouraging more people to visit the west coast, travelling the roads less travelled, and to get on or in the water.

## CalMac posts strong annual financial returns

Innovation and dedication have led to a successful year for the UK's largest ferry operator.

Transport and logistics operator David MacBrayne Ltd, which operates CalMac Ferries, has seen an increasing number of passengers visiting the Scottish isles.

For the first time, CalMac carried more than 5.6 million passengers and more than 1.4 million vehicles as part of yet another year on year increase.

'I am delighted to report on a very successful last financial year, in what has been a very challenging working environment,' said DML chief executive Duncan Mackison.

'Increased passenger volumes, combined with a higher number of sailings that we have been tasked with carrying out, are placing more and more pressure on our services.'

'It is testament to the innovative approaches, skill and dedication of our staff that we can deliver an increase in profit on what is a highly specified and detailed contract.'

The company remains committed to creating opportunities for young people. Over the past two years the number of Modern Apprentices employed has doubled to 23.



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## Kilmartin collection named as one of Scotland's top 50

Kilmartin Museum's Prehistoric Collection has been unveiled as the 50th Nationally Significant Collection in Scotland.

Scotland's Recognition Scheme celebrates, promotes and invests in Nationally Significant Collections beyond those held in our national museums and galleries. The Recognition Scheme is administrated by Museums Galleries Scotland (MGS) on behalf of the Scottish Government.

The prehistoric collection at Kilmartin Museum is a unique collection of fundamental importance to understanding Scotland's history. Many of the museum's objects were discovered or excavated at the Neolithic and Bronze Age sites and monuments in Argyll's Kilmartin Glen, near to where the Museum building is located. The museum's setting in this landscape is important to the display of their collection, near the Upper Largie prehistoric site and overlooking an impressive cemetery of burial cairns.

To celebrate the 50th Nationally Significant Collection, chairman of the recognition committee, Dr Katie Stevenson, representatives from Museums Galleries Scotland, and Kilmartin Museum staff and supporters attended the award announcement last Thursday.

Varied and vast in the array of objects they contain, the 50 Nationally Significant Collections reflect centuries of effort to preserve and interpret Scotland's past.

Dr Katie Stevenson said: 'The Kilmartin Museum Prehistoric Collection is a remarkable asset to understanding the importance of this period and of the area to the earliest centuries of settlement in what is now Scotland.'

Dr Sharon Webb MBE, the curator and director of Kilmartin Museum, said: 'We are thrilled that Kilmartin Museum has received recognition for its Prehistoric Collection. The artefacts are well worthy of this status, and it is a great achievement for the whole organisation that we have been successful.'

'Kilmartin Museum is soon to be transformed into a state-of-the-art visitor attraction and centre for archaeological engagement and learning. We are deeply honoured that our new galleries will open in 2022 with a Nationally Significant collection as their centrepiece.'

# A gamekeeper's daug

## Morvern Lines

IAIN THORNER

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*This week we publish the second installment of Lochaline resident Mrs Elizabeth Wotherspoon's recollections of her childhood days in Morvern.*

'Although there were many more men and women working on the estate when I was young – 12 gardeners, I believe – it was a very happy place and there was never any friction.

'Torr Molach was a ceilidh house, and by that I mean a place where people were made welcome and seldom passed. There was always a cup of tea, cakes and scones at all times of the day. I never saw alcohol, except at Christmas and New Year. Visitors would come with bottles and pass them round.

'We had a wireless with wet batteries, or accumulators, which were a nuisance if they went flat and had to be recharged down in the estate garage as often the acid would leak out of them and burn whatever it came into contact with. Despite her failing eyesight, Mother knitted long stockings to go with Dad's tweed plus-fours; even when she became totally blind she always managed.

'One of the highlights of the year was joining other children of our age on the estate on Saturday mornings, depending on the weather, at Dubh Dhoire (pronounced Dugorrie), behind Ardtornish House, to help Mr and Mrs Smith's daughter Faith to gather sphagnum moss for field dressings during the Second World War.

'It was carried down to the house in panniers, where it was dried before being sent away in bags to a depot in Oban. Of course the treat for us was the tea when the work was done which was laid out in the old kitchen.

'Another was the annual Christmas party in the main hall. The cook would make a huge dumpling in a bucket in the outside boiler. We girls received various toys while the boys got red jumpers – something left over from the time of the previous owners when the parties were held in the stokehold in the cellars.

'Mrs Sellar, it was said, used to come down half way through and say to the children, "Eat plenty, but pocket none".

'When we were pulling the moss at Dubh Dhoire we would sometimes look for the grave of a race horse belonging to the Sellars. He



was quite famous and successful and when he died the silver cups he won were buried with him. There used to be a plaque on his grave with an inscription which read: "Here lies poor Peterkin, a noble horse was he, may his bones rest in peace on the planes of Dubh Dhoire". We never found the spot and as far as I know his grave and the cups still lie there undisturbed.

'We were in awe of a larger than life iron stag put up as a target for the guests to show if they were any good before being taken to the hill. It stood on wheels and could be turned to any angle. Looking at the placement of some of the bullet holes, many of them must have been pretty rotten shots and in need of practicing!

'There was no electricity at Torr Molach and

drying clothes, especially during the stalking and shooting season when it was often wet, could be difficult. Dad took a sandwich, or a 'piece' as it was called, to the hill for his lunch which was usually of eggs and cheese.

'We had an old fashioned range for cooking on and Aladdin lamps fuelled by paraffin for light which was not good for reading as it was soft and low. Other families had Tilley lamps but Mum never liked the hissing noise they made. If a wildcat got among the hens or there was some other rumpus outside during the night, we would investigate by lantern.

'For recreation, there was a lovely hall near Kinlochaline Castle with a library we could borrow books from. Bowls and badminton matches and competitions were held regularly



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# Winter: part two



Left, Mrs Betty Wotherspoon beside the iron stag target at Ardtornish; and below, Corrospine House, home to Mr and Mrs Alan Livingstone, now abandoned.

Photographs: Iain Thornber.

between the head of the loch and the village. Dances took place on Friday nights and whist drives on Saturdays. Often there were 20 or more tables, which is something unheard of nowadays in Morvern.

'My sisters and I used to walk to the primary school at Claggan about a mile away. I always remember seeing rows and rows of turnips and potatoes in the fields below Willie's Burn on the way. The teacher was Miss Jessie Robertson; some of her family farmed at Kinlochteacuis and Rahoy. She was the grand-aunt of Lord Robertson, one of Scotland's most distinguished statesmen. He was born at Port Ellen, Islay, and became Secretary General of NATO and Defence Secretary for the United Kingdom. I wasn't surprised to hear this as Miss Robertson was a very clever and talented teacher adored by us all.

'When we attended Claggan school there were 14 pupils, including some children from St Kilda who came to Morvern when their island home was evacuated in 1930. When the bombs started falling on the South of England in the Second World War, some of the Smith family were evacuated to Ardtornish and they too went to Claggan. I sat next to one of them, who became chairman of the London Stock Exchange. I can't remember if he was particularly good at sums or not but I am sure he had much to thank Miss Jessie Robertson for to get that grand position!

'Every week after the beginning of the Second World War, usually on a Saturday morning regardless of the weather, my sister Elsie and I made our way from Torr Molach to Corrospine (sometimes called 'Crosben') in the White Glen - a distance of almost five miles each way - to buy two pounds of butter from Mrs Livingstone, which was made from the milk of a cow which she and her husband Allan kept. The butter, which was carefully weighed out, was transported in a biscuit tin.

'We got to Corrospine by sharing a bicycle. One of us would set off on it with the other walking behind. The bicycle would be left at a recognised place for the walker. When she caught up, we did the same again, arriving at our destination about noon.'

Final part, next week.



## DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



This photograph comes from 1997 and shows some of the helpers at a Save the Children charity shop. They are, left to right, Jean Bettridge, Edith Stevenson (shift leader), Betty Campbell and Theresa MacDonald. But where was the shop?

In last week's photograph taken at Oban Sealife Centre, Patrick Van Der Merwe got in touch to say, 'I am the guy in the photo between the seal and the clown. Terry Donovan is the woman to the left of the seal in uniform. I'm sorry I can't remember more. It was possibly a birthday party, or the opening of a nature walk that was built. I am now teaching science in Glasgow.'



Being presented with a WRVS long-service award back in 1997 was Helen Margaret Kerr of Ballachulish. We have no information as to the identity of the other ladies.

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OT

# LETTERS

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

## School crossing campaigners have victory in sight

All credit to campaigners for a safer school crossing at Benderloch. It now appears that victory is in sight for them.

As we report this week, BEAR Scotland has produced revised drawings for the danger area near Lochnell Primary School and wants to hear people's opinions and comments before they progress.

Proposed improvements include a wider footpath, better paths into the car park and tactile surfaces at the crossing.

This has been a long-running campaign by concerned villagers, among them Beth Hadden, who is urging people to make their voices heard as a way of demonstrating the level of support. She also wants BEAR Scotland to act as swiftly as possible to 'get effective change in place'.

Our children's safety as they go to and from school is of paramount importance. We would echo Ms Hadden's call and hope action will be taken urgently now.

## Imminent retirement has been well-earned

Not many people can claim the longevity of working life as David Graham.

David is the third generation of his family to have run the bicycle and fishing tackle shop in Combie Street, Oban.

For no fewer than 50 years, David, like his father and grandfather before him, has worked in the shop that carries the family name, supplying thousands of people in the town and surrounding areas with their bikes.

David told The Oban Times that he is looking forward to spending more time with his wife Betty, who may also retire soon, and their children and grandchildren.

We wish David and Betty well and thank them for their long service to Oban.

## Cyclists blighted by an irresponsible few

I have to agree with the letter about cyclists from John Gosling of Barcaldine in last week's Lochaber and Oban Times, but I do feel that the vast majority of cyclists are being 'done down' by the irresponsible actions of the few who seem to think that 'it's all about them'.

Please correct me if I'm wrong, but, as I understand it, it was the cyclists themselves who originally complained about having to share the public roads with normal vehicular traffic.

At great expense, a network of cycle paths was built, many of them right alongside main roads, but all too many cyclists still seem to prefer to ignore them and dice with death on the main roads instead.

I have no problem with cyclists as such using the roads, but at least do it responsibly. The average speed of a leisure cyclist is around 15mph whereas the average speed of a motor vehicle is around 45mph, and bear in mind too that around half of the motor vehicles are working vehicles which have schedules to which to keep, so I think it's a bit off when cyclists refuse to let motor vehicles past them.

**Davie Kerr, Onich, Lochaber.**

## Deer are being driven from wintering ground

Jamie Hammond, SNH deer officer, is right to warn drivers about the dangers of deer on our public roads during the hours of darkness (Letters November 14) but it is a pity he does not explain why they are there.

In most cases, the reason is their traditional wintering ground is rapidly being replaced by thousands of acres of new, grant-rich, woodlands.

Don't blame the deer, Mr Hammond. The few that have survived your organisation's relentless eradication policy in the past few years are only trying to find shelter.

SNH has an input into deciding fence lines when a planting scheme reaches Forest and Land Scotland. Its staff should tackle the problem then and give both deer and the travelling public a break.

**Iain Thornber, Knock House, Morvern.**

## MSP and MP should make case for more money

You ran a version of the very long open letter

## 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](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk), post it to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB. Alternatively, hand it in to our offices in Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, or to our office in High Street, Fort William.

addressed to me from the local SNP MP and MSP, a letter that they found the time to send to the press, but didn't have the courtesy to send to me directly (Letters, November 7).

On the council, all councillors work well together – particularly when addressing the major challenges the local authority faces. Last year the SNP councillors supported the administration's budget, and this year there were only slight differences between the administration's budget and the SNP's.

It would be great to see our MP and MSP work with the council to make the case to

the Scottish Government for more money for Argyll and Bute. COSLA has made a very clear ask of the Scottish Government in terms of funding for local councils next year – three per cent plus inflation.

The choices facing the council would be substantially different if this was delivered and, of course, it is the Scottish Cabinet, including our MSP, who actually make the decisions.

The fact is that over the past 10 years, the council has had to make savings of over £50 million. That means real hardship for many local people – many jobs lost, many services



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## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

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



Mallaig to Glasgow and return train service. Question to ScotRail: why is this ongoing? Passengers are paying good money to sit in these ice boxes for more than four hours.

The staff onboard suffer the same, and must be sick to the teeth with travellers complaining about these conditions.

So, ScotRail, when is it going to improve for passengers and staff alike?

It wouldn't happen on ScotRail's pet Glasgow to Edinburgh route.

**Joe Wilson,**  
Aonachan Gardens, Spean Bridge.

### Uist dental services wishes are being ignored

The Western Isles Health and Social Care Integrated Joint Board (IJB) is seriously at odds with the Uist Locality Planning Group (ULPG), and with all other groups in the Uists who have cared to comment on the protracted decision-making of the IJB with regards to relocation of three community-based dental practices into a hub model of service delivery at Ospadal Uibhist agus Bharraigh at Balivanich.

The original proposals from the IJB go back over three years. The chairman of the ULPG has recently written in an open letter:

'Consultation - unanimous and community wide; informed opinion - ignored! As chair of the Uist Locality Planning Group for Health and Social Care, I write this having witnessed Uist-wide opinion being completely ignored regarding dental services.

'What is the point of a whole community, from Berneray to Eriskay, voicing opinion through local meetings in village halls if it is to simply be overruled and ignored?' (Chair: Theona Morrison.)

Of more concern is the manner by which this decision was reached, not by the IJB but by a report by two chief officers to the September meeting of the IJB. Is this how an important democratic institution should be functioning in the 21st century?

The IJB manages a budget of £60m. The comhairle and NHSWI are engaged in significant budget savings exercises, and in my view a clear conflict of interest exists in terms of them deciding on the future of dental services in the Uists.

Have dental patients and Uist communities been shafted by a centralised institution - the IJB - not fit for purpose?

**Andrew Walker, ex-member of the Uist Locality Planning Group.**

'S Neònach mura robh mòran agaibh a sheas nar tost airson dà mhionaid aig aon uair deug seachdain Diluain seo chaidh, an aona latha deug den t-Samhain, ceud agus aon bhliadhna bho chaidh crioch a' Chogaidh Mhòir a chomharrachadh an toiseach. Ged a tha cuimhne na chailleadh anns an Dàrna Cogadh, agus ann an cathannan eile bhon uairsin, a' gleidheadh aire tha e fìor gum bheil teaghlaichean a' call aithne air a' chuideachd a bhuineadh dhaibh a chaidh a dhith anns na h-ìomadh blàr a ghabh àite. Tha e cuideachd fìor nach eil riaghladairean an t-saoghail ag amas air sith a ghleidheadh, is tha "bruaillan cogaidh" mar a' sgrìobh an t-Ileach Donnchadh MacIain anns an òran eireachdail Sìne Bhàn is e fhèin ga thogail dhan Chogadh Mhòr ann an 1914, daonnan air faire. Ach a dh'aindeoin sin tha e math gum bheil sluagh mòr a' nochdadh urram cuimhne gach bliadhna air latha comharrachaidh na foise-fòirneirt, agus chan eil teagamh nach eil fiù 's am beagan tuigse air eachdraidh nam blàr a' toirt buaidh air daoine.

Bha smuaintean den t-seòrsa sin a' cur charan nam inntinn

nuair a thachair dhomh sgeulachd fhaicinn air naidheachdan telebhisean a dh'fhàg mi glè bhrònach. Dilleachdan aona bliadhna deug a dh'aois air tràigh Thripoli an ceann a tuath Afraga, air a bheò-ghlacadh leis an eagal, is e ag amas faotainn thairis air a' Mhuir Mheadhan-thìreach. Tha e a' feuchainn ri a shlighe a dhèanamh dhan Roinn Eòrpa far an robh a mhàthair nach maireann a' bruidh gum biodh e na chluicheadair ball-coise ainmeil latha air choreigin! 'S aithne dhan mhòr-chuid againn clann a tha aona bliadhna deug a dh'aois, agus tha e do-dhèanta dhuinn smaoinichadh orra ann an leithid seo de shuidheachadh! Cò nach fhairicheadh truas ris a' phàiste sin na aonar a' siubhal an t-saoghail? 'S e còmhstri agus easbhaidh eaconamach a dh'fhàg am balach seo agus na mìltean eile anns an t-suidheachadh chunnartach sam bheil iad ag imrich nan èiginn a' lorg tèarmann agus beatha ùr. Tha a' mhòr-chuid aca a' sìreadh bith-beò agus an seòrsa tèarainteachd agus cofhurtachd a tha againne mar chòir, tèarainteachd a choisneadh dhuinn le iobairt nan ìomadh beatha a th'

air, agus is còir, an cuimhneachadh chan ann a-mhàin san t-Samhain gach bliadhna ach gach latha a tha sinn beò san t-saorsa a thug iad dhuinn!

Thuirte ceatharnaich cogaidh bho gach linn gur e duine aineolach air nach robh eagal ri uchd bualaidh, agus gun teagamh cha b' ann len deòin a dh'fhàg iad dachaigh agus luchd an gaoil 's an eòlais. B' e dleastanas a bh' ann, mar a tha an dleastanas a th' oirne uile carthannas agus coibhneas a nochdadh dhan fheadhainn a tha a' lorg comraich agus tèarainteachd.

The 101st anniversary of the first armistice service and the nationwide two minutes of silent respect for those who gave 'their tomorrow' to safeguard 'our today' was poignantly appropriate. Our freedom should be our daily reminder of what they achieved.

**Aileen Caimbeul**  
(Allan Campbell)  
[aileen@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:aileen@obantimes.co.uk)

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



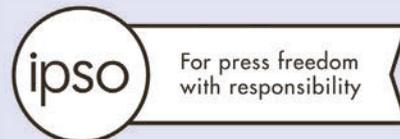
This week's photograph was sent in by Ann Murray Fraser, who said: 'Sending this stunning pic of Oban Bay ... a spectacular sunset.' Ann added a postscript: 'Dance lots and go home when you're tired.'

withdrawn. That's the sad reality. Like all councillors, I'm sure, I would be happy to work with the local MP and MSP to make the case for more funding for Argyll and Bute.

**Councillor Aileen Morton,**  
Leader - Argyll and Bute Council.

### When are we going to have heating on trains?

Here we are once again in a winter of discontent with ScotRail doing its annual impression of a fridge freezer on wheels - ie, the



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

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# DISTRICT NEWS

## BENDERLOCH

Bookends pop-up days at the Victory Hall take place today (Thursday November 21) from 11am to 6.30pm and then again on Friday December 13 from 11am to 6pm. Cake and cuppas are on offer while visitors browse for books.

From 2pm on each of those days there will be a Finish What You Started session, giving people a chance to bring any kind of project they are working on to move on with it in a supportive atmosphere. There will also be an opportunity to add a handprint to the Reading Room's new reading blanket.

## COLONSAY

Colonsay Surgery is looking for a new GP to look after its 136 registered patients.

Applicants need to have remote and rural experience and will be expected to provide out-of-hours cover for the island, for which there will be extra pay. Interested? Contact Joyce Robinson, primary care manager, on 01436 655044 or Morven Gemmill, locality manager, on 01631 788942. The closing date is November 29.

## DALMALLY

Liam Griffin will be giving a talk and presentation on Kilbride Kirk at Dalmally Community Centre tomorrow, Friday November 22 at 7.30pm. Hear all about the conservation and preservation work happening at the site, much of it funded by charity Friends of Kilbride, which was formed a few years ago.

Tickets will be going on sale soon for a dance at Dalmally Community Centre on Saturday December 28 featuring The New Madrids who have played at Belladrum, Tíree Music Festival, Loopallu to name but a few big events.

## DUNSTAFFNAGE

The Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust will be running free survey expeditions each month over the win-

## School remembers war lives lost



Lomond School primary six children led a special remembrance assembly.

Lomond School has commemorated former pupils who lost their lives in the First World War through an installation of silhouettes.

An assembly led by primary six pupils also focused on the outbreak of the Second World War and the experiences of the children who were evacuated.

Throughout the school, perspex silhouettes, donated by former pupil Ross Perella, were placed in

remembrance of the Larchfield boys and the sacrifices they made.

The silhouettes, which are part of the There But Not There campaign, were all marked with the name of a former Larchfield pupil who lost their life during the First World War.

Larchfield School for boys merged with St Bride's School for girls in 1977 to form Lomond School.

Deputy head teacher Alister

Minnis said: 'It's incredibly important to us that each of our current pupils are made aware of the sacrifices made by those who lost their lives during the two world wars as we make tribute to former Larchfield boys.'

'Larchfield is very much intertwined within Lomond's history with the former pupils part of our story and we continue to remember them within the school each year.'

ter. Join a training day on Saturday, November 23, so you can go on board its vessel Silurian, pictured, and help to research whales and dolphins in the Hebrides. The training will take place at SAMS from 10.15am to 3.30pm. These surveys are aimed at those living in the area and will take place over three days within a predetermined week, so the best weather days within that week can be picked. Contact biodiversityoficer@hwdt.org.



## PORTSONACHAN

Portsonachan Carpet Bowling Club presents its open doubles at the village hall on Saturday November 30. The draw is at 7pm prompt. Entry is £15 per pair. Register as early as possible, call 07821 674619 or email boyles2016@outlook.com

## TAYNUILT

Taynuilt Village Hall has its big quiz with Colin Will on Saturday, November 23, from 7.30pm with supper and a raffle. Bring your own bottle. Tickets are £6 available from the Post Office.

## TOBERMORY

Santa's little helpers are getting Tobermory Lifeboat Station ready for lots of grotto fun on Friday November 29 from 5.30pm. Tickets are £3 per child with proceeds going to Tobermory Christmas lights fund.

## GLENCRUITTEN



Nonna Moll from Glencruitten's Cathedral of Trees sent in this photograph of nature paying its own respects to lives lost at war. The fallen red leaves add to the poignancy.

## OBAN

Lorn Natural History Group has got a year of Saturday field trips lined up for 2020.

The first on January 18 is looking at lichens, liverworts, hornworts and mosses in Dunollie Wood, followed by a similar activity at Fearnoch on February 15 and a stroll along



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## At random

MARTIN LAING

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



# Book reveals how an elk helped out Glen Orchy



Members of Dalmally History Association celebrate their latest publication.

The story of how a giant New Zealand elk was shipped into Glen Orchy to help big up its red deer stock is just one of the revelations and tales in a new book just out.

Members of the Dalmally Historical Association met at the Ben Cruachan Inn at Lochawe to celebrate the launch of their latest publication last week.

Old Arichastlich – A brief history of life in Glen Orchy – is a 32-page booklet in full colour and written by longtime resident in the glen, John Kerr.

Its focus is on the atmospheric old Arichastlich with a comprehensive visitor's guide, compiled by Jess Dinning and Steve Beesley, showing a plan of the settlement with photographs making it a useful publication for anyone interested in local history.

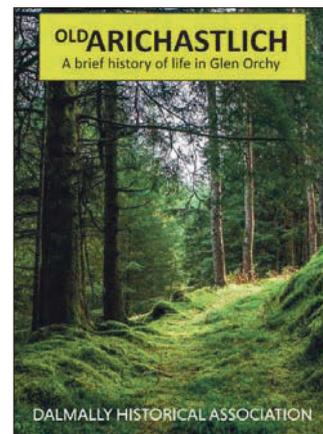
'Remnants of a turf and stone shieling, a shepherd's long-byre, a barn, an Improver's house with orchard and hot-house, a flax-retting area, a corn kiln, with nearby lazy beds – old Arichastlich contains a rich

history of life in the glen,' said Mr Kerr.

The book also has a map of other sites of historic interest in the glen with online links to help find them and there is information about the Wapiti cage over the river from Arichastlich.

The three-metre high iron cage was built to contain a New Zealand elk, imported to help increase the numbers of red deer stock.

The book costs £5, plus post and packaging, and is available from [dalmallyhistory.org](http://dalmallyhistory.org)



## Off to a flyer

I was lucky enough last year to do a scenic tourist flight out of Oban Airport, which took us north around Castle Stalker before turning south again and circling Oban and Kerrera.

It was my first time in a small aircraft and it was fabulous. It also got me thinking about other types of flights I've never done but would very much like to experience.

So I was particularly interested in the story we ran last week about the imminent return of seaplanes to Oban. Apparently, Loch Lomond Seaplanes intend to resume operations between Duck Bay near Balloch and Oban marina at Kerrera.

Company owner David West says he will run two or three flights daily following a hiatus of around seven years.

That will be a brilliant bonus for the Oban economy, but not simply in terms of the additional spend in the town from those flying in. It will also give the town and its surrounding areas a major boost in terms of profile.

Wouldn't you just love to have a flight in a seaplane, landing on the water in beautiful Oban Bay? I know I would.

## Help the RNLI

I make no apology for returning again this week to the subject of Oban lifeboat, which is trying to find new volunteer recruits, having written last week about a fundraising campaign.

Sadly, I am far too long in the tooth (the upper age limit is 55) to be able to throw my hat into the ring as a volunteer, but I would urge anyone who might be able to contribute to the station's vital, life-saving activities to see if they are suitable.

To find out what it takes to be part of the team aboard the all-weather lifeboat Mora Edith MacDonald, the RNLI is inviting potential volunteers to go along to a recruitment night on Monday November 25 at the town's station at the South Pier, starting at 7pm.

Give it a go. It is a fantastic team there and they do wonderful work.

## What do you think?

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

the latest Sustrans cycle path at Ledaig, near Benderloch on March 21.

Other destinations coming up are Sites of Special Scientific Interest at Barran Dubh and Esragan Burn, then there will be Lismore's west coast, Kerrera, Rannoch Moor, Seil, Duror, Carnach Wood and finishing in the winter woods of Appin in the December.

Full details of the trips will be

given nearer the time as dates and venues could change, says the group but they normally start at 10am on the day and end in the afternoon.

The trips are free to group members and for visitors a suggested donation is £2.

To find out more about the trips and joining the group go online to [lnhg.org.uk](http://lnhg.org.uk) or search for Lorn Natural History Group on Facebook.

## WESTERN ISLES

Apprentices in the Western Isles will be among the first in Scotland to be supported in the process of accessing low-cost housing as part of a new initiative to encourage young people to stay in the islands.

The commitment is a key feature of a new Charter Agreement which was signed between Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Skills Development Scotland (SDS) at

the Convention of the Highlands and Islands in Inverness.

The charter is a first-of-its-kind agreement between a local authority and Skills Development Scotland, outlining a joint commitment to developing, delivering and monitoring services to ensure the needs of the people in the Western Isles are met in terms of education, employment and skills for the benefit of the Islands' economy.

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# OUTDOORS

## Sculptures follow nature's way

A unique Cairngorms sculpture trail is slowly losing its works of art – just as the artist intended.

The Frank Bruce Sculpture Trail hosts an impressive collection of work in timber and stone in the 'archetypal abstraction' style developed by the self-taught, Aviemore-based sculptor Frank Bruce (1931-2009).

Sited on land managed by Forestry and Land Scotland, the striking carvings explore Scottish culture and our relationship with others. That some of the sculptures will weaken and fail, while others stand the test of time was a key element of Frank's concept.

Maree Morrison, recreation ranger with the FLS team in Glenmore, said: 'The sculptures, many of them created from Scots pine from here in Inshriach forest, fill the woodland with spirits and stories. It's quite poignant that some of the smaller pieces have already rotted away. It really gives you pause for thought when you're walking round the trail.'

'Since Frank died, there has been an effort to preserve the sculptures but long-term exposure to the elements has resulted in a couple of the really large timber ones suffering internal rot that has made them potentially dangerous.'

'We've lowered those sculptures to the ground now but we have made sure that they are facing "up" so that visitors can still enjoy them.'

'Hopefully, our actions – which are entirely about public safety – will feed in to visitors' interpretation and understanding of Frank's vision.'

The three stone sculptures ensure some permanent presence onsite and will remain as a memorial to this talented and thought-provoking artist.

The River Feshie trail and the Feshie woodland trail start from the main car park, giving good views of the river. The trails are also wheelchair friendly and there is a small dedicated car park for disabled visitors.

# Hedgehog haven in the Highlands

Have you seen a hedgehog recently? It's quite possible you have not due to their severe decline, writes Andrew Lambert.

There were estimated to be more than 30 million of the tiny, spiny omnivores roaming the UK in the 1950s but latest estimates suggest that only one million remain in the wild.

Highland Titles Nature Reserve at Duror is approaching the end of construction of a purpose-built hedgehog hospital to increase the capacity of their existing hedgehog rescue programme.

This week the Lochaber Times and Oban Times were happy to have a behind-the-scenes tour with reserve manager Stewart Borland and to donate several bundles of old newspapers to the cause.

Working with Crown Vets in Fort William and Hesselhead Wildlife Rescue in Beith, Ayrshire, Highland Titles is able to provide a safe, forever home for hedgehogs that they are not able to release back into the wild.

### Forever Home

Stewart told us: 'It's early days numbers wise, but the overall total must be around 18 hedgehogs already. There are currently six in the forever home, including two blind ones and two three-legged hedgehogs, all of which are doing fine.'

'We have already released eight back into the wild and have the three you have seen who will move to the hospital.'

The reserve is currently home to two baby hedgehogs who need to be put on more weight before they can hibernate. They were found by a dog in Fort William, rescued by Crown Vets and brought to Highland Titles to be nursed back to health.

Stewart continued: 'The hospital capacity at start up will be for eight hedgehogs, but that will grow as we need the extra facilities, as we get better known and more arrive needing our help.'

'The help from Sophie at Crown Vets in Fort



William, and Andy and Gay at Hesselhead Animal Rescue Centre in Irvine has been invaluable.

'In the future I'm hoping to move beyond just hedgehogs and become a small animal rescue facility, but one step at a time.'

Top, Stewart Borland, reserve manager, with one of the rescued hedgehogs; left, one of the two hoglets that need to gain weight before they can hibernate; and above, a purpose-built hedgehog hospital is almost completed at the reserve.

Est 2005 • Isle of Jura



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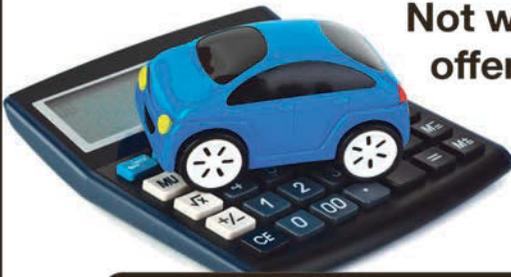
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## This week's walks

Nirmal Purja pictured at the summit of Everest, will be the main speaker at the Fort William Mountain Festival in February 2020.



## 'Death Zone' mountaineer Nirmal Purja to headline Fort William Mountain Festival

Fort William Mountain Festival 2020 has announced that a 36-year-old Nepalese mountaineer and former Gurkha in the British Special Forces, Nirmal Purja MBE, will headline the festival with a truly inspirational talk.

The mountaineer will talk about his Herculean achievement where he summited all 14 'death zone' mountains (over 8,000 metres) in a record-obliterating six months.

In its 16th year, organisers of the Fort William Mountain Festival will once again stage a stunning line-up packed full of inspiration, education and entertainment, action and adventure, at venues in and around the bustling Highland town of Fort William, at the heart of the Outdoor Capital of the UK, from Wednesday to Sunday, February 19 to 23, 2020.

The programme includes presentations from world-class outdoor adventurers, adrenaline-filled and thought-provoking films from the festival's international film

competition entries and the Banff Centre Mountain Festival World Tour; a number of award nights, including the Scottish Awards for Excellence in Mountain Culture and the Photographer of the Year Award; thought-provoking environmental discussions; and a collection of quality fringe events, including winter mountain skills workshops, yoga classes and bike and running themed nights.

Rod Pashley, chairman of The Highland Mountain Culture Association, organisers of the Fort William Mountain Festival, said: 'Celebrating the wild landscape that surrounds us in Fort William and Lochaber is the inspiration behind the mountain festival. The mountains, glens, rivers and coastline influence our culture in many ways, whether it is the beauty of the landscape, our engagement with it or the opportunities we find in it.'

'The Fort William Mountain Festival has something for every-

one with a love for the outdoors. We are especially pleased to announce our main Saturday night speaker will be the remarkable Nims Purja, who has successfully climbed all 14, 8000m peaks in less than seven months. An astonishing record and achievement. Normally this takes seven years.

'Of course, the festival is not just for high adrenaline adventure enthusiasts. It is for everyone who appreciates the great outdoors. With the best winter walking, climbing and snowsports conditions of the year, visiting Fort William and Lochaber in February for the mountain festival is the perfect time of year to experience the stunning landscape first-hand.'

To find out more about the Fort William Mountain Festival 2020 and to buy tickets, go to [mountainfestival.co.uk](http://mountainfestival.co.uk).

For up to the minute news and event updates, go to [www.facebook.com/fort.william.mountain.festival](http://www.facebook.com/fort.william.mountain.festival).

### LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

The walk leader is to be contacted beforehand for meet-up and start times. Car sharing usually possible and people can try before they buy. Further information at [www.lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk](http://www.lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk) Saturday November 23, Gleann Dubh Lìghe, Glenfinnan. Gleann Dubh Lìghe lies between Glenfinnan and Gleann Fionnlighe on the north side of the A830.

Follow a good track climbing steadily up the glen through forest with the Dubh Lìghe river on the right, often in deep chasms, where parties of canyoneers can sometimes be seen and heard.

Ancient oak trees line the river. The forest opens out after about 4km to reveal beautiful grassy slopes up to Meall an Uillt Chaoil to the west, Na h-Uamhachan to the east and Streap to the north. The walk continues to a large ruin at NM 947837, but the path can be followed further, if desired, before retracing the route back.

Grade: L. Distance: 10km. Height to climb: 250m. Maps LR40 EX399. Meet at: Fort William Woollen Mill 0910. Start of Walk 0930. Leader: Sheila McKenzie 01967402122 or 07880891262.

### Thursday November 28, Meall Odhar and Beinn Chruin, Tyndrum.

A Corbett overshadowed by Ben Lui.

Park at Tyndrum Lower station head north west along track on west side of railway. At path junction NN 322305 turn west and climb up passed old mine working to the top of Sron nan Colan.

Head round top of coire to Meall Odhar. Turn north west and head through the gap in trees leading down to bealach spot height 473 before heading to the top of Beinn Chruin 880. Turn south easterly down ridge before heading south to cross Allt Eas Anie above waterfalls. At the track turn east pass Cononish then take the left fork at NN315286 and follow this track back to the start.

Grade: S. Distance: 13Km. Height to climb: 960m. Map(s): LR41,

EX384. Meet at: Glencoe Village CP NN098587at 0830. Start of walk at 0930. Leader: Ian Moir 07973836498

### NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

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

### Sunday November 24, Am Bodach, Sgurr an Iubhair, Kinlochleven.

A circuit around Coire na h-Eirghe taking in two fine spurs of the main Mamore Ridge that are not often visited, being off the regularly beaten track around the Ring of Steall. Start from the Grey Mare's Tail CP in Kinlochleven, NN187622. Head NW along the back street to the B863 bridge over the Allt Coire na Ba to join the WHW. This route soon forks right onto a footpath that climbs NW through woodland, crosses the Mamore Lodge approach road and continues up to join a track.

Follow this for 150m only, then turn N up the slope to about 330m alt, then curve NE and continue up the fall-line to reach the summit of the small spur of Sgurr an Fhuairin at about 740m. Turn NW up steeper rocky ground to another spur at about 890m and head NNE for the rim of the small but spectacular Coire a' Bhodaichex. Follow the rim NNW up to the summit of Am Bodach. Turn W and traverse the impressive ridge between the huge, N-facing Coire a' Mhail and the S-facing Coire na h-Eirghe to reach the summit of Sgurr an Iubhair. Descend S and follow the rim of Coire na h-Eirghe down to the spur of Stob Coire na h-Eirghe, 826m. Descend very steeply S to reach the WHW\* and return to the start by the outward route

\*An easier descent retraces steps E from the summit of Sgurr an Iubhair to the head of a footpath at NN168652. This leads down through Coire na h-Eirghe to the WHW.

11km, 1183m ascent Suggested by Gavin Theobald. Coordinated by Andrew Gilbert.

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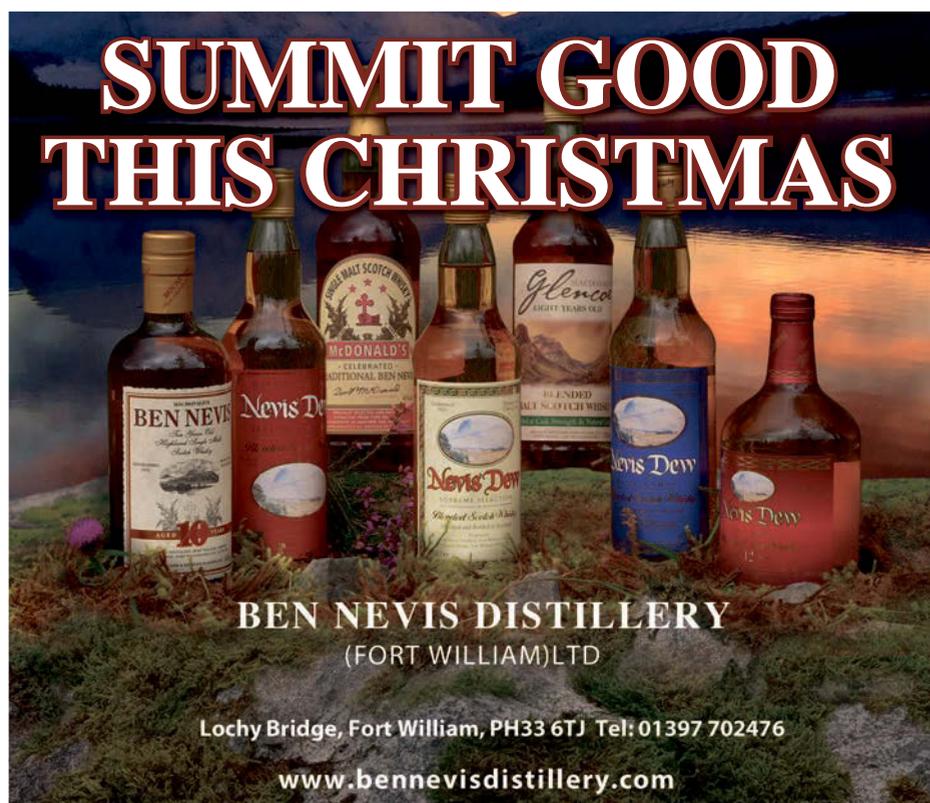


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# LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

## Lismore ceilidh-life goes on record

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Lismore islanders are 'soundly' following in the footsteps of such music greats as the Rolling Stones, The Killers and U2.

What some of the world's most famous bands and a talented crowd of Lismore inhabitants all have in common is that their albums have shared the same Brighton-based mastering engineer.

Avid supporter of unsigned music Pete Maher, tagged as the best in Britain, and who also had a hand to play in hit movie La La Land's soundtrack, has been putting the finishing professional touches to a double CD recorded on the tiny Inner Hebridean island in a recording studio owned by gigging musician and retired builder Davy Clincart, who moved there three years ago.

Sounds From The Great



The album opens the door on a modern-day Lismore house-party: above, Lismore Voices.

Garden is a ceilidh-style celebration of Lismore's artists and will be released on November 30.

Funded by the island's Gaelic Centre and born from the island's September-time

Taproot Festival, the CD opens the door on a modern-day Lismore house-party.

'To have such a high-population of artists in such a small island really is something to celebrate. Lismore is

the kind of magical place that draws that type of person,' said Davy.

'The CD is a snapshot of Lismore society and typical of the modern informal ceilidhs that go on in people's houses

here. It's like a timepiece – in 70 years someone could listen to it and get a sound reflection of how Lismore entertained itself.

'We had more than three hours of material to choose from in the end and finally got it down to two hours. The content is extraordinary but typical to our island,' added Davy, who was not short of contributions from willing performers and spent hours upon hours working on it, long after the recording light went out.

From herding 20 choir members from Lismore Voices tightly into the studio built onto Davy's Tirlaggan home, to jazz musicians, schoolchildren and 84-year-old Duncan Laggan singing in Lismore Gaelic, the CD captured not just music and song but spoken word and stories too.

Lismore Voices sing a Russian orthodox hymn

for it, and top artist Mairi Campbell – who has just been inducted into the Scottish Traditional Music Hall of Fame – performs a new composition called A Wee Herd Laddie. A salty tale of high seas adventure written by a dad for his son's seventh birthday is part of the package, too, as is The Hill Gathering, a descriptive piece about rounding-up sheep written and performed by island shepherd Arthur Cross.

'It's definitely not another tartan, shortbread, jigs'n'reels CD – that's not what you hear when you go to someone's house here for a party. People do all sorts of different things and that's what people who buy it can expect – an invite to a Lismore party,' said Davy.

Sounds From The Great Garden will be available at Lismore shop, Oban Music as well as on iTunes, Apple and Amazon.

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### DIARDAOIN 21th An t-Samhain

#### THURSDAY 21th November

17:00 Programan 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 Luingeann Lannsaireachd/Surgey Ships (rpt)  
23:00 ÙR/NEW: Belladrum 2019 (highlights)  
23:30 Mach a Seo (rpt)

### DIHAOINE 22 An t-Samhain

#### FRIDAY 22 th An t-Samhain

17:00 Programan Chloinne – Children's Programming  
18:35 Machair (rpt)  
19:00 An Là – News  
19:25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)  
19:30 Cearcall (rpt)  
20:00 Port (rpt)  
20:30 Dealbhan Fraoich (rpt)  
21:00 DIY le Donnie (rpt)  
21:45 An Sgrudaire (rpt)  
22:00 Trapped (S2) (rpt)  
22:50 Dhan Uisge (rpt)  
23:00 Belladrum 2019 (Highlights) (rpt)

### DISATHAIRNE 23 An t-Samhain

#### SATURDAY 23th November

16:00 Programan Chloinne – Children's Programming  
17:45 An Là – News  
18:00 ÙR/NEW: Scottish Premiership – St Mirren v Ross County  
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 Luingeann Lannsaireachd (rpt)  
23:00 Scottish Premiership – St Mirren v Ross County (rpt)

### DIDÒMHNAICH 24th An t-Samhain

#### SUNDAY 24th November

16:00 ÙR/NEW: Women's Scottish Cup Final 2019 – Glasgow City FC vs Hibernian FC  
18:30 An Là – News  
18:45 Seachd Là – News Review  
19:45 ÙR/NEW: Alleluia! (rpt)  
20:15 Ceol bho Perthshire Amber (rpt)  
20:30 Eorpa/European Current Affairs (rpt)  
21:00 Na Gleidheadairean (The Animak Keepers) (rpt)  
22:00 Belladrum 2019 (Highlights) (rpt)  
23:00 Trapped S2 (rpt)  
23:50 Dhan Uisge (rpt)

### DILUAIN 25th An t-Samhain

#### MONDAY 25th November

17:00 Programan 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 – Ar Teaghlach/Our Family (rpt)  
22:00 TradFest (rpt)  
22:30 Opry le Daniel (rpt)  
23:20 An Sgrudaire (rpt)  
23:35 Ceol bho Perthshire Amber(rpt)

### DIMÀIRT 26th An t-Samhain

#### TUESDAY 26th November

17:00 Programan 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 Dith Anail: Beo le Cystic Fibrosis/ Breathless: Living with Cystic Fibrosis (rpt)  
22:00 Trusadh S11 – Ar Teaghlach/Our Family (rpt)  
23:00 Port (rpt)  
23:30 Alleuia! (rpt)

### DIADAIN 27th An t-Samhain

#### WEDNESDAY 27th November

17:00 Programan 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  
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 28th An t-Samhain

#### THURSDAY 28th November

17:00 Programan 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 Luingeann Lannsaireachd/Surgey Ships (rpt)  
23:00 Ceol bho Perthshire Amber (rpt)  
23:20 Dhan Uisge (rpt)  
23:30 Mach a Seo (rpt)

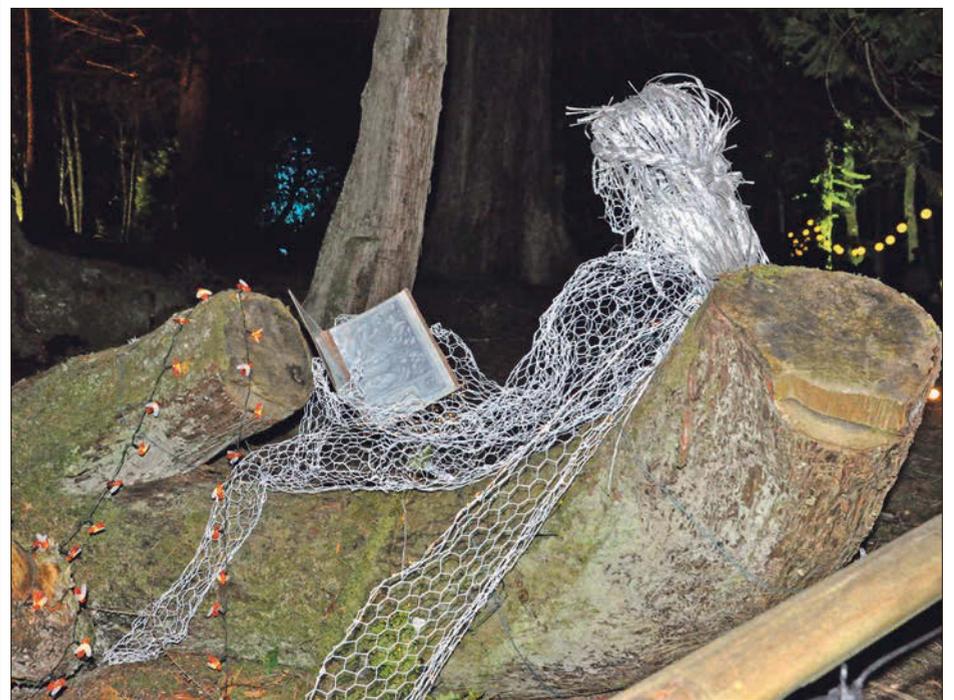


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Above, elves Rowan Gemmell, Erin Farrelly and Isabella Nicholson help with the present donations at the Rockfield Centre; and, below, a fairy reading in Glencruitten woods.



# Magical start Oban Winter

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



The ninth Oban Winter Festival got off to a magical start last Friday as the Winter Queen, riding her unicorn, and her entourage cast their spell around the town to light the way for an action-packed 2019 event.

There were bumper turnouts to weekend events, and a promise of plenty more fun in store in the days to come.

Organisers said the food and craft markets around

the town had been very well attended. Volunteers at Argyll Animal Aid were delighted with the turnout at their event in the Corran Halls, while the distillery and Perle Hotel markets also enjoyed a huge footfall.

'The town was really busy and there was a great atmosphere,' said a spokesperson for the organising committee. 'Friday night's parade went down extremely well with retailers and residents along George Street and beyond, adding to the magic.'

The enchanted woodland trail in Glencruitten was deemed 'absolutely amazing' by attendees, while Gary Goldie's (oranged food and whisky pairing event, attracted an international audience.

Lego lovers stacked up to see the displays on show at the Oban Winter Bricks event, with enthusiasts of all ages testing their creative skills at St Columba's Cathedral hall.

More than 500 visitors of all ages attended the Northern Lighthouse Board open days over Saturday and Sunday.

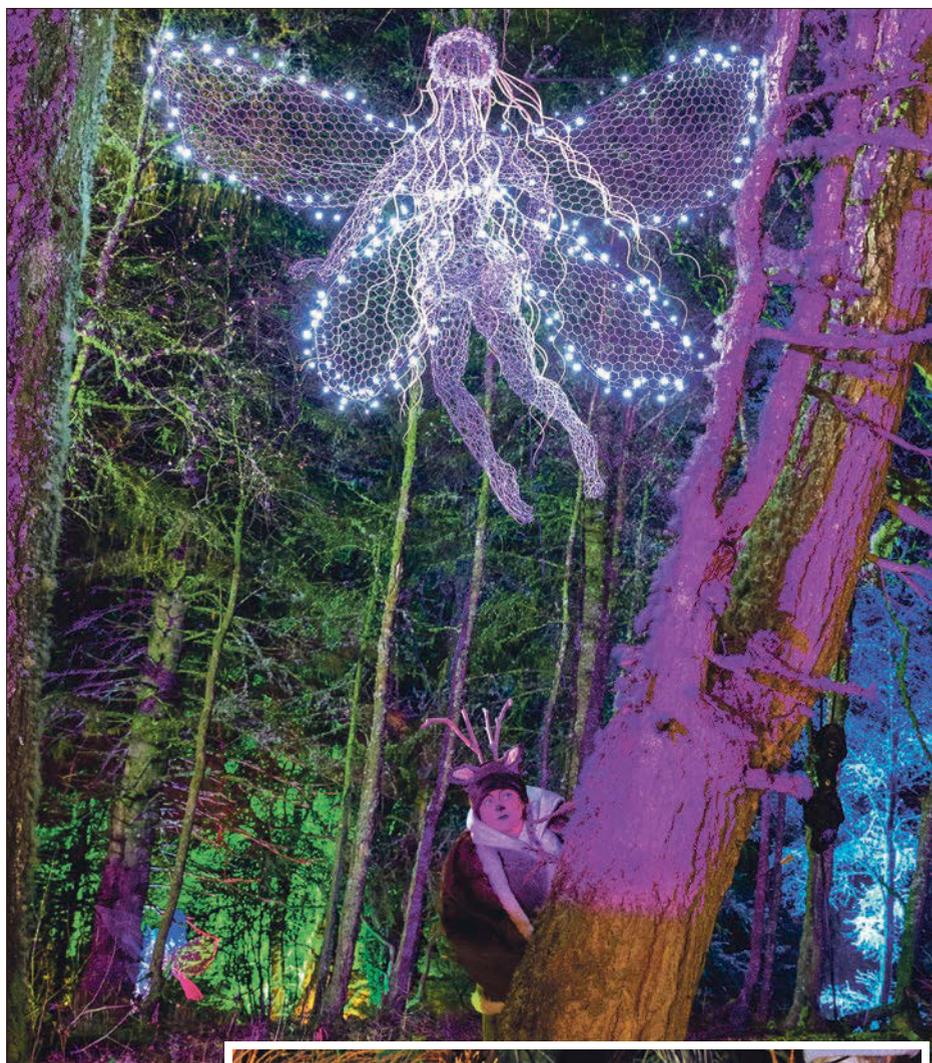
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Above, hide and seek with the fairies in the Winter Wood.

Photograph: Stephen Lawson; and right, the fairy queen holds her audience enthralled.



# ...t to 2019 ...er Festival

And there's still plenty to look forward to, including today's late-night shopping, plus the much anticipated reindeer parade, organised by BID4Oban, on Saturday which ends with the Christmas lights switch-on.

Saturday also sees Frozen 2 at Oban's Phoenix Cinema, a Tartan Dash parkrun, the haggis hurling championships, and food and craft markets throughout the town.

Oban Photographic Club, in conjunction with Under The Skin Camera Club, will be

holding a Christmas market at the Rockfield Centre on Friday and Saturday, where there will be an exhibition and sale of photographic merchandise.

The event provides an opportunity for both clubs to come together to promote photography and club membership in Oban.

Sunday features the whisky and haggis festivals, Dunollie Makes Christmas, Atlantis Leisure's roller disco and snowboard simulator and Rockfield's

winter wonderland grotto. Rounding off the day will be the Oban Winter Festival light and fire show at the distillery courtyard where the parade of haggis hunters and an auction of Christmas hats will take place. OHS Pipe Band will be in attendance along with Oban FM.

On Monday November 25, there will be a hand bells and Christmas carols concert, featuring Muckairn Ringers, Fumiko Miller and Mairi Harrower, in Oban Parish Church.

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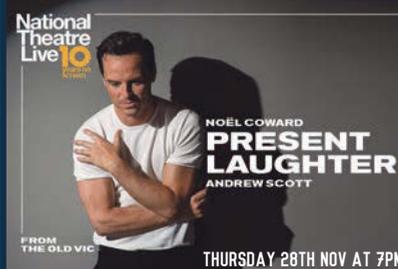
**FRIDAY 22ND NOVEMBER**  
Frozen 2 | PG 12:00/16:15/18:45  
The Addams Family | PG 16:30  
The Peanut Butter Falcon | 12A 19:00

**SATURDAY 23RD NOVEMBER**  
Frozen 2 | PG 13:30/16:00/18:30  
The Addams Family | PG 16:30  
The Peanut Butter Falcon | 12A 18:45

**SUNDAY 24TH NOVEMBER**  
BFI Film Academy: Student Animation Films 11:00  
Frozen 2 | PG 12:00/14:30/17:45  
Monthly Musical: Bohemian Rhapsody | 12A 17:00  
The Peanut Butter Falcon | 12A 19:45  
Joker | 15 20:00

**3D SHOWINGS ARE SHOWN AS RED**  
GLASSES RENTAL IS INCLUDED IN THE TICKET PRICE

BFI FILM ACADEMY OBAN PRESENTS  
**ANIMATION FILM SCREENING**  
At Oban Phoenix Cinema  
Sunday November 24th 11:00  
Am  
Visit [screenargyll.co.uk](http://screenargyll.co.uk) or  
[oban\\_animation@bfi.org.uk](mailto:oban_animation@bfi.org.uk) for more  
details and tickets



Matthew Warchus directs Andrew Scott (BBC's Sherlock, Fleabag) in Noel Coward's provocative comedy Present Laughter.

As he prepares to embark on an overseas tour, star actor Garry Essendine's colourful life is in danger of spiralling out of control. Engulfed by an escalating identity crisis as his many and various relationships compete for his attention, Garry's few remaining days at home are a chaotic whirlwind of love, sex, panic and soul-searching.

Captured live from The Old Vic in London, Present Laughter is a giddy and surprisingly modern reflection on fame, desire and loneliness.

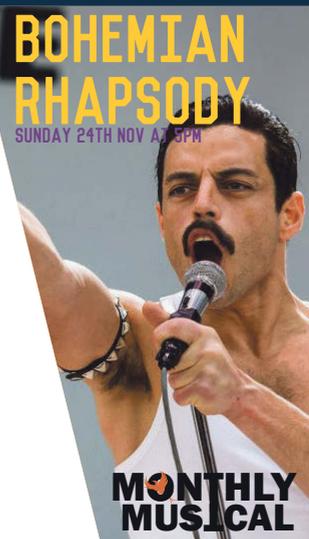
**MONDAY 25TH NOVEMBER**  
Frozen 2 | PG 12:00/16:15/18:45  
The Addams Family | PG 16:30  
The Peanut Butter Falcon | 12A 19:00

**TUESDAY 26TH NOVEMBER**  
Frozen 2 | PG 12:00★/16:15/18:45  
The Addams Family | PG 16:30  
The Peanut Butter Falcon | 12A 19:00

**WEDNESDAY 27TH NOVEMBER**  
Frozen 2 | PG 12:00★/16:15/18:45  
The Addams Family | PG 16:30  
The Peanut Butter Falcon | 12A 19:00

**THURSDAY 28TH NOVEMBER**  
2040 | PG 14:30★  
Frozen 2 | PG 16:15/17:15  
NT Live: Present Laughter | 12A 19:00 *Drinks Available*  
The Peanut Butter Falcon | 12A 19:45

**3D SHOWINGS ARE SHOWN AS RED**  
GLASSES RENTAL IS INCLUDED IN THE TICKET PRICE



**MONTHLY MUSICAL**

**KIDS CLUB WILL RESUME SATURDAY 30TH**  
Shaun The Sheep:  
Farmageddon 11:00

**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](http://www.bbfc.co.uk) for more information about film certificates.

Gold and silver dumping winner Anne Napier with Emma Murdoch, baby Cillian McGrady, and Hailey Napier at the Corran Halls.

Photograph: Kevin McGlynn



Rosie, left, and Joy Kidd made the most of the entertainment on offer at the distillery.



Friday night's principal players, from left, Eilidh Betts (Winter Queen), Alexandria Betts, Becky Scott, Elaine Cameron and Carole Needham.



Above, Mhari and Hazel MacLeod enjoyed taking the driver's seat in an Oban fire engine; left, Alasdair and Annie paid a visit to the Polestar over the weekend; and below, one of many stunning Lego displays at Oban Winter Bricks.



## Come away in...

Our cozy warm bar is a welcome retreat serving all our classic dishes



### WINTER AT THE TAYVALLICH INN

We are open Tuesday to Sunday serving lunch and dinner from our new winter menu.

See our website for full details and opening hours.

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

For reservations contact us on 01546 870282

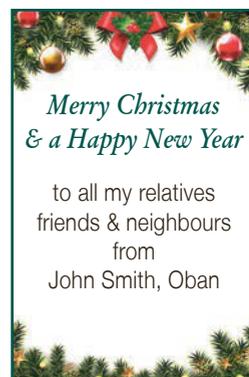


## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

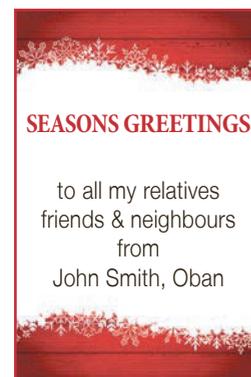
Published on 12th December

SEND A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO FRIENDS FOR JUST £20

A



B



C



Simply fill in the coupon below with your special festive message and send or hand in to:-

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OBAN TIMES, 22 HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM TEL: 01397 703003

ONLY £20 (inc. VAT.) OPTIONS A,B OR C.

PAY BY CHEQUE / PO or Phone in your message quoting your Master Card/Visa Number  
Deadline Friday 6th December. To appear Thursday 12th December

MESSAGE 20 words maximum

\*NAME ..... A  B  C   
ADDRESS.....  
.....  
..... Tel.....  
PLEASE TICK A BOX FOR THE TEMPLATE YOU WISH TO USE.  
\*(NOT FOR PUBLICATION)

20 words maximum PRIVATE ADVERTISERS ONLY



Hazel MacCormick, Lismore Luminations, at her stall in the distillery.



Queen Victoria and her entourage had a busy weekend spreading the word for Mary's Meals.



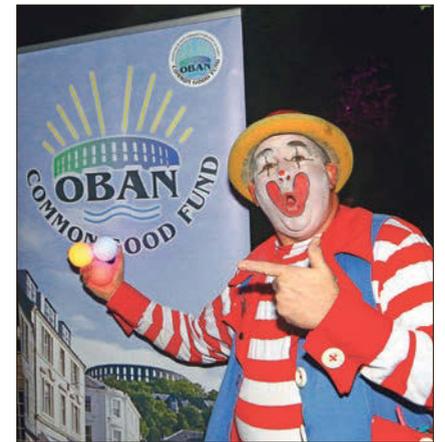
Face painting at the Winter Woods.



The Fairy Queen at the Winter Woods. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn



Derek Cockerell from Livingston was one of many Lego enthusiasts to display their creations at Oban Winter Bricks.



Clowning around. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn

# Cheesy potato and ham bake



Slimming World

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.

## 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.

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

**LOCHGILPHEAD**  
Lochgilphead  
Baptist Church  
Union Street/ Argyll Street  
Mondays 5.30pm & 7.30pm  
Tel: Rhona 07880 878 906

**FORT WILLIAM**  
Salvation Army Hall  
16 Belford Road, Fort William  
Monday 9.30am & 11.30am  
Thursday 3pm, 5pm & 7pm  
Tel: Gillian 07796 040 803

**CAMPBELTOWN**  
Masonic Recreational  
Lodge, St John Street  
Tuesdays 1pm,  
5.30pm & 7.30pm  
Tel: Rhona 07880 878 906

Detailed recipes available at:  
[slimmingworld.co.uk](http://slimmingworld.co.uk)



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

**HARBOURVIEW**  
GRILLE

**THE KINTYRE**  
RESTAURANT + BAR

TO MAKE A ROOM OR DINNER RESERVATION,  
EMAIL [RESERVATIONS@MACHDUNES.COM](mailto:RESERVATIONS@MACHDUNES.COM) OR CALL 01586 810 019



## WHAT'S ON

In partnership with Oban Town Diary BID4oban.co.uk

## THURSDAY 21ST NOVEMBER

## Oban Men's Shed

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

## Slimming World

Salvation Army Hall, Fort William

3:00pm, 5:00pm &amp; 7:00pm

Tel: Gillian 07796 040803

## Bookbug

Oban Library. 9.30am &amp; 11am

## Oban Health Walks

Oban Congregational Church

10:00am - 12:00pm

## Recovery Cafe

Hope Kitchen. 12.30pm

## Netherlorn Piping Society

Argyllshire Gathering Halls. 7.30pm

## Late Night Shopping

Visit: obanwinterfestival.com

Most shops open till 8pm

## Live Music &amp; Entertainment @

## Markie Dans

FREE JUKEBOX EVERY THURSDAY

## FRIDAY 22ND NOVEMBER

## Oban Photographic Club

Christmas Display &amp; Sale

The Rockfield Centre. 11am-4pm

## Whisky Tasting

The Whisky Shop. All day

## Music Group

Salvation Army Hall. 1pm-4pm

## Parsley's Cat Cafe

Hope Kitchen. 2pm

## Children's Gaelic Reading Club

Fuiran Gaelic Centre. 4pm-5pm

## Old Oban Night

Kilmore &amp; Oban Parish Church Hall.

7.30pm

## Choir &amp; Candles

St John's Cathedral. 7.30pm

## Old Oban Slide Show

Glencruitten Road Church Hall.

7.30pm-10pm

## Winterfest Whisky Tasting

Oban Whisky &amp; Fine Wines. 8pm

## Live Music &amp; Entertainment @

## Markie Dans

The Camans. Open till 2:00am

## SATURDAY 23RD NOVEMBER

## Hill Walk

Arrochar. All day

## Tartan Dash

Ganavan. 9.30am

## Ganavan Parkrun

Ganavan Sands, Oban. 9:30am

## Haggis Hurling

Shinty Pitch. 10am-12pm

## Food &amp; Craft Market

Oban Distillery. 10am-4pm

## Winter Market

The Perle Hotel. 10am-4pm

## Food &amp; Craft Market

Corran Halls. 10am-4pm

## Bead Making Demonstrations

Highland Glass. 11am-4pm

## Oban Photographic Club

The Rockfield Centre. 11am-4pm

## Gaelic Bookbug

Fuiran Gaelic Centre. 12pm-1.30pm

## Christmas Fayre &amp; Coffee Morning

Congregational Church Hall.

10.30am-2.30pm

## Roller Disco

Atlantis Leisure. 11am-12.30pm

## Snowboard Simulator

Atlantis Leisure. 11am-3pm

## Community Cafe

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

## Bring a Present to Santa's Elves

Rockfield Centre. 12pm-4pm

## Christmas Craft Fair

The Ardchattan Centre. 12pm-3pm

## Shetland Ponies

Stafford Street. 2pm-4pm

## Craft Cafe

Oban Youth Cafe. 3pm-6pm

## Reindeer Parade &amp; Christmas Lights

## Switch On

Corran Hall to Station Square. 5pm

## Live Music &amp; Entertainment @

## Markie Dans

Ceol An Aire. Open till 2:00am

## SUNDAY 24TH NOVEMBER

## Hill Walk

Kinlochleven. All day

## Morning Service - Refreshments

## follow

Salvation Army Hall. 11:00am - 12:00pm

## Haggis Festival

Oban Distillery. 12.30pm-4pm

## Whisky Festival

Oban Distillery. 12.30pm-3pm

## Santas's Grotto

The Rockfield Centre. 1pm-4pm

## OWF Light &amp; Fire Show

Oban Distillery. 5.30pm

## Live Music &amp; Entertainment @

## Markie Dans

QUIZ NIGHT at 9:30pm

£1 per person, max of 6 per team

Win £20 bar voucher

## MONDAY 25TH NOVEMBER

## Slimming World

Salvation Army Hall, Fort William

9.30am &amp; 11.30am

Tel: Gillian 07796 040803

## Oban Men's Shed

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

## Fellowship Meeting

New Hope Kitchen. 2pm

## Handbells &amp; Carols

Oban Parish Church. 2pm

## Slimming World

Union Street/Argyll Street, Lochgilphead

5:30pm &amp; 7:30pm

Tel: Rhona 07880 878906

## Martyn's Monday Club Men's

New Hope Kitchen. 7:00pm - 9:00pm

## TUESDAY 26TH 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

## Martyn's Monday Club Ladies

New Hope Kitchen. 7pm-9pm

## WEDNESDAY 27TH NOVEMBER

## Oban Men's Shed

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

## Slimming World

Glencruitten Church Hall, Oban

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

Tel: Gillian 07796 040803

## Open Day

Greenshoots Garden. 10.30am-3.30pm

## Hope Kitchen Beach clean

(meet opposite the View). 10.30am

## Lochaber festival will be a Blas

As part of this year's Blas Festival, Lochaber audiences will be treated to an array of world class musical entertainment, beginning next week.

Opening the festival tomorrow (Friday November 22), Astley Hall, Arisaig, will welcome Tide Lines' Robert Robertson and Ross Wilson for a special concert, with support from Fèis Òigridh na Mara.

On November 29, Cape Breton sisters Dawn and Margie Beaton will perform at Roybridge Memorial Hall alongside Gaelic singing trio, Sian.

The festival will culminate on St Andrew's Day with Spean Bridge's Gary Innes and his band, playing at Shielbridge Village Hall, while Ben Nevis Distillery will host Jo Macdonald, Rachel Walker and Ewen Henderson for Gaol no Gonadh?.

For the full festival programme, please visit [www.blas-festival.com](http://www.blas-festival.com).

## St Andrew raise cash

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



Pipes and voices will be raising the roof – and funds – in Oban later this month.

Oban Gaelic Choir, Oban Pipe Band and Oban High School Traditional School of Music are teaming up to hold a big fundraising event this St Andrew's Day.

Proceeds from the Big St Andrew's Bash on Saturday November 30 from 7.30pm at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls will be split between the three organisations.

The event is being run in association with and support from Oban Winter Festival and Event Scotland.

Tickets are £7 with concessions at £5. Family of four tickets, two adults with two children, are available for £20.

There will be performances from all the three groups and also from the evening's special guests – Oban High School Pipe Band – followed by dancing the night away to Trad award-winning ceilidh band Deoch 'n' Dorus.

A raffle will also be drawn on the night with lots of prizes to be won, including boat trips and vouchers for hotels, restaurants and shops. To be in with a lucky chance, tickets are on sale at Oban Music shop in Argyll Square, from choir and band members, and will be available on the night.

Tickets for the bash can also be booked online from the Winter Festival's webpage at [obanwinterfestival.com](http://obanwinterfestival.com).

Money raised from the event will be used to help the groups with running costs, including transport.

Last month Oban's Gaelic

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

## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

## CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

29th Nov-1st Dec  
Over 50 Decorated Trees!  
Opens Frid 1.30pm,  
Sat 10am, Sun 11.30am  
closes each day at 6pm  
Oban Community Singers Sat pm  
Tarbert Ladies Choir Sun pm  
Elf Hunt, Festive Raffle,  
Hot Drinks & Home Baking  
St Conan's Kirk, Lochawe

## THE BIG ST. ANDREW'S BASH

Featuring **Oban Pipe Band, Oban Gaelic Choir**  
**OHS Trad School of Music**  
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS  
**Oban High School Pipe Band**  
THEN DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY TO TRAD AWARD WINNING  
**DEOCH 'n' DORUS**  
Saturday 30th November 7.30pm  
Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban  
Tickets: £7 Concession: £5 Family ticket (4): £20  
Available from [www.obanwinterfestival.com](http://www.obanwinterfestival.com) and Oban Music  
Raffle GRAND PRIZE £100 CASH!

Treat yourself to Scottish Field this Christmas

SPREAD THE COST AND PAY  
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**OBAN WINTER FESTIVAL**

**SAT 23rd NOVEMBER – 10am-3.30pm**

Face Painters • Selkie Sand Art • All Day Music & Entertainment  
Catering by Catch a Carrot • Raffle and Competitions

**FOOD & CRAFT MARKET**

**CORRAN HALLS – OBAN**

**DONT MISS THIS HUGE MARKET**

Meat, sauces, art, sculpture, photography, cosmetics, crafts, chocolates and jewellery.

**FREE ENTRY**

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

# Oban Winter Festival and Event Scotland for music groups

Choir returned from this year's Mòd in Glasgow with the prestigious Lovat and Tullibardine Shield.

Conductor of the Oban Gaelic Choir Sileas Sinclair said: 'We are looking forward to what we hope will be a great night out for the town and are very grateful to Oban Winter Festival and Event Scotland for making it possible.'



Oban Gaelic Choir celebrated Mòd 2019 success. 16\_T44\_obangaelicchoir-01

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

## Your local radio listings

Tune in to 103.3Fm or listen live at [www.obanfm.com](http://www.obanfm.com) or on the Tuneln app. For requests, competitions or questions please call us on 01631 570057 or

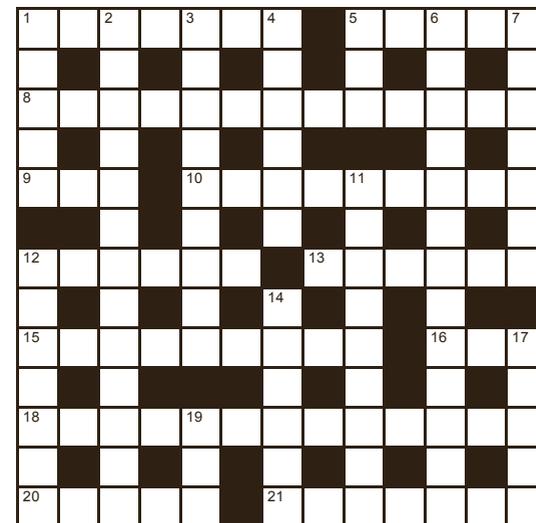
email: [studio@obanfm.org.uk](mailto:studio@obanfm.org.uk)

**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.

## Crossword



### Across

- 1 A liquid used in the synthesis of dyes (7)
- 5 Pay for, for a while (5)
- 8 Protector of property (8,5)
- 9 Wimple wearer (3)
- 10 Spoils (9)
- 12 Standing (6)
- 13 Straddling (6)
- 15 Self-indulgence (9)
- 16 Cooker top (3)
- 18 Learned (13)
- 20 Japanese-American (5)
- 21 Where fresh meets salty (7)

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



### Down

- 1 Unlawful firing? (5)
- 2 Not noticeable (13)
- 3 Annoyed (9)
- 4 Diner (6)
- 5 Trail (3)
- 6 Fear of spiders (13)
- 7 Shedding of skin (7)
- 11 Addition (9)
- 12 An offensive term used for a Native American (7)
- 14 Wound up (2,4)
- 17 Meaty (5)
- 19 Wreath (3)

## Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



### An excellent Tìree Gathering concert

It is not very often I have weekend nights to myself so I was delighted to have made it along to both the Tìree Gathering concert and dance last Thursday and Friday evenings.

In a change to the usual Partick Burgh Halls, the concert was held in the beautiful Hyndland Parish Church. It was an absolutely freezing cold evening but the music was tremendous.

Chairman DI Brown, who spoke passionately about how the island's culture and language has shaped him and featured throughout his career, seemed to welcome star turn after star turn to the stage all evening.

The instrumentalists (Gordon Rowan on the pipes, Sean 'Buddha Beag' MacCallum on the box, and Kirsteen Grant on piano) had everyone either tapping their feet or singing along - particularly to Kirsteen's selection of Scots and Gaelic tunes. The solo singing was totally brilliant.

Kirsty MacKinnon, Ruairidh Cormack, and Ellen



Kirsteen Grant, Sean MacCallum, Margaret MacKinnon (president), Donald Iain Brown (chair), Ruairidh Cormack, Kirsty MacKinnon and Ellen MacDonald.

MacDonald (all of whom I've heard many times before) genuinely all seemed to bring their A game.

A real highlight was Kirsty's version of the beautiful Tìree song Òganaich an Òir Fhuillt Bhuidhe.

It wasn't the only Tìree song she sang - she also sang a couple of songs that her grandmother (who hailed from Tìree) used to sing - and all of them went down very well indeed with the audience.

Ruairidh was also in fantastic voice (hands firmly in his pockets, just like his father, Arthur!) and had the audience swinging away to Fàgail Bharragh among other crackers.

Ellen very successfully tested out a new song for her called Ho ro Bhodachain - inspired by the singing of the MacDonald sisters all those years ago.

It was a tremendous concert, enjoyed fully by those in the audience but also by a large contingent watching on Facebook live; many, no doubt, back in Tìree on this incredibly cold November night.

### And not a bad dance either!

The following night, I took the well-trodden path from the Park Bar, up the Kelvin Way, to the Glasgow University Union (as I was

apt to do some years ago as a fresh-faced student), where the dance was in full swing to the music of Gunna Sound.

Campbell and Johnny had the floor filled and everyone was in tremendous form.

### Extra info for the Glasgow Skye

The Glasgow Skye's annual dinner will be held on Friday December 6 (the evening before the concert and dance) in Glasgow University Union at 7pm for 7.30pm. Members and friends are most welcome but they must contact secretary Karen Campbell to make their choices from the menu (indicating any special dietary requirements) before Monday December 2.

### Gathering dinner dance

This weekend it is the turn of the Glasgow Uist and Barra Association whose dinner dance takes place in the GoGlasgow Urban Hotel on the Paisley Road West.

Tickets are no longer available which surely means it will be a great night for those in attendance. Music for the dance provided by Beinn Lee.



# Shop local this Christmas

We all know one of them: the person for whom we find it impossible to buy a gift. If you are lucky you just know one of them! However, do not worry, help is at hand with Love Oban Vouchers. This highly popular gift voucher is unique to Oban. They were launched in 2013 by Oban Business Improvement District to encourage spending in local shops, restaurants and businesses. Their popularity has soared, growing year-on-year, and this year is no exception, with latest sales figures showing a 30 per cent increase over last year.

Buy these vouchers and you give the key to a gift that someone wants, and they do not have to travel far to use them. By using the Love Oban vouchers, you know that money spent stays within the Oban business

community and local economy. Last year the sale of vouchers broke all previous records and it looks like being the same again this year. You can use these vouchers in more than 70 businesses within Oban. You can use them to dine out, buy goods, enjoy an evening's entertainment – you name it. They last for 12 months so people can enjoy mulling over what they are going to buy now or using them later. They can be bought from BID4Oban's office on Stevenson Street, Oban Phoenix Cinema, Alba Art Shop, Button Nose Boutique, Oban Sports Shop and Etive Restaurant. The vouchers are available in £10 and £20 varieties up to any amount. For more details visit [www.bid4oban.co.uk](http://www.bid4oban.co.uk) to find out which businesses accept them.

## Get 10% off 'til 24th november

Talking of shopping local, take time to think when making your buying decisions. Please spare the thought that by supporting local shops, be they locally owned or national retailers, you are sustaining the local economy of Oban. They all employ local people and sustain families. Yes, it's easy to click, click, click online, but if we don't support our own local shops, restaurants, and pubs, they may not be sustainable. Oban is lucky to have a vibrant retail and business community that continues to attract major retailers to the town along with bespoke local businesses. Believe it or not we do not have a lot of empty shop premises compared to other towns. The good news is that some of our empty shops will be re-occupied in the new year.

## Why keep it in the community?

- Supporting the economy – Research shows that for every £1 spent with a small or medium- sized business, 63p stayed in the local company.
- It is the ethical choice – When you shop at the local butchers, bakers, farm shops and producers, it is likely that a percentage of the produce has had a short journey, less packaging and contains more nutrients.
- Unique is the best – Independent shops often sell locally-made gifts that aren't available in more commercial outlets. Local shops also support artists and designers, local authors and artisans. Buy something unique to your area.
- Charity matters – Local businesses often hold charity events, social groups and community gatherings in aid of charities that are closer to home to the benefit of the community.
- Try before you buy – Rather than looking at models online wearing clothes you think may suit you, try on the garments in your local shops, feel the texture and get an opinion on the clothing. It's the retail experience.

# IT'S BACK

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This is a week-long celebration of Oban and those who work to support our interests and opportunities, and ultimately to bring life, vitality and vibrancy back into our town centre and surrounding area.

Scotland's Towns Week is the annual celebration of the nation's towns and cities, as well as all those organisations and individuals who support Scotland's communities. Coordinated by Scotland's Towns Partnership and Scotland's Improvement Districts, Scotland's Towns Week is a great chance to collaborate, share best practice, interests and opportunities, and ultimately to help bring life, vitality and vibrancy back into our town centres.



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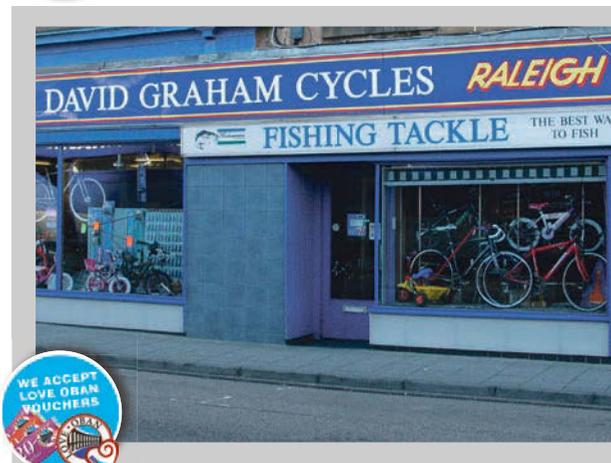
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# Let's stand up for rural diversity

NFU Scotland stands against prejudice and supports rural LGBTQ+ diversity, inclusion and enablement, writes union president

**Andrew McCornick**

As president of NFU Scotland, I am proud to represent such a vibrant and passionate industry filled with a variety of people who are all united by their love of the countryside.

Over the past decade, organisations in all sectors have made huge strides in supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) employees and colleagues creating an inclusive workplace.

Many LGBT people in the farming and crofting community still choose not to disclose their sexuality because of discrimination and bias. We all have a moral responsibility to advocate and support our friends and colleagues, regardless of their gender or sexual orientation.

Diversity helps draw out top talent and foster innovation. People will perform significantly better when they can be themselves at work.

There are thousands of LGBT people in the countryside. We want to support them by encouraging inclusiveness in rural communities, regardless

**Andrew McCornick**

of gender, race or sexual orientation. This is why NFU Scotland is proud to sign the Agrespect pledge stating: 'We stand against prejudice and support rural LGBTQ+ diversity, inclusion and enablement.' NFU Scotland has championed support for women in agriculture and has attended a number of Pride events over the past 18 months in line with this ambition.

NFUS wants to promote the countryside as a vibrant, tolerant and welcoming place for everyone, irrespective of gender, ethnicity or sexual orientation. The industry needs all the talent it can garner that will innovate, adapt and further drive agriculture forward.

The more perspectives we have, the more productive outcomes we will achieve. The

farming community needs new ideas now more than ever and if we exclude any of our brightest and best people due to the discrimination they face from a minority within the industry, then the whole rural economy loses.

I want NFUS to be a welcoming, tolerant and vibrant place for all members, staff and affiliates, and for this reason NFUS will not accept discrimination of any kind. Being open about your sexuality shouldn't be a barrier to leading a happy life and a fulfilling career in the countryside and land-based industries.

There is a groundswell of farmers and crofters who want to bring our rural communities together and celebrate all that unites us. NFUS has for some time stated that change is coming, and we have an opportunity now to show the wider public how great an industry we are.

This is particularly poignant at a time when it can seem farming is portrayed as being behind the times. We cannot let ourselves down by allowing homophobic or sexist opinions to air.

While a few with these opinions still exist in rural communities, they cannot be allowed to define the rural sector and I urge you all to support the entire rural community.

## Around the markets

Dalmally – United Auctions on Friday November 15 sold 1324 sheep of all classes. Lambs averaged £35.84 (+£5.22). In keeping with recent trends, lambs of all classes sold exceptionally well and to a good ringside of buyers. All other classes of sheep also sold at keen rates.

**LEADING PRICES PER HEAD**

LAMB(809) – SUFFx – £59.00, Kiloran Farmers (Colonsay); £53.00, Ardsheal Farm. TEXx – £62.50, Ardbeg; £56.00, Ardchnonell Farm; £53.00, Kiloran Farmers. CHEV – £50.00, Birchfield; £49.00, Glenshero; £49.00, Brackley; £48.00, Machrins Farm (Colonsay); £47.00, Maam Farm; £45.50, Machrins Farm. CROSS – £51.00, Couston Farm; £49.00, Maam Farm; £49.00, Dericambus; £48.00, Pitcastle Estate; £47.00, High Balantyre Farm; £46.50, Boreland Farms; £46.00, Ardbeg. MULE – £50.50, Kiloran Farmers. BF – £62.50, Blairmore Farm; £54.50, Pitcastle Estate; £52.00, Auchreoch; £52.00, Brackley; £50.50, Couston Farm. EWES(211) – SUFFx – £52.00, Lettermore Farm. TEXx – £48.00, Ardsheal Farm; £45.00, Innischoeroch; £42.00, Kiloran Farmers. CHEV – £44.00, Brackley; £43.00, Machrins Farm; £42.00, Bruilin; £41.00, Lochuisge; £40.00, Bruilin; £40.00, Lochuisge. CROSS – £53.00, Innischoeroch; £40.00, Glenshero; £40.00, Blarghour Farm. BF – £46.00, Brackley Farm; £40.00, Castles Estate; £39.00, Couston Farm; £38.00, Scallasaig Farm; £36.00, Blarghour Farm; £35.00, Innischoeroch; £35.00, Meallagie.

**LEADING PRICES PER KILO**

LAMB(809) – SUFFx – 177p, Kiloran Farmers. TEXx – 180p, Silvercraigs; 165p, Ardchnonell Farm; 162p, Ardbeg; 160p, Ardchnonell Farms. CHEV – 182p, Machrins Farm; 179p, Maam Farm; 172p, Birchfield; 171p, Bruilin; 166p, Machrins Farm. CROSS – 181p, Dericambus; 163p, Scallasaig Farm; 160p, Boreland Farm. MULE – 163p, Kiloran Farmers. BF – 167p, Pitcastle Estate; 160p, Machrins Farm; 157p, Brackley Farm; 153p, Couston Farm; 152p, Scallasaig Farm; 151p, Inchgarth Farm.

Lochboisdale – United Auctions on Monday November 11 sold 305 store cattle and 32 cows etc. Bullocks averaged £727.23 (+£23.96) per head and sold to £1100 twice for a 645Kg SimX from 50 Balgarva and a 600Kg SimX from 136 Stilligarry. They averaged 210.45p/Kg (-4.62p) to 284p/Kg for a 320kg LimX from 10 Illeray, North Uist.

Heifers averaged £620.30 (+£38.05) per head selling to £1200 or a BBX from 88 Bualadubh and 199.38p/Kg (+5.78p) to 293p/Kg for a 410Kg from 88 Bualadubh.

Cast Cows (22) averaged £651.36 (+£40.98) to £1090 for a LimX from 21 Griminish and 86.81p/Kg to 125p/Kg for a LimX from 11 Howmore. In calf Cows (8) averaged £632.50 to £1350.00 for an AAx from 4 Howmore. Overall, a good attendance of buyers forward, ensured all stock were cleared at highly satisfactory rates.

**LEADING PRICES**

BULLOCKS(186) – AAx – £865, 92 Bualadubh; £855, 265 Daliburgh; £850, 261 Daliburgh. BSHx – £780, 90/110 Borve, Barra. BAx – £830, £720, MacSweens Dunganichy. CHARx – £960, 325 North Boisdale; £915, £865, £855, 93/96 Bualadubh; £845, 61 Bualuchrach. LIMx – £1070, £1055, 15 Ormiclate; £1030, 103 Carnan;

£1020, 1 Airdhmuillin; £990, 6 Ormiclate; £990(2), 103 Carnan. SHx – £740, 90/110 Borve. SIMx – £1100, 50 Balgarva; £1100, 136 Stilligarry; £1080, £1040(2), 50 Balgarva.

HEIFERS(118) – AAx – £1000, £800, 4 Howmore. BRBx – £1200, £800(2), 88 Bualadubh. BAx – £675, MacSweens Dunganichy. CHARx – £710(2), £690, 61 Bualuchrach. LIMx – £780, Aird Illery; £770, 100 Carnan; £765, 101 Carnan; £760, 324 North Boisdale; £750, 344 North Boisdale. SIMx – £790, £675, 1 Stilligarry.

INCALF COWS (8) – £1350, 4 Howmore; £790, 5 Frobost; £760, 11 Howmore.

COWS WITH CALVES(2) – £1150, £1130, 9 Milton. CAST COWS(22) – £1090, 21 Griminish; £1000, 393 Garrynamonie; £950, 11 Howmore; £890, 336B North Boisdale; £850, 11 Howmore; £850, 265 Daliburgh.

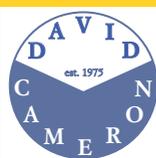
**LEADING PRICES PER KILO**

BULLOCKS – AAx – 232p, 1and2 Frobost; 226p, 290 Kilphedar; 223p, 15 Bornish; 221p, 10 Bornish. BSHx – 192p, 77 Borve Barra. BAx – 263p(4), 255p, 240p, 231p, MacSweens Dunganichy. CHARx – 219p, 216p, 93/96 Bualadubh. LIMx – 284p, 10 Illeray; 276p, 12 Ormiclate; 268p, 88 Upper Borve Barra; 262p, 3 Milton; 261p, 291 Daliburgh; 258p(3), 1 Drimisdale; 256p, 11 Ormiclate; 254p, 7 Middlequarter; 252p, Aird Illery; 250p, 9 Milton. SALx – 224p, MacSweens Dunganichy. SIMx – 211p, 7 Eoligarry Barra. HEIFERS – AAx – 254p, 11 Ormiclate; 219p, 15 Ormiclate. BRBx – 293p, 88 Bualadubh. BAx – 233p, 227p(2), MacSweens Dunganichy. CHARx – 227p, 132 Stilligarry. LIMx – 247p, 19 West Gerinish; 246p, 12 Ormiclate; 244p(2), 20 West Gerinish; 241p(2), 1 Drimisdale; 233p, 7 Middlequarter; 233p, Aird Illery; 232p, 1 Stilligarry; 231p(4), 5 Frobost. SIMx – 214p, 1 Stilligarry. CAST COWS – 125p, 11 Howmore; 122p, 21 Griminish; 117p, 132 Stilligarry; 117p, 336B North Boisdale; 113p, 265 Daliburgh; 112p, 11 Howmore; 109p, 393 Garrynamonie.

Lochboisdale – United Auctions on Tuesday November 12 sold 592 sheep of all classes. Lambs (316) averaged £39.63 (+£3.57). Lambs sold readily and above sellers expectations whilst all other classes maintained recent rates.

**LEADING PRICES**

LAMB(809) – SUFFx – £63.00, Truimsigarry; £53.50, 7 Minish; £53.00, MacSweens Dunganichy. TEXx – £57.00, 7 Middlequarter; £50.00, 18 West Gerinish. CHEV – £58.00, Truimsigarry; £55.50, 7 Middlequarter; £55.50, 6 Drimisdale; £51.50, 7 Minish. CROSS – £59.50, 6 Drimisdale; £59.50, 11 Claddich; £57.00, Ormiclate &amp; Bornish SSC; £56.50, 291 Daliburgh; £54.00, 5 Dunganichy; £54.00, 296 Kilphedar; £53.00, Ormiclate &amp; Bornish SSC. MULE – £55.50, 6 Rhughasinish. BF – £60.00, 1 Howbeg; £49.50, 17 Torlum; £48.00, £46.00, Aird Illery; £40.00, 2 East Gerinish. RAMS – £200 (CHEV), 19 West Gerinish. CAST EWES – SUFF – £71.00, 18 West Gerinish; £56.00, 238 Garryhaillie; £56.00, MacSweens Dunganichy. TEXx – £45.00, 18 West Gerinish. CHEV – £54.00, 203 Stoneybridge; £46.50, MacSweens Dunganichy; £45.00, 203 Stoneybridge. CROSS – £56.00, £45.50, £44.00, 238 Garryhaillie. BF – £46.00, Aird Illery; £40.00, 11 Claddich.

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# SRUC farms celebrate their 50th anniversary

Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its innovative, influential and international upland research and demonstration farms.

The former West of Scotland Agricultural College (now part of SRUC) took over the lease at Kirkton and Auchtertyre farms on November 11, 1969 – also known as Martinmas quarter day when leasehold payments were traditionally made.

At that time, the board of governors wanted the college to take on a hill farm 'for the purpose of developing a new approach to sheep husbandry aimed at overcoming some of the problems of the hill farmer, by new methods'.

In the minutes of a meeting in June 1967, they also stipulated 'there would be little justification in the college taking over land merely to demonstrate management on traditional lines'.

Fifty years on, the farms, near Crianlarich, have proved to be an invaluable resource – not only for the Scottish livestock industry, but also in the UK and further afield.

'Everything we're doing is just as relevant to livestock and grassland systems in places such as New Zealand, South America and the Tibetan plateau,' said Professor Davy McCracken, head of SRUC's Hill and Mountain Research Centre which consists of a



Auchtertyre today, above, and as it was around 1982.



team of researchers based at the farms. Many issues affecting livestock productivity and the impact on the environment are the same. Whether they're from Iceland or Kazakhstan, visitors see something of relevance to what they have back in their home country.'

For most of the first 20 years, research was primarily focused

on agricultural production and developing the best practice of the day to help hill farming increase its productivity.

This included buying in lime, fertiliser and feed to improve the nutritional value of hill grazings and increase the productivity of the animals by looking after their health and welfare.

'That worked very well and was very successful, innovative and influential in those early decades when you could get still get a high price for selling lambs – and wool – for relatively low input costs,' said Prof McCracken.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, input prices started to go up and, at the same time, the price paid for products started to go down as consumer habits changed. With such an intensive approach to hill farming no longer a viable option, the farms moved towards an extensively-managed system.

'We started to look more at the impacts – both positive and negative – of the grazing animals on different habitats and parts of the farm using GPS-tracking collars,' said Prof McCracken. 'We also started to improve productivity of our Scottish Blackface sheep through enhanced recording of individual performance and selecting for those with genetics that allow them to do well in the hills.'

Over the past 20 years, the focus has continued to shift towards the use of precision technology, including ear tags, automated weigh crates and sensors, to collect data from livestock and the wider environment that allows hill farmers and crofters to make more informed management decisions.

In the early days, the board wanted to show how hill

farming and forestry could be integrated and, in recent years, researchers at the farms have been demonstrating how establishing montane woodland high up on the farm can help with flood mitigation.

With little more than a farmhouse, a few old outbuildings and livestock pens on each farm in 1969, the site now boasts office space for farm and research staff, enhanced sheep and cattle handling facilities, wigwams, lodges and a yurt, and, by 2022, will have a new teaching and events space for up to 50 people as part of the £35 million plan for SRUC's South and West Faculty.

A growth area for the future is to get more students gaining hands-on, practical experience on the farms, whether that involves working directly with the livestock, implementing grassland management decisions, or learning how to manage habitats and wildlife.

'As a 2,200-hectare site with land ranging from 170m to 1000m above sea level, we're a unique resource with a wide range of habitats on the farms,' said Prof McCracken. 'We have the capability to do a range of agricultural and environmental research and demonstrations, and have always been industry-relevant. That combination will ensure we continue to go from strength to strength in the future.'

For information about studying at SRUC, visit [sruc.ac.uk](http://sruc.ac.uk)

## Union seeks resolution to fuel issues

NFU Scotland members have been reporting issues with poor performance, blocked filters, low working hours before filter changes are required and injector failure, with tractors and farm vehicles.

Representatives from NFU Scotland are set to meet with Petrolineos, operators of Grangemouth refinery, in an attempt to find solutions to the current problems.

Since being alerted to the issue, NFU Scotland has compiled a dossier of evidence from members and machinery rings to try to identify if there are any patterns present. Union staff have been working directly with NFU counterparts to discuss the technical background and to identify a solution.

In partnership with Ringlink, NFU Scotland paid for independent test of three separate fuel samples to identify the cause of the reported problems. These tests have shown there is no issue in terms of the FAME (biodiesel) content of the fuel tested and these are within the prescribed limits as set out in the legislation.

Jamie Smart, who operates the NFU Scotland vehicle helpline, said: 'While the union works with outside stakeholders and organisations, members should continue to contact us with any problems they are facing in relation to this possible fuel issue.'

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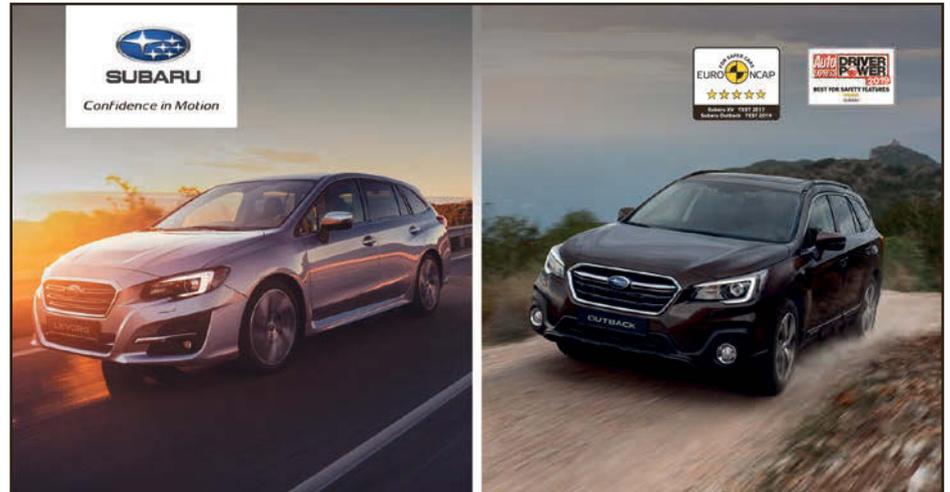
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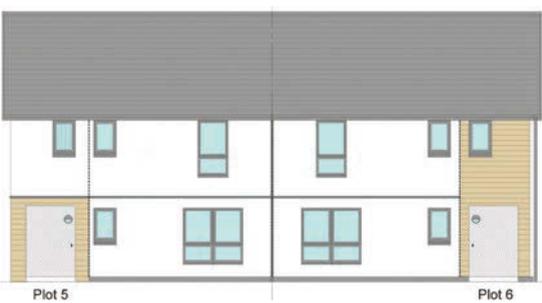


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## REVEALED: Moving house 'must dos' to help prevent stress and avoid fines

Brits move house every 23 years on average[1] and, with UK life expectancy now at 79 for males and 83 for females [2], a Briton can expect to move at least three times in their lifetime.

The cost of moving house is not easily avoided as experts are often required to support, and even just the physical element is estimated to cost £1,192.67[3]. Moving house is often described as more stressful than the death of a family member or divorce[4] so it's important to take steps to try to reduce that stress or even avoid it altogether.

Boiler Plan, who specialise in the installation, repair and service of boilers, have conducted extensive research into simple tricks and tips that can help reduce the stress of moving. They have also highlighted some of the key 'life admin' tasks that Brits often forget because of the big move, which could otherwise land you in hot water, out of pocket and even breaking the law.

### 1) Get your mail redirected

Getting your mail redirected to your new home is often at the bottom of your list of priorities, but you could miss essential bills and information and perhaps even more importantly, 'New House' congratulations cards! The Post Office provides a redirection service which redirects your mail for a small cost. Informing all your utilities and acquaintances you're moving at the same time, can save effort in the long run.

### 2) Organise your moving day essentials i.e. milk, tea bags, a kettle

Moving house is thirsty work and forgetting to leave your kettle and cups unpacked can be the icing on top of the stress cake – so make sure tea and coffee-making facilities are easily accessible.

### 3) Ensure pets and kids are cared for on moving day

Children often find moving house exciting, while pets can find it overwhelming, so making sure they are looked after and away from the house move can be a big help. With lots of heavy boxes and open doors, keeping them out of the way will keep them safe. Don't forget to update your pet's microchip and name tag, and make sure to support them in adjusting to their new home.

### 4) Pack effectively

Sounds simple, but many house movers don't realise that packing effectively makes the process of unpacking in their new home much easier and far less stressful. Use packing cubes, vac bags and clear labelling to make packing seamless. Ensure your moving boxes are sturdy and able to take the weight of your contents. Label each box with the room it should be unpacked in.

### 5) Take final meter readings

Often, house movers are so excited to get into their new home that last minute admin is forgotten about. Taking final meter readings is essential to ensure you don't get landed with a surprise bill. Your last meter reading will be used by your supplier for your final bill, so ensure that an accurate reading is taken on your last day to avoid paying for energy you haven't been using.

### 6) Change your details on the electoral register

Updating your details on the electoral register is perhaps more important than ever due to the uncertain political climate. You can register to vote on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) and you MUST re-register when you move to a new address or you may not be able to vote.

### 7) Move your TV licence

It is a legal requirement to have a valid TV Licence when viewing live TV and certain catch-up services. It is, in fact, a criminal offence to watch live TV or BBC iPlayer unless you have a valid TV licence. Without one, you risk prosecution and could be issued with a fine of up to £1,000 plus court costs. Updating your TV licence takes just a few minutes and should be on the list of admin tasks you tick off on moving day.

### 8) Get your new boiler serviced

With cooler months just around the corner, it's more important than ever to ensure the boiler in your new house is serviced. You should have your boiler serviced annually to ensure it operates safely and efficiently. The previous tenants or house owners may have never had their boiler serviced, and so it could have fallen into disrepair without their knowledge. For peace of mind, organise a service the week you move in to ensure it runs effectively when you switch it on.

### 9) Check your new home is insured

Whether you're renting or buying, house insurance is essential to ensure your possessions are protected against loss or damage. Items could get damaged in the physical move, so getting insured 30 days in advance and putting it into motion the day you pick up the keys is a good idea.

### 10) Apply for a parking permit

If you're not lucky enough to have a drive or free residential parking, you will need to apply for a parking permit ahead of the move to your new home. You will need proof of residency to apply, so your tenant agreement or proof of ownership will be required. It's usually just a one-off yearly payment and having one in place before you move will ensure you don't get costly parking tickets.

For more information on boiler servicing and repairs visit Boiler Plan.

## Fort William High Street - Retail/Office space to let

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## Flexible office space to let – Oban

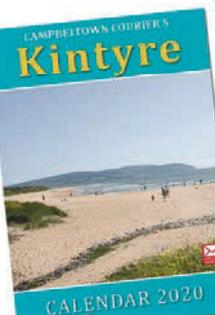
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Source: Consumers' Choice V, The Newspaper Society

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## Advertising Sales Manager

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Based in Oban, the successful candidate will report directly to our MD and will be expected to lead our experienced sales team to achieve realistic revenue targets both in print and online. They will also be expected to use their sales experience to deliver their own individual revenue target.

You will be working with highly recognisable and trusted brands including the Oban Times, Scotlands second highest selling weekly newspaper.

The right person for the job will have considerable sales experience, ideally within a media or digital background. They will have a track record of delivering results both from a personal and team perspective. They will be confident, articulate and target driven and above all they will be able to motivate and inspire their team.

In return, we offer an excellent salary, company car (you will require a full driving licence) and the chance to work in one of the most beautiful locations in Scotland.

**If this sounds like you and you are up for the challenge send your CV and current salary to Nicky Murphy, [nmurphy@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:nmurphy@obantimes.co.uk).**

## Visitor Centre Driver/Guide - Cruachan Power Station

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**Looking to be part of a company that is socially conscious and is taking real steps to make a difference?**

**Have a PCV licence?**

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Your job will be to take visitors and school groups on a journey through the station, talking about the awe-inspiring power station that was the first ever reversible pumped storage hydro system built on this scale, anywhere in the world.

Using your PCV Licence, you'll spend your days taking visitor groups into the cavernous machine hall a kilometre inside the solid rock of Ben Cruachan, moving onwards up to the viewing gallery and finishing in the interactive visitor centre.

You'll use your enthusiastic & charming manner, to inspire and teach our visitors about the feat of engineering that is Cruachan Power Station, all the while making sure our visitors are safe. After all they are visiting a site that generates electricity, so safety really matters.

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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](http://www.leiths-group.co.uk/careers) and submit to [recruitment@leiths-group.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@leiths-group.co.uk)

Leiths (Scotland) Ltd are an Equal Opportunities Employer

## Project Manager Wanted



Ardnamurchan Lighthouse: "PROJECT 21"

18 months from January 2020 (with scope for extension)

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Ardnamurchan Lighthouse Trust is looking for an experienced project manager and fundraiser to take us to the next stage of our exciting development project. The successful candidate will be an excellent communicator, and able to work with professionals, grant givers and the local community to help us deliver the Trust's vision for the future of this iconic Lighthouse site at the most westerly point on the British mainland.

**Closing date: Monday 2 December 2019**  
**Interviews: Tuesday 10 December 2019**

For more information and an application form visit [www.goodmoves.com](http://www.goodmoves.com).

**Scottish Land Fund**  
Ionmhàs Fearainn Na H-Alba

Registered Company Number: SC170704.  
Registered Charity Number: SC025610

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## SITE MANAGER - OBAN

We are looking for an experienced Site Manager to join our team in Dunbeg Development in Oban. The successful candidate will be responsible for organising & monitoring progress, meeting deadlines and ensuring a safe working environment. This a full time/permanent position 8am-5.30pm (Mon-Fri).

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



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YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited. Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.  
1 Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.  
2 The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.  
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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.  
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6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.  
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loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.  
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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.  
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# PUBLIC NOTICES

**Argyll and Bute Council**  
**OBAN FLOOD STUDY**

As part of its role under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 (FRM Act), Argyll and Bute Council is developing a Flood Studies for Oban to be completed within the first cycle of the FRM Act (2016-2022).

The next in the series of Public Consultation drop-in events is being held at the Rockfield Centre, Oban, on Thursday 28 November as part of Argyll and Bute Council's Local Flood Risk Management Plan. Representatives from Argyll and Bute Council and flood defence experts will be at the Rockfield Centre to answer questions. The event comprises "drop-in" sessions from 12.30-3.00pm and 6.00-8.00pm. There will be presentations, followed by question and answer sessions, at 1.00pm and 6.30pm.

The event is an opportunity for informal discussion around the potential short list of sustainable flood defence solutions that have been identified, as well as a chance to share local flood knowledge. Ideas include flood storage upstream of the town, flood defences along the Black Lynn and coastal defence walls.

Your feedback will help inform the preferred flood scheme solution for Oban, which will then be presented for consideration to the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency and the Scottish Government for funding.

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




**Scottish Government**  
**Riaghaltas na h-Alba**  
[gov.scot](http://gov.scot)

**TRANSPORT SCOTLAND**

**THE A85 TRUNK ROAD (OBAN) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION ON USE OF ROAD) (NO. 4) 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 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.

The Order, which is required to facilitate the Oban Reindeer Parade and Christmas Light Switch on and to enable members of the public to watch this event will be in operation from 23rd November until 24th November 2019. It is anticipated that the restrictions will be in place for approximately 20 minutes at 17:00 hours 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](http://www.trafficscotland.org.uk)

**P REID**  
A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers  
Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF



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



**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**  
**PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

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

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

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
19/04827/FUL	Tigh A Rudha Onich Fort William	Installation of cladding and additional windows, erection of garage - amendment to 17/05876/FUL
19/04957/FUL	Land 30M NE Of 8 Muirshearlich, Banavie	Erection of house
19/04936/FUL	Land To South Of Strontian Hotel, Strontian	Erection of house
19/04768/FUL	Rhuban, Kilchoan, Acharacle	Siting of holiday letting unit
19/04965/TPNO	Land 470M SE Of Allt A'Choire Cottage Morvern	Installation of 16m high telecommunications pole with antennas, cabinets and associated equipment
19/04971/PIP	Land 90M SE Of Tigh Na Merrow Ormsaibeg, Kilchoan	Demolition of ruin and erection ofcroft house

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

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

**CROFTING COMMISSION**  
**COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD**  
**APPLICATION TO CREATE A NEW CROFT**

S Brown of Arinabea, Tyndrum, Glenorchy & Innishail is applying to create a new croft. Case no: 101851.

Comments can be made to the Crofting Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 28 days of the date of this newspaper. Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW - [info@crofting.gov.scot](mailto:info@crofting.gov.scot)

Please specify your interest in the application and your reasons for commenting. A copy of any representations made will be forwarded to the applicant.

Our privacy notice is available at [www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk/privacy-policy](http://www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk/privacy-policy) or on request.

**CREATE A NEW CROFT DECISIONS ISSUED**

Application by Mr W Love and Mrs J Love has been Approved. The Del, Achavaich, Case 95172

Application by Mr M Bonniwell has been Approved. South Ledaig, Oban. Case 97120

Any person with an interest in the application may appeal against the decision to the Scottish Land Court within 42 days from the date of this advert.



Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

**Argyll and Bute Council**

**DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES**

**ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (LAUREL ROAD AND DUNCRAGGAN ROAD, OBAN) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2019**

On Monday 18th November 2019, Argyll and Bute Council, in exercise of the powers conferred on them by section 62 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, made the above named Order which will make it unlawful for any person to drive or cause or permit to be driven any motor vehicle on the entire length of Duncraggan Road, and the section of Laurel Road between its junction with Ardconnel Road and Duncraggan Road, Oban.

The restrictions imposed by this Order, which are desirable because of considerations of public safety and convenience during the Winter Festival Fireworks Display, will be in operation when indicated by signs between 1800 and 1830 hours on the 30th November 2019.

Contravention of the Order, which may be inspected at the Argyll & Bute Council Offices, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, could result in a penalty of up to £500.

Roads & Infrastructure Services, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RD

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



**Argyll and Bute Council**

**PLANNING**

These applications listed below may be inspected between 09:00-12:30 -13:30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, your Local Customer Service Point and by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk).

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

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
19/02333/PP	Conversion of garage to form self catering unit	25 Lonan Drive, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 4NN
19/01938/PP	External alterations to include; re-rendering and painting of exterior, replace windows and doors to match existing, including formation of new back door and window opening	Bothy, 17 Easdale Island, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 4TB
19/01816/PP	Erection of 2 dwellinghouses and formation of vehicular accesses	Land South Of Ardmeanoch, McKelvie Heights, Oban, Argyll And Bute
19/01897/PP	Alterations and change of use of bothy to form short term letting accommodation (retrospective)	Sailean Bothy, Isle Of Lismore, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 5UL
19/02342/PP	Erection of one pair of semi-detached cottages and installation of septic tank	Land West Of Kilbride Croft, Balvicar, Isle Of Seil, Oban, Argyll And Bute
19/02313/PP	Alterations and change of use of former lemonade factory (used latterly as soft drinks distribution warehouse) to distillery for the production of rum and gin	The Old Lemonade Factory, Port Ellen, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute
19/02263/PPP	Site for the erection of 2 dwellinghouses	Land East Of Boyles House, Craighouse, Isle Of Jura, Argyll And Bute
19/02098/PP	Erection of conservatory	23 Shore Street, Bowmore, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute, PA43 7LB
19/02338/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank	Croft No 7 Keils, Craighouse, Isle Of Jura, 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:  
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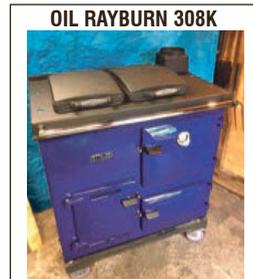
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## PERSONAL NOTICE



Tommy and Helen Gibson would like to thank, sincerely, all family and friends, for the beautiful flowers, gifts and cards which they received on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding anniversary, also all who so generously gave donations for their chosen charities. The enormous sum of £960 was collected.  
Thank you all again.

# Treat someone special this Christmas

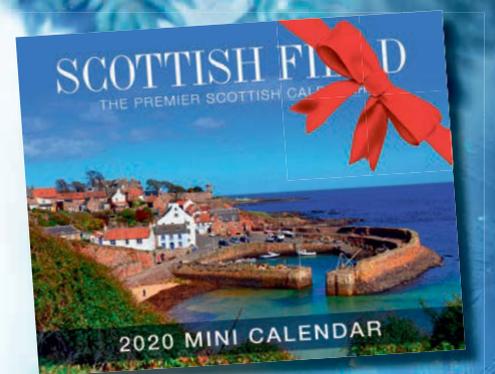
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## BIRTHS

**SUTTON** - In Perth, Western Australia, on November 11, 2019, to Andrew and Eilidh (née Clark), a beautiful daughter, Aila Ann.

## DEATHS

**BRYARS** - Peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, surrounded by her family, on Friday, November 15, 2019, in her 71st year, Alexis (Lexy) Bryars, beloved wife of Donald, much loved mum of Darin and the late Craig and mother-in-law of Cheryl, and loving nana of Nicole, Rachel, Arran and Luca.

**COUZIN** - Peacefully at Argyll Care Centre, on November 11, 2019, formerly of Tobermory. Funeral service at Cardross Crematorium on Friday, November 22 at 2.15 p.m.

**GIBB** - Peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on November 14, 2019, after a long and courageous battle, Ian William, (China), aged 52 years, beloved son of Bill and Aileen, dear brother to Evelyn, Fiona and Callum, adored father to Amy, Emma, Charlotte and Darren and doting grandfather to Cody, Hannah, Daisy and Lauren. Funeral service will take place at Muckairn Parish Church, Taynuilt, on Friday, November 22, 2019 at 1.00 p.m. thereafter to Muckairn Cemetery. Family flowers only. Retiral collection donations will be taken for the Macmillan Day Bed Unit, Oban.

**JACKSON** - William MacLeod (Bill), formerly of Kinlochleven, peacefully at Balquidder House Care Home, Alexandria, on Tuesday, November 12, 2019, dearly loved husband of Sheila and brother to Ann. At his own request he will be cremated privately and his ashes scattered on Loch Linnhe at Cuil Bay, a place of happy memories.

**JARDINE** - Sarah (née Patton). Peacefully at McClymont Nursing Home, Lanark on November 16, 2019, aged 86. Dearly loved wife of the late Bill and wonderful loving mother to Aird and Ainsley. An adored and cherished Grandma to Aird, Andrew, Alicia and Blair and much loved mother-in-law

to Linda and Derek. Funeral service will take place on Tuesday, November 26, at South Lanarkshire Crematorium, Blantyre at 11 a.m., to which all friends are respectfully invited.

**LIVINGSTONE** - Suddenly in Inverkip on November 16, 2019. Ian, son of the late Mary and Dugald of Lismore, much loved father of Douglas and James, father-in-law, grandfather and brother of Jean and Moira. Funeral service will be held at Greenock Crematorium on Tuesday, November 26 at 13:00 p.m. to which all family and friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only.

**MACDONALD** - Peacefully after a short illness at Uist and Barra Hospital, Benbecula on Monday November 4, 2019, Hector, son of the late Margaret and Michael MacDonald, West Gerinish. Loving father of Sarah and Laura. Fortified by the rights of the Holy Catholic Church. RIP.

**MACDONALD** - Effie passed away at her home in Middleton, Isle of Tiree on November 8, 2019 aged 91 years. Loving mum of Mairi-Anne, mother-in-law of Neil and dear Nanny of Kieran, Kyle and Ryan. Will be sadly missed by all.

**MACPHERSON** - All friends are respectfully invited to attend the funeral service for our older sister, Annie MacPherson, late of Camushork, Strontian at 2 p.m. on Friday November 22, 2019 at Ardour Parish Church. Family flowers only please. Donations for Abbeyfield staff. Yours respectfully, Donnie, Betty and Cathy of Strontian and Ardour.

**MCALLISTER** - Duncan (Sandy). Peacefully on November 17, 2019. Beloved husband of Avril, much loved father of Judith and Jonathan, father-in-law of Alan and Anne, loving grandfather of Brendan, Megan, Sandra and Kerr. Funeral service at Cardross Crematorium on Thursday, November 28 at 2.15 p.m. Family flowers only.

**MCPHAIL** - Peacefully on Thursday, November 14, 2019, in Ashgrove Care Home, Dunoon, Alexandra Ann MacLeod (Sandra), beloved

wife of John, lovely mum of Aileen and Lindsey and a much loved and loving gran to John, Grant and Laurie. The funeral service will be held in Strachur Parish Church on Wednesday, November 27 at 11.00 a.m., and thereafter to Strachur Cemetery, to which all are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please but donations, if desired, to "Ashgrove Care Home".

**MCRAE** - Peacefully, at Cradlehall Care Home, Inverness, on November 15, 2019, with her family by her side, Nancy, (Annie), aged 88 years, formerly of Moray Drive, Balloch. Beloved wife of George, loving mother of Evelyn and Angela, dear mother-in-law of Teddy and Andy, much loved granny and great-granny. Funeral service will take place at Bunesan Parish Church, Isle of Mull, on Thursday, November 28, 2019 at 12 noon, thereafter to Suidhe Cemetery. Family flowers only please.

**MILLIKEN** - Peacefully, after a long illness bravely borne, John, in his 85th year, formerly of Mingulay, Oban, loving husband of the late Morag Milliken, devoted dad of Kerry, Rona and Gregor, father-in-law of Billy and Samantha and doting grandpa of Patrick, Leyla, Andrew, Fraser, Jamie and Adam and a proud great grandpa to Harry, Hannah and Abbie. Funeral will take place at Oban Parish Church, Glencruitten Road, Oban, on Thursday, November 21, 2019 at 1.00 p.m., thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Colourful ties welcome. Family flowers only, donations if desired, for Mary's Meals.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**CRAIG** - Carole and family would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for the kind wishes, cards, phone calls and flowers received following the sad loss of Irene. Grateful thanks to Catriona of Hoesy Funeral Directors for sympathetic yet professional attention to the funeral arrangements. Thanks to the Rev Dugald Cameron for an uplifting service and thanks also to the church officer, elders and organist Norman Nicholson. To Petals and Thistle and Rose for lovely

floral tributes and the Royal Hotel for an excellent buffet. To Dr Waddington, Dr Adams and the wonderful Community Nurses for care given to Irene recently. Special thanks to all the staff at Eader Glinn who made the last four years of Irene's life so comfortable - she loved you all. Finally, heartfelt thanks to those who attended the church and graveside and donated to Eader Glinn Residents Comfort Fund. Dearly missed x

**DAVIDSON** - Bill, Marion, Andy, Kenny and family would like to thank everyone for their care, telephone calls, cards and kindness shown to them before and after the recent passing of Bill, especially the staff at Dail Mhor House, Dr Swan and District Nurse Annie MacLean who cared for Bill during his final days. Thanks also to Rev. Donald MacCorqudale and Rev. Richard Baxter for a lovely service, to Manson & MacBeath Funeral Directors for all their help, care and compassion, to McDonald Bros. for the beautiful wreaths and last but by no means least to all of the people who came to support us at the Duncansburgh Church and who helped raise the magnificent sum of £820.71, which the family would like to give to the Dail Mhor House Fund, for the benefit of Dail Mhor House residents.

**MACLEAN** - Chrissie, Marion, Margo and families wish to thank most sincerely all relatives, friends and neighbours for the kind expressions of sympathy extended to them in their recent sad loss of Archie. We have been overwhelmed by messages, cards, flowers, telephone calls and visits. Special thanks to Pat Boyd for conducting the service with a personal touch, Finlay for exceptional piping, Alasdair and Iain for travelling from South Africa, Alison and staff at Rockvale for kindness and excellent accommodation, Lodge Hotel for catering, CalMac crew for respect shown and to all who paid their last respects. Finally thanks to D Chisholm & Sons of Inverness and Co-op Tiree for caring and efficient funeral arrangements.

**MACLEAN** - (née Brady). Roddy-Paul and Maria (Lee) and families would like to thank all relatives and friends for the kindness shown on the recent sad loss of their mum, Agnes. To the many who sent cards, visited and telephoned and to those who attended Mum's funeral, may we express sincere thanks for your support at this difficult

time. We would particularly like to thank the dedicated staff at Cameron House Care Home, Manson & MacBeath Funeral Directors for their efficiency and professionalism, Rev. Father David Connor, St. Mary's RC Church, Fort William, for his comforting service and the Alexandra Hotel, who provided refreshments afterwards. Finally, thank you to all who donated so generously at the retiring collection in aid of Cameron House, raising £570.00.

## MEMORIALS

**HENDERSON** - In loving memory of my dear husband Iain who died November 22, 2002.

We never part from those we love,  
No distance can divide,  
In memories garden day by day,  
We still walk by your side.  
- Sadly missed, Isobel.

**MACCALLUM** - Morag Stewart (née Nicolson) taken into God's care 23/11/17. Precious memories of a loving wife, devoted mum and mother-in-law.

A happy smile, kind in nature, honest, loving and true.

We treasure your memory all our days.

- John, Mairi and Tony, Ard Craig and Allanbreck, Ballachulish.

**MACINTYRE** - Treasured memories of beloved parents, parents-in-law and grandparents Archibald (Baldy) and Mary (née Boyd), whose anniversaries occur at this time. - Iain, Jane, Caroline and Boyd, Oban and Edinburgh.

**MACINTYRE** - 20th anniversary. Remembering with love my dear mother Margaret, who died November 18, 1999, also remembering my dad Neil. Sweet memories.  
- Isobel and family.

**MACKAY** - Loving memories of Christine, who died November 18, 2006.

Adored mother of Donna, Finlay and Rebecca and wife of the late Donnie.

Deeply loved, sadly missed and remembered every day.

- Donna, Finlay and Rebecca.

**MACKECHNIE** - In loving memory of Iain, a dearly loved husband, dad, granddad and great-granddad, who died on November 20, 2011.

You're remembered always with our love

Constantly missed  
Always in our thoughts  
Forever in our hearts.

- Betty, David, Agnes, Marina and all your grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**MACLEAN** - Remembering always Archie (Wobbles), a special uncle and friend to many, who passed away November 23, 2017.

- Love Chrissie.

**SEATON** - In loving memory of my dear sister Moira, who passed away November 20, 2018.

Dearly loved and sorely missed.

- John Allan.

Oban Times  
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## DIAMOND WEDDING

## GIBSON



Tommy and Helen Gibson, Dalmally, celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary on November 9, 2019 with a ceilidh dance in the village community centre with their family and friends on this special occasion.

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# NTS says thank you with free entry week

A host of National Trust for Scotland sites all over the north-west of Scotland are offering free entry to National Lottery players from Saturday November 23 to December 1, 2019.

The National Trust for Scotland, which owns and cares for many of Scotland's most treasured heritage sites, has received more than £10.5 million in funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund – and to say thank you, the conservation charity is offering free entry to National Lottery players.

Brodie Castle near Forres, Culloden, Glencoe and the Glenfinnan Monument at the head of Loch Shiel are just four of the hundreds of National Lottery-funded venues and visitor attractions across Scotland saying #ThanksToYou to people who have raised money for good causes by buying a

lottery ticket. For one week, visitors can explore some of the most significant historic and cultural locations in the north-west for free by showing a National Lottery ticket.

Mark Bishop, director of Customer and Cause at the National Trust for Scotland, said: 'As a charity, we could not carry out the work we do without funding from organisations like the National Lottery.

'The money they contribute means we can continue educating, informing and entertaining visitors from across the globe with tales of Scotland's rich culture and heritage.

'We're looking forward to welcoming National Lottery players for free at properties the length and breadth of the country to celebrate 25 years of lottery good causes. Having contributed so much to National Trust for

Scotland properties over the years, now is an opportunity to give something back.'

Ros Kerslake, chief executive of the National Lottery Heritage Lottery Fund, said: 'This year the National Lottery turns 25, and what better way to say thank you than offering special offers at some of the places that players have helped fund. It's not only our wonderful heritage sites that are offering thanks – we also have free entry and special offers at National Lottery funded arts, sports and community attractions – all the places that make the UK such a great place to live.'

More than £40 billion has been raised for good causes by players over the past 25 years in the areas of arts, sport, heritage and community.

For more information visit [www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk](http://www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk).

Glenfinnan Monument.



## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Perhaps, like me, you're beginning to wrack your brain thinking of what you might be able to get a loved-one this Christmas ... something new, different, distinct, significant.

Perhaps, on the other hand, you've got it all in place, already wrapped and already under the already-decorated tree!

It's such a magical time of year, in no small part because of the creativity people show in their attempts to convey appreciation to those whom they love.

While this can be done through the tangible gifts we buy, isn't it often the case that, upon reflection at the end of the holiday period, when the excitement and the drama has settled, what stands out most are the moments of quiet and rest we shared with those closest to us?

It is in these moments that we capture something of the Christian faith in its purest form – the peace that follows the giving and receiving of a heartfelt gift.

As we make final preparations for next month's big day, let's remember that there is a gift awaiting all of us: a gift that is different, distinct and significant, to all who would receive it, found in the arrival of God's Son, which brings with it quiet and rest, given so that all may truly know the extent of God's great love for the world.

Reverend Stuart Lawson,  
Oban Baptist Church.

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# Rotary donates £500 to help with community cinema upgrade work



Marco Pacitti, duty and marketing manager, Kim Entwistle, director Jennie Larney, manager Alan Chapman, Rotary president Douglas Small, with Councillor Jim Lynch, director, and fundraiser Emma Grant.

Oban Rotary Club this week donated £500 towards the first phase of the Oban Phoenix Cinema foyer upgrade, with funds in support of a new concessions and ticketing counter.

The funds will specifically assist in the enhancement of the visitor experience of disabled patrons.

Changes to the foyer

area in the cinema were identified in a community consultation at the beginning of 2019 with the year ending on a high as phase one reaches completion.

The cinema trust look forward to implementing phase two of the project which includes the front foyer, sound proofing, ticketing booth and office

upgrade. The work being carried out will eventually improve the whole of the entrance foyer to the cinema and to give the community a more enjoyable experience.

President of Oban Rotary Douglas Small said: 'The Rotary Club of Oban is delighted to support this invaluable community

asset along with many other local businesses and individuals.

'We are so please to see our donation put to such positive use and wish the cinema trust ever success with phase two and beyond.

'To have such a thriving cinema in Oban is absolutely fantastic.'

OT

# Newtonmore are North Division One champions

The Newtonmore second team are Mowi North Division 1 champions for the fourth successive season following the shinty action on Saturday November 16.

## Mowi Premiership

Lochaber P  
Oban Camanachd P

The match between Oban Camanachd and Lochaber at Spean Bridge was postponed on Saturday morning because of a frozen pitch.

The sides will try again this Saturday for what is the final Mowi Premiership match of the season.

A win for Oban Camanachd would see them finish second in the league.

Oban Camanachd assistant manager Kenny Wotherspoon said: 'It's disappointing because we'd prepared for the game and we wanted to get the game played. Saturday's match will be the last game in the league and if we win, we will finish second.'

'I think the Camanachd Association would like us to share the points, as Kyles did in their final two matches, but we feel that would be a disadvantage to us as it is a game we feel we can win.'

'You get nothing for finishing second in the league but winning the Celtic Society and being runners-up in the Scottish and Macaulay cups, coupled with second in the league, is something many would have bitten their hand off for at the start of the season, especially at a club under new management, so it would give us something solid to build on for next year.'

## Kyles Athletic v Kilmallie – points shared

Kyles Athletic and Kilmallie agreed to share the points ahead of their meeting at Tighnabruaich.

This was to be Kyles Athletic's penultimate match of the season, whilst it was Kilmallie's final game of 2019.

Kyles also still had to play Newtonmore at Tighnabruaich but the points have been shared in that game too.

A Kyles Athletic statement read: 'After discussions between ourselves, the Camanachd Association, Kilmallie and Newtonmore, it has been agreed our two remaining matches of this season will no longer go ahead and the points will be shared.'

'After a long, drawn-out season, the players can now get some well-deserved time off before pre-season starts in January.'

The shared points mean Kyles Athletic, who have finished runners-up in shinty's top flight for the previous three seasons, are currently third in the table but both they and



Newtonmore, winners of the Mowi North Division One championship. Photographs: Neil Paterson.

second place Lovat will both drop a place if Oban Camanachd win their final match at Lochaber.

Having returned to shinty's top flight at the start of this season, Kilmallie's Premiership status was secured at the end of August, marking a successful first term in charge for new boss John Stewart.

## Mowi North Division 1

Newtonmore 7

Aberdeen University 0

The Newtonmore second team took the Mowi North Division 1 title for a fourth successive season after beating Aberdeen University 7-0 in their 1pm throw-up at the Eilan.

Newtonmore keeper Calum Grover was unwell so Cameron McNiven stood in between the sticks. But he was to have a quiet afternoon. There was no Fraser MacKintosh, but Drew MacDonald started and Glen MacKintosh took a place amongst five substitutes on the Newtonmore bench.

Aberdeen were missing Jamie Beaton, whilst Glengarry Ladies player Aoife Tangney started.

Craig Macleod gave Newtonmore the lead on nine minutes. Macleod's initial effort from the left was blocked by Stuart Cameron but when the ball came back to him, Macleod's low bouncing shot deceived keeper Scott Moffat and the ball ended up in the net.

Newtonmore were keen to add to their tally and boss Orsten Gardiner brought Glen MacKintosh on for Calum Stewart on 26 minutes, with Stewart re-introduced for Duncan Gorman on 37 minutes.

There was some relief for the home support when Glen MacKintosh made it 2-0 on 38 minutes. MacKintosh ran to the right of the 'D' to get on the end of Owen

Fraser's corner from the right. With Aberdeen University full back Graham Black in chase, MacKintosh blasted a high ball into the net, across the keeper from a tight angle on the right.

The hosts had the chance to add a third goal during first half stoppage time when referee Deek Cameron awarded them a penalty after spotting a 'kick' inside the 'D'. Aberdeen keeper Scott Moffat saved well with his stick, however, to deny Glen MacKintosh and it remained 2-0 at the break.

The visitors lost defender Joe Folan with a nasty face injury during the first half, although he came back on, bandaged up, in the second half.

A third goal arrived on 50 minutes. Glen MacKintosh collected the ball wide on the right before flicking it inside, between his legs, and although Calum Stewart's initial effort from the right of the 'D' was blocked, Stewart touched the ball back to Craig Macleod who evaded a challenge before shooting home on his back-hand to make it 3-0.

Craig Macleod completed his hat-trick on 59 minutes to make it 4-0. Scott Chisholm's lofted ball into the goal area from wide on the right of midfield wasn't dealt with by the Aberdeen defence and Craig Macleod ran in behind them where he lashed the ball past a helpless keeper.

Newtonmore still needed another goal for the title and it duly arrived with 20 minutes remaining. Substitute Sorley Thomson diverted a high ball forward into the path of Craig Macleod who ran in from the left and he controlled the ball before tucking it past the keeper on his left side.

Two late goals put gloss on the win. First, on 80 minutes, Glen MacKintosh ran onto a ball from

wide on the right and steadied himself before steering a low shot across the keeper and into the far corner of the net.

Five minutes later, Glen MacKintosh completed his hat-trick to make it 7-0. Substitute Neil Stewart crossed from the right, finding Craig Macleod at the back post. Macleod touched the ball inside to Glen MacKintosh who found space at the front of the 'D' and turned the ball low into the net on his back-hand.

Keeper Scott Moffat was excellent for Aberdeen, making a number of fine saves including parrying an Owen Fraser drive from right of centre in the second half. Owen Fraser had a good game for Newtonmore, constantly driving the side forward from his full centre position.

The win means that, after a titanic battle, the Newtonmore second team pip Glengarry, who put up a fantastic challenge, to take the league title by just three goals. After the match, the splendid Mowi North Division 1 trophy was presented to Newtonmore captain Craig Macleod by Camanachd Association president Keith Loades.

The outcome also means Mowi South 1 winners Aberdour will step up to the Mowi National Division next season as the Newtonmore colts are not eligible to take part in the play-off match.

## Oban Camanachd youths win

Oban Camanachd 4  
Bute 3

Strachurmore shinty field was the setting for the South Under 14 league play-off between Oban Camanachd and Bute Shinty Club

on Sunday November 17.

The standard of play and excitement in the game made it well worth it for the spectators on a cold but bright wintery day.

Within five minutes Oban opened the scoring through Innes Jackson, but before everyone could catch their breath Rory MacDonald levelled for Bute. The game started at a fast pace and it was Ewan Campbell who then put Oban ahead in the tenth minute, then again on the 21st minute.

Oban had made the better of their chances as both keepers had to produce stops to keep the teams in touch.

Oban went in ahead by the same score line at half-time.

Within five minutes of the second half, Bute's Ronnie McMillan had them within one goal.

The game was keenly contested by both teams with some intriguing battles on the pitch, in particular between Cammy McMillan and Logan Black in the centre.

Although both teams kept playing with attacking intent, it was Bute who got themselves level through Rory MacDonald with five minutes to go. It appeared they were the team that would go onto win it, however, as so often happens Oban scored almost immediately after through Louis MacFarlane.

This was how the scoring ended and it was Oban who won back the South U14 league trophy.

Both clubs should be extremely proud of the players and the game they served up to the far journied parents and spectators and will now look forward to a rest over the winter.

Thanks go to the Strachurmore playing field volunteers who made the pitch available for the game.

## London Shield Final preview

Skye Camanachd U17 and Newtonmore U17 will meet in the London Shield Final at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree, on Saturday November 23.

With no neutral pitches available, the venue was decided by the toss of a coin.

The sides met at Castle Leod in the MacTavish Juvenile Cup semi-finals when Newtonmore won 4-2 after extra time. Taylor Matheson scored both Skye goals but Aaron MacBean, Declan Brannan, Struan Ross and Xander Ross gave Newtonmore the victory. Skye are the current London Shield holders having beaten their Fort William counterparts 2-1 in last year's final.

This year's final throws-up at



Newtonmore captain Craig MacLeod lifts the Mowi North Division One trophy.

1.30pm and Calum Girvan is the match referee for what is sure to be an entertaining encounter.

## Garry Reid reflects on another triumph

Scotland head coach Garry Reid took time to reflect on another international success following his squad's emphatic 26-4 victory over Ireland at the GAA National Games Development Centre in Abbotstown, Dublin.

As he swapped Dublin for a work-related trip to Stornoway, a satisfied Garry Reid said: 'What pleased me most is that we really put on a performance. Although we won last year, I didn't feel we played as well as we could but this year was first class. Our 20 metre passing was excellent this year and we put some great moves together. We spoke before the match about showing composure and making ourselves available and Steven Macdonald typified that. He constantly put his body on the ball during the game. He also put in a fantastic effort to get himself fit for the game, especially as he hadn't played since the Camanachd Cup Final.'

The match was played at the €12 million GAA National Games Development Centre, a venue shinty can only dream of.

Garry said: 'The pitch was in brilliant condition with the ball just skidding off the surface. It really suited us, although the rain and the cold made it difficult for both sides. The boys were struggling to hold their sticks at times and they were holding them under the driers at half-time to dry them out.'

There was much post-match discussion surrounding Ireland's disappointing decision not to select any top tier players but it's not something Garry dwells too much on.

'All we can do is beat the side that was put before us,' he said. 'Ireland were decent for the first 10 to 15 minutes but we bossed the game after that and they lost heart. You could see the difference the two exceptional players made for Ireland's U21s but we didn't give Ireland any time and won the game with a bit to spare. I've never seen such a comprehensive win in this fixture. I thought our half back line was terrific with Finlay MacRae showing all his expe-

rience and Blair Morrison showing great strength.'

There was also a special mention for Daniel Cameron and Andrew MacCuish. 'The Oban pair were great. They did exactly what we asked of them. Daniel got the scoring started. His job was to win the ball and get it to the forwards and he did that so well.'

'Papa [Andrew MacCuish] gave us a different dimension. He came on and scored again. The shinty/hurling fixture really suits his style of play. This fixture is about all 20 players and it was so important to be able to bring on players of the quality of Papa and Savio [Genini] to give the likes of Roddy MacDonald and Kevin Bartlett a break.'

Lovat keeper Stuart MacDonald captained the Scots for the first time.

'Stuart has been involved for eight years and brings consistency. He goes about his business professionally and he's one of three or four leaders within the squad. Sometimes keepers get overlooked when it comes to being selected as skipper, but Stuart deserved it.'

'The boys were very kind afterwards and said we'd created a club spirit within the group. That's not easy over just six weeks.'

In terms of the fixture itself, Garry said: 'It's healthy to review the rules every year and look at what has worked well and what hasn't from the perspective of the game but also from the perspective of the spectacle. We don't really do that. For example, should we allow 'kicks' to let the game flow? It's a two-point opportunity for us if an Irish player kicks the ball and that's a big advantage.'

Having being involved with the Scotland U17s for a number of years, Garry Reid went on to assist Ronald Ross to Scotland U21 victory before winning one and losing one as U21 boss in his own right after Ronald moved up to the senior side. He has followed that up with two wins in his two senior internationals. So what happens next?

'I'm undecided. I'll take time to think about it along with Kenny [Ross] and Robert [Geddes] who have been great throughout as has our physio Alison Thompson. There are other factors. I'd like to hear what the Camanachd Association and the GAA want from the fixture in the future. It

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# new SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

Win!  
THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT  
£3950

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.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

### 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 Campbeltown Courier, Main Street, Campbeltown; The Argyllshire Advertiser, Argyll Street, Lochgilphead or the Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

### Competition rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company. The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Winners agree to have their photograph taken for publicity purposes. Winners' names and home towns will appear in the newspaper. Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition. Entry data will be deleted/destroyed within 30 days of the competition entry deadline and in a manner appropriate to GDPR regulations. Entrant's details will not be used for any other activity.



**Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses.** The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB or hand in to any of our offices as detailed above.

Name .....

Address .....

Tel No.....

Please  
tape your  
£1 coin here  
(only if posting)

### RECENT WINNERS:

- T Campbell Sept '18 £2500
- S Campbell Sept '18 £2550
- L Currie Nov '18 £800
- L Nicolson Dec '18 £3900

### LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



The two entries who got nearest the ball and each receive £25 are:

- D Munro  
Lochgilphead
- M Aitchison  
Blairgowrie

OT

# Shinty in Strachur needs you

**Colin Cameron, chairman of Strachur and District Shinty Club, invites people with time, energy and ideas to shape the future of one of Argyll's oldest shinty clubs.**

Shinty is in our blood in Cowal.

But the region's oldest club, Strachur and District, is in need of fresh blood if it is to survive and prosper in the modern era.

As a club, Strachur is looking for help from the entire community to support shinty in the district. Players of all ages are welcome, but we need to freshen up the backroom side too.

We want to hear from anyone who can offer the skills and experience necessary to run a modern and forward-looking sports club with a rich history.

Shinty is part of the cultural heritage of Cowal, as it is across most of the former Gaelic-speaking areas of the Highlands.

We have been playing it for at least 1,500 years, and when the Victorians

standardised the rules in the late 19th century into something akin to the sport we know today, village clubs were formed.

In Cowal, the oldest of these clubs still in existence is Strachur.

Since its first organised match in the spring of 1879 at Balliemanoach Farm - near the site of the former saw-mill - Strachur has enjoyed sporadic success at junior and senior level.

No fewer than seven Celtic Cup final appearances in the 1980s yielded two wins (1982 and 1985) and during this period the club featured in every senior showpiece in 1983 - the Celtic, Macaulay and Camanachd Cup finals.

Since this purple patch, a combination of factors, including a declining and ageing population, forced the club to move from two

adult teams to one during



Strachur with the South Division Two trophy, won in the 2018 season.

the 1990s. In recent times a shortage of players along with changes in society have made it more difficult to put a team on the pitch each week. Strachur is not alone in this - Argyll is probably the most

seriously impacted area of the shinty-playing community in Scotland.

But Strachur and District Shinty Club wants to buck the trend.

With a new pitch and

changing rooms, opened in 2012, the club's facilities are second to none in Cowal. With the help of the Camanachd Association, the club is drawing up an action plan.

The team on the pitch is clearly paramount and we want to attract players to a progressive club with a coaching pathway to achieve success, using the excellent Strachurmore facilities. We also have plans to strengthen the club's community links, build club membership and develop the social scene.

The club's annual general meeting will be held at Strachurmore pavilion at 7.30pm on Tuesday November 26.

If you are interested in finding out more about helping Strachur and District Shinty Club as it looks to the future, come along to this open meeting.

Experience or knowledge of shinty is irrelevant - we simply need people with the skills, enthusiasm and a little bit of time to support the club.

To find out more, contact me on 07866 368842 or email [colin@positiveland.co.uk](mailto:colin@positiveland.co.uk).

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could well be a last season in charge for the Irish for co-managers Maher and Conor Phelan so it will be interesting to see what approach the Irish take after that.

'At the moment, we don't even know where next year's game will take place. It would also be good to hear what the fixture means to the Scots. Are we proud of it?

In Scotland, we have a great pathway to the senior shinty/hurling fixture with the U17s, who have a tremendous trip to Ireland each year, and the U21s, who are always given a stiff test, so the players all have experience by the time they get to the seniors. However, in comparison, only eight of their 20 hurlers had played shinty/hurling before.

I'm also a great believer that if a player has a good shinty season then he should have the opportunity to play for Scotland. Craig Morrison is a great example. He had a good case for being involved last year and was disappointed when I left him out. However he never took the huff and what a season he has had this year. He's national player of the year and with two goals on his debut, he certainly proved his worth.'

Garry Reid has also proved his worth in this cross-codes game but it remains to be seen if the fixture itself can continue to demonstrate its worth as a key part of the shinty calendar.

Hear from Scotland U21

Boss Alan MacRae in next week's Oban Times.

## 2020 Artemis Macaulay Cup draw

Now that the 2019 shinty season is coming to a close, we know which teams will participate in the 2020 Artemis Macaulay Cup competition and they won't have to wait too long to find out their opponents.

The 2020 Artemis Macaulay Cup draw will be made live on Oban FM's Sports Show on Saturday November 30. The South and North sections will be drawn up to the semi-final stage. The Sports Show programme starts at 6pm.

The Macaulay Cup, first presented in 1947 by then Oban Times editor Flora Macaulay, is the only cup format in senior shinty to be played on a regional basis so guaranteeing a final between a south and north side.

Eligibility is mainly based on the previous year's league placing and there is just one change from the south teams who competed last season as Ballachulish return to the competition after a year out, replacing Col Glen.

There are three south teams from last season's Mowi Premiership - Kyles Athletic, Inveraray and Oban Camanachd - as well as Bute, Glasgow Mid Argyll and Oban Celtic from the Mowi

National Division. Mowi South 1 champions Aberdour and runners-up Ballachulish make up the group.

There is also just one change in the north half of the draw with Mowi National Division champions Fort William replacing Skye Camanachd.

The north will be represented by Caberfeidh, Fort William, Kilmallie, Kingussie, Kinlochshiel, Lochaber, Lovat and Newtonmore.

The Artemis Macaulay Cup Final at Mossfield is usually televised live. Kingussie are the current holders, having beaten Oban Camanachd 3-2 in last season's final.

## Matheson and MacRae take over at Lovat

Mowi National Premiership side Lovat have announced Jamie Matheson and Alan MacRae will be their co-managers for the 2020 season.

Jamie Matheson managed the Lovat second team to a fourth place finish in Mowi North Division 1 last season following their promotion from North 2 the previous season.

Alan MacRae is the current Scotland U21 head coach and has previous managerial experience with the Kingussie and Lovat second teams and the Lovat and Beaulay senior sides. Jamie Matheson is replaced as Lovat second team

manager by Raymond Rennie who will be assisted by James Gallacher. Rennie is the Lovat second team's top scorer and he will continue playing, whilst James Gallacher remains in charge of the Lovat Ladies team who won WCA Mowi North 2 this season.

Lovat thank former boss Fraser Gallacher for his work in charge of the Lovat first team and James White and Jamie Matheson for their roles with the second team.

## Young Coach of the Year

Lochaber Ladies player Kirsty Delaney has been named Highlife Highland young coach of the year.

This is a well-deserved award for the work Kirsty puts in, not just with shinty but also with other sports including football, gymnastics and multisport.

## Ballachulish winners

Ballachulish, who finished second in Mowi South Division 1 this year, held their annual prizegiving on Friday November 15.

The Ballachulish player of the season award was won by Ally Banks.

Referees at Ballachulish's games this season were asked to pick their player of the game and this prize was won

by Jack Dignan.

Dougie Rankin and Lorne Brown were the club's joint top scorers and U18 player of the season accolade went to David Wilson.

## 'Glen' look to boost managerial team

Following their annual general meeting, Glenurquhart have confirmed Eddie Tembo and Stuart MacKintosh will continue as first team player/managers for next season.

The Mowi National Division side are looking to introduce a third co-manager to have a lead role during matches. Anyone interested should contact Glenurquhart chairman Garry MacKintosh at [Power@hisltd.co.uk](mailto:Power@hisltd.co.uk)

## New pitch support group formed

The Camanachd Association hopes to build on a successful Mowi Camanachd Association conference and awards event by forming a facilities and pitch support group.

The facilities and ground maintenance workshop at the shinty surviving and thriving conference, led by Iain Hay, Fraser Inglis and Michael Clark, and Sarah Robertson from sportscotland, proved

popular and the new group will share information and experiences whilst also collaborating on working practices and resource pooling. They may also explore specific topics to help solve some of the issues that plague many grounds throughout the country. To give everyone the chance to be part of this group, as well as for communications to be correctly circulated, the Camanachd Association will generate a database detailing those who lead on facilities and pitch maintenance within each club.

To help organise this initiative, a steering group is also being formed and anyone interested should contact National Development Manager Graham Cormack at [graham.cormack@shinty.com](mailto:graham.cormack@shinty.com) or the Camanachd Association on 01463 715931.

## Venue confirmed for Oban Camanachd AGM

Oban Camanachd's annual general meeting will take place at the Rockfield School Huts on Wednesday December 4 at 6.30pm.

After such a successful season, the club hopes to increase the number of people on its committee. Some key positions need to be filled, including the Lochside Rovers management role.

## Martial arts

IAIN RODGER

editor@obantimes.co.uk



### Annual tournament

Competitors from Argyll Martial Arts in Oban, Dalmally and Inveraray along with the Senshi Do Kickboxing club in Oban and Caledonia Kyokushin clubs in Oban, Lochgilhead and Stirling travelled to Mid Argyll Sports Centre in Lochgilhead to take part in the annual tournament organised by Iain Rodger.

Win or lose, the competitors gained valuable tournament experience to put them in good standing for the next event.

Everyone taking part put on a great show that was enjoyed by competitors and spectators.

Young Cody McCulloch fought in his own category (11-13 years) and also stepped up to take part in the 14-15 years category and came away with gold in both, an amazing achievement.

There were quite a few 'first timers' which can be daunting, but all of them took to it

like veterans. Results were as follows:

**Kumite (fighting):** 8-10 years 6th Kyu+ - 1 Douglas Cameron, Argyll Martial Arts (AMA); 2 Lewis Cairns (SDKB); 3 Daniel May, Senshi Do Kickboxing (SDKB and AMA). 11-13 years Novice 7th Kyu - 1 Siri Dawton Independent Kyokushin Karate Union (IKKU); 2 Andi MacFarlane (IKKU). 11-13 years girls 6th Kyu+ - 1 Mina Ritchie (IKKU); 2 Mirrin Bowden (IKKU); 3 Eloise Giaestiere (AMA). 11-13 years boys 6th Kyu+ - 1 Cody McCulloch (SDKB); 2 James Snelgrove (IKKU); 3 Callan May (SDKB & AMA). 14-15 years boys 6th Kyu+ - 1 Cody McCulloch (SDKB); 2 Lewis May (SDKB & AMA); 3 Donald Robertson (IKKU).

**Kata (set patterns):** Kyokushin junior Kata (low grade) - 1 Viltorio Mosca (IKKU); 2 Andi MacFarlane (IKKU); 3 Siri Dawton (IKKU).

Kyokushin junior kata (high

grade) - 1 James Snelgrove (IKKU); 2 Eve Salmon (IKKU).

Shukokai junior Kata (high grade) - 1 Joshua Mitchell (AMA); 2 Eloise Giaestiere (AMA); 3 Douglas Cameron (AMA).

Shukokai adult Kata; 1 Kenny Gray (AMA); 2 Elaine Mitchell (AMA).

The best technique award went to James Snelgrove of the Lochgilhead IKKU club and the most spirited fighter award went to Gracie Hill from Senshi Do Kickboxing.

For details about the Kyokushinkai Karate classes, contact Iain on 07584 166542 or email iain@ikku.co.uk

For details on the kickboxing classes visit the Senshi Do Kickboxing Facebook page or email Wullie on shihanwill@gmail.com

Anyone looking for information on the Argyll Martial Arts clubs can get details from Kenny Gray on 07884 183905 or kenni.gray@btinternet.com



Donald Robertson and Cody McCulloch in action.



Winners at the recent martial arts tournament at Mid Argyll Sports Centre. Back row, left to right: Lewis May, Cody McCulloch, Joshua Mitchell, Elaine Mitchell, Kenny Gray, Donald Robertson and Eve Salmon. Middle row, left to right: Callan May, Eloise Giaestiere, Siri Dawton, Andi MacFarlane, James Snelgrove, Douglas Cameron, Mina Ritchie and Mirrin Bowden. Front, left to right: Daniel May, Gracie Hill, Viltorio Mosca and Lewis Cairns.

### Wado Kai Karate

On Sunday November 10 at Atlantis Leisure members of the Oban Wado Ryu club were treated to a masterclass in defence techniques from Hanshi Ronnie Watt OBE, 9th Dan and Order of the Rising Sun. Ronnie is President of the National Karate Federation and runs clubs in Aberdeen and the east of Scotland.

Students were taken through a range of techniques from the Shotokan tradition, which are subtly different to closely related techniques taught in the Wado style of Karate.

Ronnie's vast experience and knowledge were greatly appreciated and the course ended with sparring bouts to put the new techniques into practical application.

Formal gradings took place and the following students were successful in gaining new belts:

Jamie Summer (Green Belt), Nathan Isaac (Green Belt), Sandy Black (1st Dan Black), Julie Faulkner (2nd Dan Black), David Isaac (3rd Kyu Brown), Jane Bruce (3rd Dan Black) and Mike Faulkner (2nd Dan Black).

A special presentation was



Wado Kai Group, back row left to right: Chris Bruce, Sandy Black, David Isaac, Mike Faulkner and Ronnie Watt. Middle: Julie Faulkner and Jane Bruce. Front, left to right: Jamie Summer and Nathan Isaac.

made by Ronnie Watt to Chris Bruce. A silk hand-stitched 8th Dan Black Belt - awarded by the National Karate Federation for services to the sport.

The Wado club welcomes new members and practices at Dunbeg School on Tuesdays from 6.30pm. Contact Mike Faulkner for more details. m.faulkner6@btinternet.com

## No pain, no gain for Oban's squash ladies

After the huge success of last year, Oban Ladies Squash Camp was back again this year.

The slogan for Bootcamp 2019 was 'Believe To Achieve'

and the ladies took that to heart.

This year's event took place over two days at the end of September when mud, water, sweat and some tears were in

evidence. A record number of 27 women from Oban Squash Team completed an assault course of log carrying, sand crawling, sea tug of war, weighted tasks and other torturous activities on day one of the camp at Ganavan.

Thanks go to Jemma Campbell of Fit With You Bootcamp who put the ladies through their paces for the hour-long warm up before the start.

Thanks also go to the marshals on the day: Christine Roberts of MacNiven Electrics and Roddy MacKenzie and Robin MacQueen of MacQueen Bros, who also supplied the ladies with

changing facilities. Day two was squash centred and conducted by former world ranking women's player and now one of Scotland's top female coaches Lisa McKenna at Atlantis Leisure.

Lisa gave a presentation of what it takes to be a professional squash player followed by on court training, drills, game play and a question and answer session.

The weekend ended with a prizegiving and barbecue.

Organised by Colin MacNiven, Oban Ladies Squash Team coach, the event succeeded in pushing the ladies to new levels of fitness and personal achievement.



Oban Ladies Squash Team were put through their paces at Bootcamp 2019.

Oban Ladies Squash Team wish to thank Neil McGougan Building Contractors who proudly sponsored the event again in 2019. Their support is greatly appreciated.

The team continues to go from strength to strength in

### SQUASH

only its first year of competing in major team competitions and events nationally.

Roll on 2020 Ladies Squash Camp 3.



The Oban ladies squash squad take part in a sea tug-of-war.

OT

## MOTO3



John McPhee in action at the Gran Premio de la Comunitat in Valencia.



## Disappointing end to a good 2019 for John McPhee in Valencia

Oban Moto3 rider John McPhee had a disappointing end to his 2019 Moto3 World Championship campaign at last weekend's Gran Premio de la Comunitat Valenciana, with John unable to finish the shortened 15-lap race after being involved in a multi-rider collision at the Circuit Ricardo Tormo.

John made a strong start after the restart and was able to immediately get stuck into the battle for the top 10 as the race got under way again – until another rider high-sided in front of him, leaving him with nowhere to go. Unable to rejoin, he was thankfully left unhurt in the four-bike tumble.

However, despite the fall, the World Championship standings see John end the season in fifth overall and, combined with teammate Sasaki's 20th, means the team finish the year fifth in the teams' championship as well as helping Honda take victory in the constructors' championship.

The 2020 Moto3 World Championship season will get underway with the Qatar Grand Prix on March 8, 2020, with Khairul Idham Pawi joining John later this week at the Circuito Jerez for their first pre-season test.

### OBAN SAINTS YOUTH TEAMS

## Successful race night

Oban Saints youth held their annual race night on Friday at Soroba House

The club, who are running four age groups from 13s to 17s, with more than 80 youngsters and play in Glasgow and District youth football league, heavily relies on fundraising and local support to run each season.

A great time was had by all who attended and the event raised a massive £2007 for the club.

Special thanks to all who attended the night and donated raffle prizes, and special thanks as always to the local businesses who donated for the event.

Last Sunday's results: Lochgilphead Red Star 7, Under-13s 0; Under-14s 4, Cranhill 2. Saints goalscorers were Cody MacCulloch (2), Zander Craik and Preston MacIntyre. Kilbowie Union 1, Under-15s 8. On target for Saints were Kyle Cooper (4), Ruairidh Buchanan (3) and Andrew Nicol. Cambuslang 2 v Under-17s 3. Scoring for Saints were Ross Campbell (2) and Connor Moore.

This Sunday's fixtures: Under 13s v Pollok; Cranhill v Under 14s; Under 15s v Giffnock SC; Johnstone Burgh v Under 17s.

# Saints bank three more points down by the Clyde

Clydebank	0
Oban Saints	2
Central Scottish 1B	

A goalkeeping crisis forced Oban Saints to cast the net far and wide in search of a stand-in for regular number one Graham Douglas for last Saturday's trip to Clydebank.

With Ben Pollock, Murdo MacKenzie and all other back-up options also unavailable, former Celtic youth keeper Jamie Strachan answered the call and produced an assured performance to pave the way for Saints' ninth consecutive Central Scottish Amateur Football League Division 1B win. Second-half goals from Dene Cassells and Lewis Cameron were enough to secure the points against a stuffy Clydebank side who battled hard throughout.

With co-manager Donald Campbell beginning a work-related football sabbatical and Scottish amateur international left fullback Scott Maitland also missing, the remaining half of the management duo, club stalwart Willie Gemmell, opted for a change of formation and took his place in the middle of a back three alongside Steven MacLeod and captain Dene Cassells. In midfield were Matty Kelly, Lewis Cameron and Myles McAuley with Ruairidh Horne and Ross Maitland as wing backs. Up front were Cammy Hill and Craig MacEwan. Making up a strong bench were David Beaton, James Ford, Gavin Forgive, Aaron McKay and Matt Rippon.

Both sets of players were finding the surface difficult and a miscued fourth min-

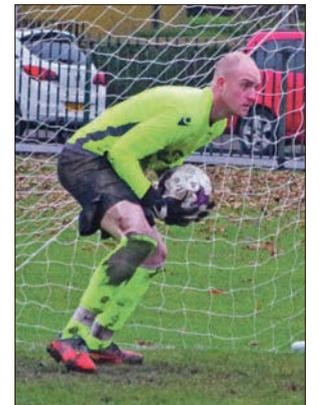
ute finish wide of Andrew Cameron's left hand post from Cammy Hill let Clydebank off the hook after his well timed run connected with a Ross Maitland cross from the left.

Saints skipper Dene Cassells had the ball in the net from a Lewis Cameron 15th minute free-kick but only after referee John Quinn had blown for some pushing and shoving between Cammy Hill and Bankies central defender Benjamin Pierre Junges.

### Good move

Saints produced another good move on the left and only the slightest of touches from the outstretched right boot of Colin McLafferty prevented Cammy Hill from connecting with Lewis Cameron's low cross along the six-yard line.

Saints squandered another



Jamie Strachan impressed between the posts for Saints.

good opportunity in the 35th minute when Ruairidh Horne turned a Matty Kelly cross from the left well wide of target after Myles McAuley had taken down an Andrew Cameron goal kick in the centre circle and sent midfield partner Kelly off on a run.

Bankies skipper Andrew Cameron safely gathered a 22-yard effort from opposite number Dene Cassells after the big Saints central defender had connected with a Myles McAuley throw-in before enjoying a massive slice of good fortune 60 seconds later. From another McAuley throw, Craig MacEwan glanced a header onto the inside of Cameron's right hand post and straight back into the grateful keeper's arms.

Saints continued where they left off and opened the second half with a Myles McAuley shot from the corner of the box which curled just wide of the postage stamp corner.

The deadlock was broken



Lewis Cameron is congratulated by Craig MacEwan and Matty Kelly after netting Saints' second goal.

# Ankle injury sees captain Robert



Oban Lorne RFC captain Iwan Roberts.

Oban Lorne RFC captain Iwan Roberts will be on the sidelines for the rest of the season following a nasty ankle injury sustained during a 15-0 defeat against Dalziel last weekend.

An X-ray on Sunday morning confirmed a fractured fibula.

The Green Machine had been looking to keep their West Division Two title challenge on track at Motherwell against the team one position above them in the league.

Instead, a spate of injuries has left Andrew Johnston

and the Oban Lorne coaching team with a major headache going forward.

Nevertheless, the head coach took a lot of positives from the display, if not the result, and will look for his team to get back on track this weekend when they travel to Coatbridge to play Waysiders Drumpellier.

'With a mounting injury list and a number of players unavailable, the coaching team will have their work cut out trying to get a balanced team out this weekend,' said Johnston.

'Ferg McCoss will come

back in for Iwan and hopefully big Eric Roberts will get over the back injury that has kept him out of the last couple of games.

'When Oban managed to get clean ball last week they looked the more dangerous attack but the defence of both teams was the key factor on the day.

'There were few glimpses of the open attacking rugby which has been the Oban trademark in recent times but on the rare occasions they did break out they managed to string some nice passages of play together.'



Dene Cassells heads Saints into the lead. Match report and photographs: Derek Black

in the 52nd minute when the home defence couldn't clear a Lewis Cameron free-kick after the Saints Scottish amateur international had been felled on the corner of the box by Benjamin Pierre Junges. Cameron's free-kick was bundled behind for a corner on the left presenting the Saints talisman with another dead ball opportunity.

Having opened his goal scoring account from the penalty spot in Saints last outing, Saints skipper Dene Cassells doubled his tally for the season with a glancing

near-post header from three yards which gave Andrew Cameron no chance.

Saints made the first of their four changes in the 56th minute sending on David Beaton as a direct replacement for Ruaridh Horne at right wing back.

#### Best spell

As the second half wore on, the home side were enjoying their best spell of the match and Saints introduced Matt Rippon as a 64th-minute replacement for Cammy Hill in an attempt to improve their fortunes up front.

Saints added a second goal in the 72nd minute when Central League Select pair Matty Kelly and Lewis Cameron combined to good effect through the middle. Kelly won the ball inside the centre circle and fed Cameron who jinked his way through the Bankies defence and slotted the ball into the bottom corner past the left hand of Andrew Cameron.

Aaron McKay and James Ford were given late run outs as replacements for Ross Maitland and Lewis Cameron, the latter being

#### FOOTBALL

withdrawn as a precaution ahead of the following day's inter-league match between the Central Scottish Amateur Football League and the Strathclyde Saturday Morning Amateur Football League at New Tinto Park, Govan.

This coming Saturday Saints welcome first time visitors Craigneuk to Oban for a top versus bottom League Division 1B clash with referee Allan Loch in charge for the 2pm kick-off at Glencruitten.

## Good away win for Saints Greater Glasgow team

Westcliff	2
Oban Saints GG	4
GG AFL Division 3	

Oban Saints GG had a 4-2 win against Westcliff last Saturday in a competitive game played at Dumbarton Common.

Westcliff, after a mixed start to the campaign, boasted five new signings which included three from Junior football.

On a poor surface which suited neither team, Westcliff took the lead after 11 minutes after a misplaced goal kick fell straight in the path of Westcliff striker Marc Laird who put the Dumbarton side ahead.

In a back and forth first half, Westcliff were the better of

the two teams. The half also saw Saints being awarded a penalty which the referee reversed to a goal kick.

The home side deservedly went in with the one-goal lead at half time.

The second half saw a shuffle in formation and, against the run of play, keeper Ryan Macdonald made an outstanding save to deny the young Oban side going 2-0 down.

In the 55th minute, workhorse Dougie MacLeod scored from close range after cutting in to make the score 1-1.

However he received a painful kick from the defender to his knee for which referee Niall Anderson only issued a yellow card.

Shortly after, Saints took the lead after some great build up play through Fraser MacFarlane whose powerful strike from outside the box couldn't be held by the Westcliff number one.

A quick breakaway saw the home side equalise in the 73rd minute with a cracker from outside the box.

Rather than letting frustrations kick in, particularly with challenges becoming fiercer, Saints dominated the rest of the game and kept their discipline and trusted the official to keep control of things and deservedly went 3-2 through a Rory Dowd header.

After once again taking the lead Saints took advantage of a red card being shown to

veteran James Burns who was lucky to still be on the pitch after his earlier kick at Dougie MacLeod.

Saints kept good possession and soon after Sean Grant rounded off a well deserved 4-2 win with a top class finish.

Saints sit second in the table behind leaders Kirkfield by two points but have played three games fewer and remain undefeated in what is proving to be a competitive league which has seen eight new teams enter this season.

With no game this week the Saints squad will be supporting their first team colleagues in their home tie against Craigneuk before welcoming fellow league newcomers Kilbarchan Thistle to Oban the following week.

## ts join Oban Lorne casualty list

The Oban scrum and lineout were under pressure from the start last weekend and the front row dominance from Dalziel led to a number of penalties which the hosts duly converted to turn at half time with a 9-0 lead.

The start of the second half brought more disruption with David Cameron and Daniel Broderick both sustaining hamstring injuries while the home team continued to dominate the set piece, adding two more penalties in the second half to make the final score 15-0.

#### RUGBY

Oban Lorne Ladies hosted Stewartry in a Tennent's National League Division One game at Glencruitten last Sunday.

Despite a spirited performance the Oban side lost 34-5.

Sophia Rosinski  
dives over to  
score Oban's try.

Photograph: Stephen Lawson



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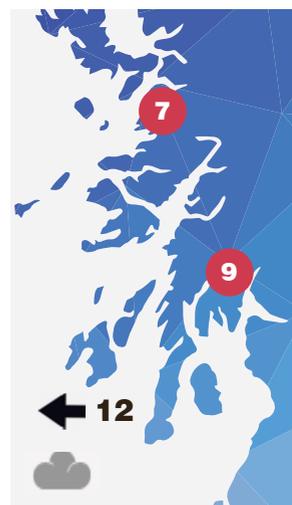


#### WEATHER

**Thursday**  
Light cloud and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures 5°C to 7°C.

**Friday**  
Light cloud and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures 6°C to 9°C.

**Weekend Outlook**  
**Saturday**  
Light cloud and a gentle breeze  
**Sunday**  
Light rain and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures 7°C to 10°C.



FRIDAY

#### TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday November 21, 2019** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

	01.13	3.0	06.31	1.5
<b>Thur</b>	13.27	3.4	19.56	1.6
<b>Fri</b>	02.24	3.2	07.46	1.4
	14.33	3.6	20.59	1.4
<b>Sat</b>	03.15	3.4	08.51	1.2
	15.22	3.8	21.49	1.2
<b>Sun</b>	03.56	3.7	09.46	1.0
	16.03	4.0	22.32	1.0
<b>Mon</b>	04.32	3.9	10.36	0.8
	16.42	4.1	23.12	0.9
<b>Tues</b>	05.07	4.0	11.22	0.7
	17.20	4.2	23.50	0.8
<b>Wed</b>	05.44	4.1	12.06	0.7
	17.57	4.1	***	**

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

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available to purchase.

Disappointing end  
for John McPhee  
in Valencia

Saints bank three  
more points down  
by the Clyde

# Bob bounces back after poor start in South Africa

Oban's Bob MacIntyre continued his hugely impressive debut season on the European Tour with a top 10 finish in the Nedbank Challenge in Sun City, South Africa. His six-under-par total left him tied for eighth place, six shots behind winner Tommy Fleetwood.

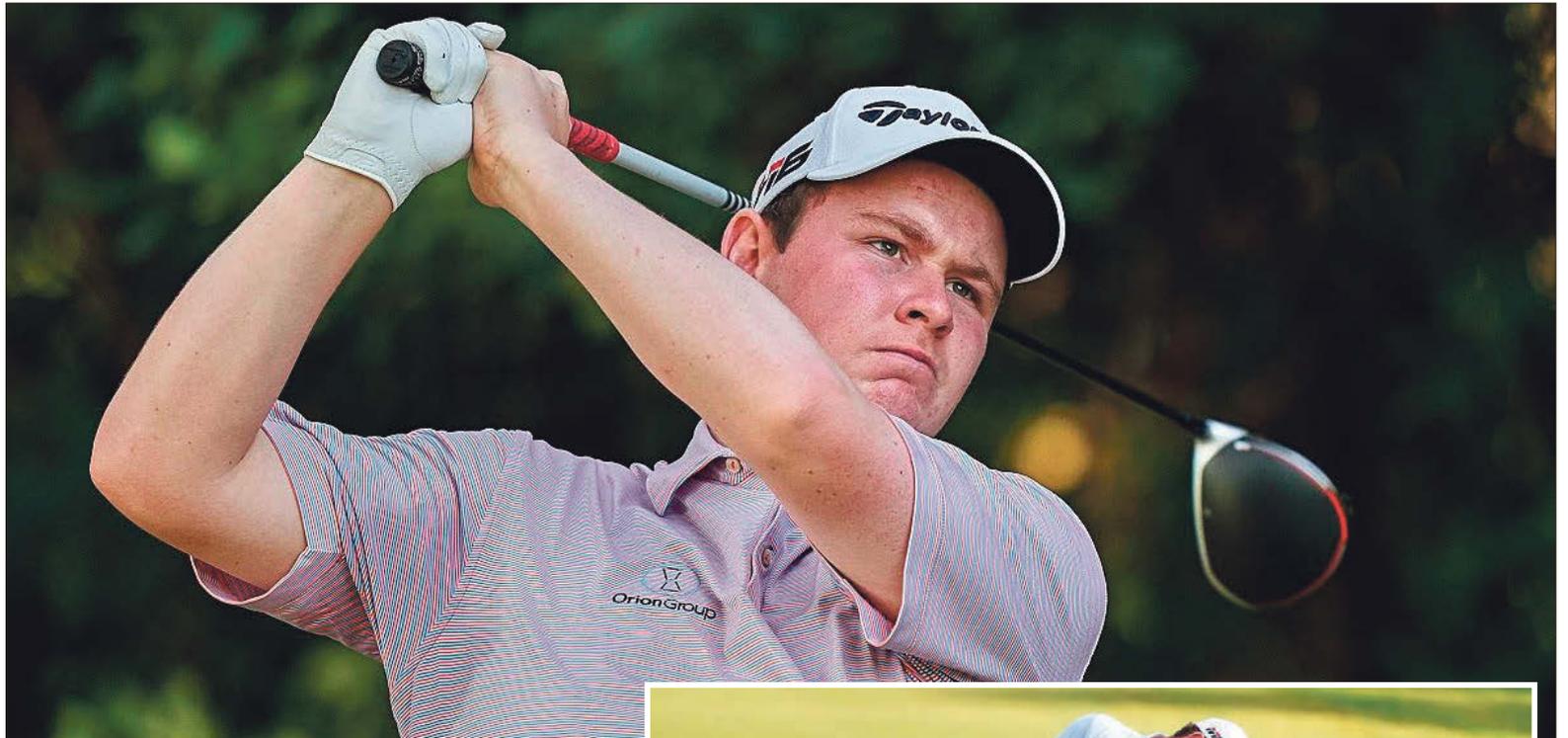
More importantly, it saw him regain pole position from America's Kurt Kitayama in the battle for the title of Rookie of the Year.

A top 10 finish looked a long way off after the first two days' play in South Africa with Bob following up an opening day 73 with a disappointing four-over-par 76 on Friday – a round which included an ugly quadruple bogey nine at his final hole. That left him languishing near the foot of the leaderboard going into the final two days.

What followed during the weekend was quite simply sensational. While his opponents all struggled in the windy conditions, Bob charged through the field.

He followed Saturday's magnificent 65 with an equally impressive 68 on Sunday to rocket up the leaderboard. Bob's attacking golf over the final two days yielded an incredible 13 birdies and a spectacular eagle – comfortably the best scoring of anyone in the field over the weekend.

As Bob said at the end of play: 'After Friday's 76 I thought "Oh no, we are struggling here". But I worked on a few things on the range and



Top 10 finish for Bob MacIntyre in the Nedbank Challenge.

Photos: Bounce Sports

they seem to be working,' he added. 'It was good and overall I'm delighted with the way I finished.'

Bob's gritty display saw him climb two places to 11 in the Race to Dubai as well as move up to number 69 in the official world golf rankings. Not to mention the small matter of winning €127,000 in prize money.

Bob will take enormous confidence from this performance into Thursday's season-ending DP World Tour Championship in Dubai. Not

## GOLF

only from his scoring, but also from the way he bounced back from Friday's finish.

Many players would have crumbled after that final hole disaster, but it seemed to galvanise the Glencruitten star into producing his best golf.

If Bob can reproduce that kind of golf in Dubai this week, he might just be in with a chance of his maiden tour victory. It might be a long shot, but you wouldn't put anything past this rising star.



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# LOCHABER TIMES

## & OBAN TIMES

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Thursday 21 November, 2019

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95p



### Christmas comp attracts record number of entries



# Morvern community buy-out plan still on cards

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

A proposal for a community buy-out of the 6,000-acre Killundine Estate on Morvern still has the backing of local residents.

Two meetings held this month to gather the views of the community on the possible acquisition of the estate were very positive towards gaining control of the property, according to Morvern Community Woodlands (MCW) chairwoman Veronique Walraven.

For almost two years, MCW has been investigating the feasibility of bringing the estate under community ownership.

In July 2019, a study was carried out into the finan-

cial viability of the project which showed it was a viable prospect.

The Scottish Land Fund then awarded additional funding for more work to examine the aspirations of the community in detail and how the estate can be managed for wider community benefit.

Ms Walraven told the Lochaber Times this week that she 'personally felt the latest meetings to be very positive' about the possible buy-out and the potential it would have to give an economic, social and environmental boost to the area.

'I don't want to generalise as we have not held any kind of ballot over this. But I did get the feeling from the meetings that the majority of people are still really enthusiastic about this,' she said.

MCW registered its interest in purchasing the estate under the Community Right to Buy legislation nearly a year ago. The estate is expected to be put up for sale by its owners in the foreseeable future.

This means if the estate is put on the market within the next five years it must be offered to the community first.

Mrs Walraven said MCW was 'very grateful' to the owners for their patience and said the results of the latest feasibility study were expected either shortly before Christmas or into the beginning of the new year.

The estate lands stretch from the shores of the Sound of Mull to over 550 metres (1,800 feet) at the summit of Sithean na Raplach, looking over the Barr River and Loch Teacuis.

## Curtain rises on Dance Platform



Dancers from Ballet West, pictured, were among the groups taking part in this year's Dance Platform event at Lochaber High School in Fort William. For more photographs, turn to page four. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

The estate is made up of mixed pasture, hill ground, woodland, farm buildings and residential properties, and is managed on behalf of the current owners by a land management company.

MCW believes the estate could be managed in a way that creates new business and training opportunities, stabilises the local population, and retains and attracts more young people.

Mrs Walraven said in the past five years there had been

two big consultations on whether the local community had wanted a greater say in the management of the land.

'It is very exciting and we believe this is now quite necessary. We do not have enough opportunities for young people to move here, to live and work here.'

'This has already had a drastic effect on the local primary school at Lochaline where next year the roll is expected to fall from around 20 to just 12 or 13 children,

with it expected to drop even further the year after that to possibly as low as 10.

'It is quite exciting but at the same time I also feel a little bit apprehensive, as this process has been going on for quite a long time now and it would be a massive undertaking for the community.'

'But we believe bringing Killundine Estate into community ownership could be of huge social and economic benefit to the people of Morvern.'



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## Electric car branding contest

Primary and secondary school pupils are being invited to help design Highland Council's electric vehicle branding and charging infrastructure.

The Highland-wide competition I Design Future hopes to raise awareness of electric vehicles among young people as the council works towards its goal of becoming carbon-neutral by 2025.

There are two separate competitions – the first, for primary school pupils, is to design a vehicle wrap for Zippy Zoe, one of the council's electric vehicles, which will be seen throughout Highland promoting the shift to low carbon travel; the second part of the competition is for secondary school pupils, who have been tasked with designing branding for Highland's electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

Nicky Grant, interim head of education, said: 'As Highland Council takes forward this important work, it would be great to see the infrastructure carrying some of the character and creativity of our young people.'

The competition closes December 2 with fantastic prizes for winners. Contact [EVManagement@highland.gov.uk](mailto:EVManagement@highland.gov.uk) for more details and to enter.



Above: Ladies trophy winners, left to right, Izzy Tait, third, Pavlina Peru Thomson, first, and Dovile Bartkute, second.

Left: Men's trophy winners, left to right, Calum Crozier; Martin Lennox, second, Gavin Bruce; Sean Peatfield, first, Eben van Wyk and Stuart Whyte, third.

# New Scottish strongman record set at Fort William family event

by Richard Mason  
[rmason@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:rmason@obantimes.co.uk)

A new Scottish record was set in the Haldenby Strongman Classic at the weekend after strongmen and women came from across Scotland to compete at Fort William's Nevis Centre.

This is the fourth year of the event staged in honour of the late Mark Haldenby who tragically lost his battle with cancer.

The free, family-friendly

event included face painting, a bouncy castle and a strong children's event alongside the adult competition.

It featured Scotland's Strongest Team Under 105kgs, where seven, two-man teams competed for the top spot, and a Haldenby Strongest Woman competition which had six competitors.

Winners of the men's team event were Gavin Bruce and Sean Peatfield from Aberdeen, and the strongest woman was Pavlina Peru Thomson

of Alyth, Perthshire. Events included a loglift, giant tyre flip, 320kg sandbag and loading. The day culminated in the Atlas Stones lift, where competitors had to lift progressively heavier stones onto platforms.

The team axle deadlift event came down to the wire with a new Scottish record set.

Competitor and classic organiser Stuart Whyte said: 'For this event, teams of two are lifting the bar at the same time to hip level.

Myself and my partner, we got the Scottish record for that event with a weight of 640kgs. The team that won it, they equalled the record but none of us could lift the next weight.'

This year the event raised money for local man Jamie MacDonald and his family. Just last year, aged 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.

Mr Whyte 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. We had a great turnout for the event, with a steady crowd, and while the event was free, we asked for donations to help Jamie's family. We won't know exactly how much has been raised for a few weeks, but all money will go to supporting them.'

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## South Lochaber hit by minor earthquakes

Minor earthquakes hit South Lochaber in the early evening of Wednesday November 13 when people living in Ballachulish and Glencoe reported hearing 'rumbles'.

The British Geological Survey, which records seismic activity, detected a magnitude 1.9 earthquake at 17.41 and a magnitude 1.7 quake six minutes later from a seismometer in Ballachulish.

Jim Blair, chairman of Lochaber Geopark, heard two 'double-rumbles' at his North Ballachulish home. Mr Blair and his wife were originally worried their central heating boiler had exploded, but were pleased to hear it was just a minor geological event.

He said: 'Lochaber gets a small number of 'little' earthquakes each year. They are sometimes thought to be the earth's crust recovering from the unloading of the crust after the melting of the glaciers of the last Ice Age. The old Glen Coe volcano rumbling? No. That erupted about 420 million years ago, for about one to two million years and is long since extinct.'

# Stop penny-pinching over Fort station loos

## Age Scotland charity's appeal to Scotrail bosses

A charity has called on rail bosses to reverse cuts in public toilet provision, saying charging for access at stations, including Fort William, are a significant barrier to travel by older people and those with disabilities.

National charity for older people Age Scotland criticised the rail operators' cost-cutting measures after it was accused of cutting back on essentials including toilet paper and soap at station toilets.

According to Age Scotland, internal emails this month revealed ScotRail staff have had to resort to 'begging messages' to colleagues due to the operator restricting station supply orders. This follows ScotRail's decision in the summer to charge for toi-



The railway station in Fort William, which Age Scotland says should have free public toilets.

let access at Glasgow Queen Street, Aberdeen, Inverness and Fort William stations.

According to ScotRail in August, British Transport Police raised concerns free toilet access could increase anti-social behaviour.

However, the charity says a lack of free, sanitary toilets prevented tens of thousands of older people

from travelling, contributing to loneliness and isolation. Its research found more than a third of older people in Scotland would use public transport more often if access to toilets was easier.

Brian Sloan, Age Scotland's chief executive, wrote to ScotRail expressing concern about toilet charges in August, but the rail operator has not

reversed its decision. Mr Sloan said: 'We are extremely disappointed by ScotRail's lack of consideration for older passengers and those with medical conditions, who are more likely to need access to toilets while travelling.'

'Now it's concerning to see that even when toilets are still free, they may not be safe or sanitary due to cost-cutting. This could be a first step to closing these completely.'

'We found a lack of toilets is often a significant barrier to using public transport. This not only makes it harder for them to access everything from shops to medical appointments, but also contributes to loneliness and isolation. With millions of pounds of tax-payer subsidies and sky-high ticket prices, it

beggars belief ScotRail cannot afford to buy basics such as soap and paper towels.'

'We would urge ScotRail to reconsider this penny-pinching and provide all passengers with free, hygienic, accessible facilities throughout its network.'

On August 26, in a response to Mr Sloan's earlier letter, ScotRail's head of customer operations wrote that removing charges was 'not a viable option', although the majority of facilities were free.

He wrote: 'However, the cost for operating toilets within our stations rises each year, with costs of cleaning supplies and staffing costs rising with inflation. These rising costs have resulted in an increase in charges for the facility.'



Discussion and sharing of information at Around Lochaber in 80 Tables. Photograph, Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

## Stepping up the business pace

A trip around the 4,648 square kilometres of Lochaber is not usually accomplished in two hours but at Tuesday's Lochaber Chamber of Commerce Ideas Week 'Around Lochaber in 80 Tables' you didn't have to leave The Moorings Hotel.

Representatives from more than 30 Lochaber and Highland organisations from a broad cross section of Lochaber businesses gathered

together to meet and collaborate in a speed-networking format. The event was a fast-paced, fun reworking of the stodgy, awkward business networking events so many know and loathe.

The dynamic project was compered by Laurence Young of Glencoe Activities and sponsored by the Lochaber Times.

Those present represented the depth of the Lochaber

business community. New businesses explored opportunities and long-established companies recognised the value of building new relationships. Contracts may not have been signed at the event but more than 900 productive conversations were had during the event. Many will undoubtedly open new doors.

Turn to page eight for more coverage of Lochaber Ideas Week.

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The performers who took the stage on Monday evening for this year's three-night Dance Platform event at Lochaber High School. Photographs: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

# Dance Platform event draws audiences to Lochaber High

This year's Dance Platform event once again drew talented dancers from across Lochaber's schools to Lochaber High School in Fort William for three nights, performing everything from jazz and ballet to fusion styles.

Just ahead of the second night on Tuesday, Bridget Thomas, the Active Schools co-ordinator for the Fort William area for High Life Highland, took a break to

tell the Lochaber Times how things were going.

'It's been very good so far with a variety of local groups. Over the three nights there will be a total of 43 dances with 25 dancers performing each night.

'The programme changes every day so there is a real mixture of performances.'

With the exception of dancers at Spean Bridge Primary, all the other primary school

groups saw pupils taught by high school dance leadership course students.

'The young dancers have been having weekly lessons since the summer and while there were some seats unfilled last night [Monday] and tonight [Tuesday], it looks like a sell-out for the final night on Wednesday. And we've had dancers come from Ardnamurchan and Mallaig, which is brilliant.'



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Competition winner Sarah Asher, right, with Aileen Campbell, Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government. Photograph: Becky Duncan, Open Eye Photography

# Innovation Award for social croft

by Richard Mason  
rmason@obantimes.co.uk

The croft spotlighted in the Lochaber Times' first podcast for its work to create a 'social croft' has won an innovation award worth £5,000.

Darach Croft began its journey to provide a place for people with disabilities to experience crofting in 2017, and winning the award in Firstport's Social Innovation Competition will help to establish this project.

Hugh and Sarah Asher both have backgrounds in social work and helping with people with disabilities, along with small-scale agriculture experience, and they have been working hard to get their land in Strontian ready for people to use.

Accepting their prize at the Social Enterprise Scotland Awards, Sarah was one of three winners of the Firstport Social Innovation Award, at the Scottish Parliament on Tuesday November 12.

She said: 'I'm delighted to win this award. Social farming is increasingly recognised as being an innovative and outcome-focused way of supporting individuals' wellbeing, physically, mentally and emotionally.'

'We are aiming to complement traditional health and wellbeing services, and we look forward to welcoming

individuals with learning disabilities or autism and mental health issues.'

Darach Social Croft will provide a range of 'nature-based eco-therapies' that get people involved in crofting activities and are designed to improve mental and physical wellbeing, and stimulate resilience and self-belief.

The theme for this year's awards was 'Individuals affected by disability', which attracted a wide range of

## 'Social farming is recognised as being an innovative way of supporting wellbeing'

ideas to help those directly affected as well as carers and family that are indirectly affected.

The other winners were Positively Able CIC, a social enterprise that provides counselling to disabled adults, a confidential third party hate crime reporting service, and provider of Disability Equality Training; and Oshay FASD that runs parenting groups for families affected by Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders.

Josiah Lockhart, chief executive of Firstport, said: 'Huge

congratulations to our 2019 winners. Now in its fourth year, the Social Innovation Competition has unveiled three fantastic ideas that will make a difference to the lives of individuals affected by a disability, as well as their families and carers.'

'We are grateful to the Scottish Government for its continued support for the competition, which has helped kick-start the journeys of some great initiatives, including Studio Pop, Woodside Arran and the Soundplay Dome. We are looking forward to supporting this year's winners on their journey.'

The awards were presented by Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government Aileen Campbell. She said: 'Social enterprises are driven by a passion to improve their local communities and provide a service for the greater good. These awards are an excellent example of how we can continue to support their vision to create a fairer and more inclusive Scotland.'

'The winners' innovative ideas will transform the lives of people living with disabilities, their families and carers through crucial support, counselling and therapies which will help to rebuild confidence and improve wellbeing.'

# Baxter welcomes new report stating fires at five-year low

Figures showing that fires across Lochaber are at a five-year low have been welcomed by the chairman of the local Highland Council area committee.

Councillor Andrew Baxter (Fort William and Ardnamurchan) was commenting following the meeting earlier this month of Lochaber Area Committee, which he chairs.

On the agenda was a Scottish Fire and Rescue Area Committee Performance Report, providing an update to committee members on progress against the priorities outlined in the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Area Committee Plan for Lochaber 2016-2019.

The report provided the current figures for the first two quarters of 2019 and from the previous four reporting years from the central SFRS performance management database against the key indicators and timelines from previous reports.

'The report shows that acci-



Firefighters have had to tackle the lowest number of blazes in five years.

dental dwelling fires, fire fatalities and fire casualties remain very low in the area, with only three accidental dwelling fires in this reporting period, which is a five-year low when compared to the previous years.

Deliberate fires are slightly up on the same period in the previous year; however, the total number of incidents remain low for Lochaber in comparison to the Highland total.

False alarm incidents are similar to the previous year,

with a spike of activity in June with 17 incidents.

Road traffic collisions remain consistent with previous years, although there has been a decrease in these incidents in the last quarter.

Mr Baxter said it had been great to hear fires are at a five-year low: 'That doesn't mean we should be complacent. The fire service plays a vital role in prevention. We are reliant on our retained firefighters in Lochaber to undertake this work,' he added.

# BLAS festival 2019

blas-festival.com Samhain 22-30 November

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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](http://www.blas-festival.com) - fiosrachadh

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## VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER

Lochaber Ideas Week is in full flow and it's fantastic to see the business connections being forged, friendships struck up and ideas taking flight.

This week truly is a celebration of ideas – with expert seminars on ways to think differently about what you do, improve the way you do it and find the motivation to achieve what you really want.

Have you heard the phrase: 'If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always got'?

One of the key themes of the first few days' seminars has been the need to keep our thinking fresh, to explore widely, to challenge ourselves to try new things, read different views and take our inspiration from a range of disciplines.

There's so much to learn from making unexpected connections, and huge potential to learn from different industries and areas about ways to improve our own work.

It's tempting to focus on our own job, our own sector, our own bubble, but both John-Paul Hughes in his creativity



seminar and Cath Bishop in her high-performance seminar stressed the importance of looking around and learning from other areas, and being open to different ways of doing things.

It's a very apt message for Lochaber Ideas Week – this whole week is a chance to take a break from ploughing your own furrow and to discover what other people are doing.

Learning from each other, thinking about the bigger picture and exploring new ideas is what it's all about.

There's still time for you to be a part of it – join us tomorrow (Friday November 22) for the 'Go for your Goals' seminar with motivational guru Don MacNaughton and get the benefit of his plain-speaking guidance to living your best life!

For more information go to [www.lochaberchamber.co.uk](http://www.lochaberchamber.co.uk) to book or call us on 07799 747375.

# Crowdfunders hope for Harry Potter magic

Organisers of a crowdfunding appeal to raise cash to help pay for the final stages of a car park and bridge project at Glenfinnan are hoping a little of the Harry Potter magic rubs off on potential donors, writes Mark Entwistle.

The Wee Harry Potter Bridge Project has been launched this week by the tiny hamlet's local SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation) in an effort to raise at least £20,000 in match funding for a new footpath and footbridge.

The new project, which has secured nearly £54,000 from the Scottish Government Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund, runs alongside a separate bigger scheme to create a new community-operated car park with a footbridge of its own to link to the existing car park at the National Trust for Scotland visitor centre, and which has already been



Fiona Gibson, second right, with other members of the Glenfinnan SCIO, standing where a new footbridge will be built.

funded by the same scheme to the tune of £270,000.

The new four-week appeal for the £20,000 will see money raised for a footpath leading from the new car park to a new footbridge over the River Finnan that will mean visitors can avoid having to walk along the side of the busy A830 trunk road to access the route up to the viaduct, made famous in the Harry Potter movies. The past few years, especially 2018 and 2019, have seen a massive upsurge in the number of tourists descending on Glenfinnan, with something like 350,000 people annually visiting the area because of its Harry Potter links, as well as fans of the Outlander television series, and those wanting to see the monument to the clansmen who took part in the 1745 rising.

But the boom has also witnessed the terrifying daily spectacle during the

summer of young families running along the side of the main A830 road in a panic at the thought of missing the passing of the steam train, as well as drivers abandoning their cars and campervans in a rush for the same reason.

#### Steam train

This phenomenon happens three times a day, every day, in the main tourist season to coincide with the passing of the Jacobite steam train, also made famous by the Potter movies.

According to members of the SCIO, it has resulted in wing mirrors being struck by passing traffic, people walking around and between badly parked vehicles, wheelchair/mobility scooter users having to use the main road carriageway, cars and motor-homes having to be pulled out of ditches, church events disrupted due to no space for wedding guests, mourners or parishioners, and the bumps

and scrapes as vehicles jostle for space.

SCIO chair Fiona Gibson says tenders for the new car park have now been drawn up and the hope is that diggers will be on site soon and the Wee Harry Potter Bridge Project is the final phase.

'We are crowdfunding for the path and footbridge across the River Finnan so when people come in and park they can go straight across to the viaduct without going over the main road,' she explained.

'This is the only fundraising thing we've done, so we're going great guns to raise the money as quickly as possible.'

'The car park should see work begin in January and be complete by March in time to be ready for the busy tourism season. We really want to get the footbridge element done as well, so it is all sorted at same time. They are separate projects but can be done together.'

## Glen Spean Brewing Co toasts success

Glen Spean Brewing Co, based in Spean Bridge, is celebrating after being awarded Best Brewed Beer for its Snowgoose craft premium lager at the Highlands and Islands Food and Drink Awards (HIFAD) 2019.

HIFAD celebrates passion, quality and innovation across the region, highlighting businesses that are helping put the Highlands and Islands on the map.

The awards dinner and ceremony took place at the Kingsmills Hotel in Inverness and was hosted by broadcaster Jennifer Reoch.

Glen Spean Brewing Co was established in February

2017 by co-founders and Spean Bridge residents Ian Peter MacDonald, James Leggett and Lucy Hicks.

From the brewery, in the historic site of Tirindish in Spean Bridge, they have faithfully converted a mid-19th century cowshed from where they produce a supply of distinct and skilfully crafted beers, employing local talent and resources to deliver products throughout Scotland.

The brewery's Snowgoose is a premium craft lager (ABV 4.5%). Aiming for a rounded malty crafted lager, with a rich full flavour, brewer James Leggett

created Snowgoose in the late summer of 2018.

The product was an immediate success and a best-seller, being available in both kegs and bottle throughout Lochaber.

Glen Spean Brewing Co's range also includes Highbridge IPA, Glen Spean Pale Blonde and Red Revival, and next season we see it launching further beers to the range.

Glen Spean Brewing's sales director, Mr MacDonald, said the company was delighted. 'We are so grateful to all our customers who have helped us achieve our success so far.'



"The quality of the workmanship was excellent, they left the place clean and tidy every night and we thought it was extremely good value for money."



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Inverlochry Primary Six band hands over the cheque to STAR for Harris. Photograph: Abridgeside Photography.

## Lochaber wind bands hit right note for STAR for Harris

The Lochaber High School Wind Bands had some very special guests recently in the form of Millburn Academy Wind Band from Inverness, writes Mark Entwistle.

This joint concert was a real festival of wind band music with five bands playing a variety of different styles from rock and classical to jazz and film music.

It was a great success and donations totalling over £568 were taken for the STAR for Harris charity which is very close to hearts of the local schools and

community. STAR for Harris continues to grow and make a valued difference to the lives of children fighting cancer across Scotland and beyond.

A real highlight was the performance of the Inverlochry Primary Six band class, pictured, which showed off their musical skills to a packed hall.

## WHAT'S ON

■ Kilmallie Christmas tree lights will be officially switched on 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.

■ Kilmallie Community Centre AGM will be held at 6.30pm on Tuesday November 26. Please come along and support your local community centre.

■ 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.

■ Kilmallie Community Company will be running a work party at Corpach Pine Wood on Saturday November 30, from 10am to 12.30pm. Meet at 10am at the end of Farrow Drive.

All volunteers are welcome. The main job is to clear paths. Other jobs include clearing up any litter and removing rhododendron.

For further information contact Paul Biggin 01397 772459.

## Single vessel best option for current Corran ferry service, says Lochaber councillor

It is becoming clear that a single ferry, with changes to the slipway, is the most sustainable way of operating the Corran Narrows service, according to senior local councillor Andrew Baxter, writes Mark Entwistle.



The ferry that plies the Corran Narrows is regarded as a vital lifeline service for communities on the peninsula.

Councillor Baxter (Fort William and Ardnamurchan), chairman of Highland Council's Lochaber Area Committee, was commenting after the area committee met earlier this month and heard an update on the project focused on the immediate transport problems associated with the vital ferry service, recognising that actions are required to ensure its sustainability in the short to medium term.

The conclusion has been that retaining two vessels is an overly expensive model, with a new, larger, straight through (roll on/roll off) vessel, with refit / relief / second vessel secured from elsewhere, as the preferred vessel and slipways option.

Consideration of any

future fixed link is a matter for Transport Scotland's Strategic Transport Projects Review 2 (STPR2) and does not form part of this project.

Back in September, Highland Council's chief executive and budget leader travelled on the Corran ferry and visited the ferry operations offices in Ardour, where they spent time listening to the views of staff and members of the public hearing on the localised challenges and opportunities for the ferry service.

A steering group has also been set up to ensure links between the local community and council staff are main-

tained and everyone is given the opportunity to engage in the project.

Mr Baxter told the Lochaber Times this week: 'We are a long way from getting the council to accept that we need the funding for a replacement ferry.'

'What is becoming clear is that a single ferry, with changes to the slipway, is the most sustainable way of operating the service.'

'This would allow us to use other ferries during repairs or refit rather than relying on a permanent back-up ferry, which is a considerable cost, too small and as it gets older is less reliable.'



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## Olympic rower shares her experience to help audience unlock their potential

'We must make sure we're all rowing in the right direction,' must be one of the most over-used phrases in the management lexicon.

However, for Dr Cath Bishop, pictured, rowing the boat in the right direction was, quite literally, her life, and she was very good at it.

Bishop, winner of Olympic silver in the 2004 coxless pairs, rowed in three Olympic Games. She won gold at the 2003 World Championships and followed her first passion into the Foreign Service where she worked in Sarajevo, Bosnia, and Basra, Iraq.

Bishop is now an expert in what it takes to be a high performer and it's probably not what you think.

Bishop was at pains to point out that training more is not enough. She was training six hours a day, every day for almost 10 years but it wasn't



until she started to learn and understand what it takes to be a high performer that she unlocked all her potential – going from ninth in 2000 to silver in 2004.

It's all about looking for 'marginal gains'. Finding the seemingly small aspects of a performance that one can change for the better.

For Bishop, her coach and her team, it was all about 'how can we make the boat go faster' – and in business it's no different. Find a common, unifying purpose, be willing to give and open to receive feedback and take the time to reflect and review performance, were through lines in Bishop's captivating presentation.

She left the room with the thought: 'Don't focus on what's wrong – focus on what's possible.' Do try this one at home or in the office.

# Reliability goes a long way, says Jones

by Richard Mason  
rmason@obantimes.co.uk

On Monday night, Lochaber Ideas Week heard from former Newtonmore shinty player turned trans-continental cyclist Russell Jones, who talked about his 4,267-mile race across America.

Before setting out on this mammoth ride in 2017, Russell's interest in cycling began in his late 30s and his first big ride, Kingussie to Marseille.

After a break of a few years he eventually did a Land's End to John O'Groats cycle for charity in aid of a lifelong friend who had suffered a stroke and his brother, who recently died.

Russell told the audience: 'Life's too short and you never know what's around the corner, and this gave me the motivation to do it. After setting off from Land's End, I found that I was quite happy

Saddle, Sore and Solo speaker, Russell Jones at The Moorings Hotel.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos



with being on my own for days at a time on the bike, only cycling about 100 miles per day.'

Upon completion, he didn't feel like he had pushed himself enough and that sense of achievement was lacking.

The trans-America cycle was something he initially thought was just for pros, but he soon found that some people were doing 150 miles per day and not taking the race too seriously.

'I just started going out on

Saturday for a 120-mile ride and then did the same on Sunday. I kinda felt alright after it. Swithered for a bit, but then decided I would do it.'

It took Russell to some lively parts of the US and some more rundown areas; through the stunning Rocky mountains, and the monotonous roads of eastern Colorado and Kansas.

He found some major differences, especially spending so much time on the roads. Russell said: 'I saw two vul-

tures eating a dead armadillo in Kansas and thought to myself, "I'm not in Kingussie anymore".'

The riders lost a fellow competitor in Kansas who was struck by a car and tragically died. There was some uncertainty as to whether the race would continue, but Russell wanted to finish, no matter what.

Completing the ride in Yorktown, Virginia, in just under 28 days, Russell got that sense of achievement he was looking for.

He has since gone onto a gruelling trans-European ride, and put everything he had learned into a shorter ride around Ireland, so he did not spend so much time away from family.

Modest, Russell described his cycling style as that of an old ARF truck – doesn't look very good, not very quick, but reliably goes a long way in a long time.

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There was a good attendance at the talk on Monday by John-Paul Hughes.

Photograph: Brodie Hood

## Ex-professional footballer's workshop kicks it out of park

It may have been freezing cold outside on Monday morning but inside The Moorings Hotel, Fort William, the creative juices were in full flow as musician, former pro-footballer and creativity expert John-Paul Hughes kicked off Lochaber Chamber of Commerce's Lochaber Ideas Week 2019, writes Andy Lambert.

During his two-hour 'We Are All Creative' workshop, Hughes told the rapt room that they are all capable of amazing creativity if some simple myths are busted and the right conditions created.

Hughes extolled the virtues of pursuing a breadth of knowledge to augment one's depth of expertise. He certainly proved his point,

inspiring and motivating the audience with a fascinating mix of anecdotes, philosophical musings, cultural criticism and satire.

Hughes used a series of interactive exercises to show that even the most left-brained business suit is creative. Take risks, be curious, have fun and, remember, with creativity there are no rules.

# Communities call for more care from film companies

by Richard Mason  
rmason@obantimes.co.uk

The stunning landscape of Glen Etive has led to it being used as a setting for major motion pictures, luxury adverts and documentaries.

But the residents, who mostly live near the loch and only have the one road to access the A82, are frustrated by the lack of inclusion when planning these activities.

Productions can sometimes go ahead without residents knowing, leading to anger at not having access to meet urgent appointments.

The joint community council for Glencoe and Glen Etive is now calling for more inclusion and suggests a donation of £250 per day of filming should be made to the community.

Community councillor and Glen Etive resident Mark Shone does not want to dissuade companies from using the glen – he just wants to know in advance.

He said: 'It would be very helpful to us as residents to be informed of intended road closures, no matter how short, so we can plan around them.'

'This is very important, especially when it comes to getting our five-year-old to

school. The taxi drop-offs and collections are time critical, especially when trying to fit in with work.'

Mr Shone is very active in clearing up litter and tents left by visitors to the glen. Having a donation from film companies would mean more of this could happen along with initiatives by the community to minimise effects.

Chairwoman of the community council Viki Sutherland suggested a donation of £250 a day, adding: 'There should be a clause in any filming contract stating that a donation is made to the community council. This would mean companies are at least aware of this responsibility and that people live in the area.'

The community council and residents want everyone who comes to the glen to enjoy their visit, but to be responsible for their actions.

A company called MTP, based in Glasgow, filmed an advert for Mercedes in the glen last November, promised a donation but because it did not receive an invoice, only bank details, the donation slipped through the cracks.

The firm has since rectified the issue, doubling the initial donation of £150 as an apolo-

gy to the community.

One of the big landowners of Glen Etive is the National Trust for Scotland, which facilitated the James Bond Skyfall scene that was filmed in the area. It accepts a donation should be made, but said £250 per day is beyond the budget of all but the biggest companies.

'When filming activity is likely to have a direct impact on local residents,' said local operations manager for NTS, Emily Bryce, 'we request that film companies contact the secretary of the local community council to ensure the community is fully informed of dates and times. We also request they make a donation to the community council as recompense for any disruption experienced.'

'While we know that some have made donations, it's disappointing to learn that some have not heeded our recommendations. In future, we'll take responsibility for alerting the community council to upcoming productions and will review potential options for channelling donations.'

The money made by NTS from filming in its estates goes towards maintenance and employing local people.

## Fort driving instructors motor Big Learner Relay through Lochaber

The Big Learner Relay for Children in Need made its final stop last Friday at the National Space Centre, Leicester, with driving instructors raising £47,205 and counting, writes Richard Mason.

Local instructors Jean O'Brien and Gordie Irvine raised more than £1,000 and accompanied students at the head of the relay on two different legs – from Ballachulish to Fort Augustus, and the relay up to John O'Groats.

The route of more than 3,000 miles stopped in Jersey and Northern Ireland before a non-stop relay from Land's End to John O'Groats and then back down for Children in Need day in Leicester.

Students were driving the



Jean O'Brien hands the top box to Gordie Irvine at the Premier Inn, Fort William.

Photograph: Jean O'Brien

whole way and a convoy of dozens of driving instructors' cars followed in support.

Ms O'Brien said: 'It was just so much fun – people waving at us, honking and, most importantly, supporting us, allowing us to use car parks,

toilet facilities and in some cases opening up halls for us.'

'The scenery was fabulous and everyone was so friendly,' Gordie said he 'thoroughly enjoyed being part of the big learner relay and will be part of it again next year.'



The fair was well supported with £1,600 raise for Ardnamurchan High School.

## Festive fun as Ardnamurchan High holds Christmas fair

Ardnamurchan High School Christmas fair was held in Strontian on Saturday at the Sunart Centre.

The fair, which had stalls from around 20 local artists, crafters and makers along with festive food and drink was a huge success, raising more than £1,600 for the high school and offering the community and visitors to get a head start on Christmas shopping.

There was a huge array of

locally-made cards, decorations, preserves, toys and gifts, with a heavy emphasis on recycled and upcycled materials being used, including beachcombed treasures, seaglass and plastic-free alternative gift ideas.

Refreshments, including hot turkey rolls, soup and a huge selection of homebaked cakes, were on offer and the table displaying the raffle prizes donated from local businesses and residents was

groaning with amazing offerings including hampers.

Chairwoman of the Ardnamurchan High School parent council Hollie Taylor said: 'There was a lovely atmosphere at this year's Christmas fair.'

Ms Taylor, who played a key role in organising the event, added: 'I'd like to thank all the parents, staff, pupils and stallholders who helped to make this annual fundraiser and community event.'

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# Lochaber's Lily pens poetic tribute to animals in wartime

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

November is the month of remembrance, when we pause to reflect on all those who have given their lives in the service of their country.

The iconic symbol of remembrance is the blood-red poppy, which sprang up to carpet the battlefields of the Western Front after the Great War ended in 1918.

But becoming more and more commonplace during remembrance events is the sight of people also sporting a purple poppy, worn in tribute to the millions of animals that also served in wartime.

To mark their sacrifice, Lochaber High School S3 student Lily Bloom penned a very poignant poem in tribute and we are delighted to be able to publish it this week.

## The Silent Warriors

*Who remembers the horses  
That dragged artillery  
through churned fields. And  
decimated corses?*

*Spooked by the burning  
skies*

*And blast of gunfire*

*Once peaceful, quietly  
munching*

*The grass of homeland  
farms.*

*Who remembers the dogs  
That stood and watched the*

*shells*

*Explode around them?*

*Sent off to carry messages*

*Deemed too dangerous for*

*man*

*Deafened and blinded,*

*covered in mud. And grime.*

*Who remembers the birds*

*The small, oblivious pigeons*

*that*

*Spoke of pain and terror?*

*One hundred thousand sent*

*away*

*To fly high above the fight*



*And why did nobody care  
To see their bloody, feath-  
ered corpses fall?*

*Who remembers the silent  
warriors*

*Unknowing, conscripted  
soldiers?*

*Why did nobody listen*

*When they told us they*

*were in pain?*

*And nobody cared*

*For their lonely souls,*

*Lost in the battlefield*

*Where love and hope die.*



The Animals in War Memorial at Hyde Park in London was unveiled in 2004 on the 90th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War and commemorates animals that died in wars and conflicts, and, above left, Lily Bloom with her poem.

Photograph: Courtesy of The Royal Parks;

## High school pupils set for latest Global Climate Strike

The latest Global Climate Strike will see local protesters gather at 9am on Friday November 29, outside Lochaber High School, before marching to Cameron Square, writes Mark Entwistle.

Organisers are urging those planning to attend to bring placards and musical instruments.

Local climate crisis campaigner Holly Gillibrand says the event in Fort William has been organised by ordinary youngsters scared and angry about what the future might hold if climate change is not tackled more urgently.

'This is an event organised by ordinary teenagers from Lochaber High School who are scared, angry and frustrated at the inaction over climate and ecological breakdown,' she told the Lochaber Times this week.

'The strikes are not something where children just turn up to skip school and then leave again. This involves hours of work after school and at the weekends, all the while juggling schoolwork, revision and extracurricular activities.

'The climate and ecological



Earlier this year Lochaber youngsters went out on strike to support the global movement.

emergency is the biggest crisis humanity has ever faced and we need to take action now, not tomorrow, not in 10 years – now. That is why the youth are organising a global climate strike on November 29. We implore you to join us.'

Fellow teenage activist and pupil Lily Bloom added: 'I strike because I am concerned for the welfare of the natural world. I am worried for my future and our society. I am doing this because as a global movement, we are making a difference.'

And Andrew Squire, of the Fort William branch of Extinction Rebellion (XR) said he will 'wholeheartedly'

be supporting the global school strike on November 29 as a mark of solidarity with those same young people, their peers, and future generations, who will bear the brunt of catastrophic climate change and ecological breakdown if humanity continues to wreck the biosphere.

'The worst impacts will undoubtedly be felt in the poorest and most vulnerable parts of the world, but nowhere will escape as ecosystems and food chains collapse and as floods, storms, wild fires and droughts happen more and more frequently, even in temperate places like Scotland,' he added.



# Christmas

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# Southampton author sings praises of the Fort and Highland League

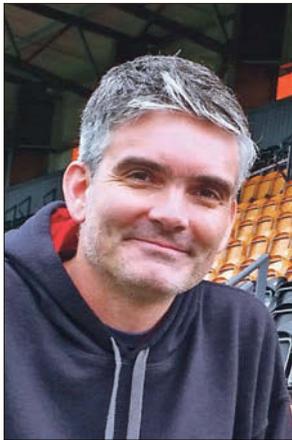
by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Fort William FC features in a new book that examines some of the UK's less glamorous football grounds and the teams that grace their pitches.

Southampton-based writer Mat Guy is the author of *Barcelona to Buckie Thistle: Exploring Football's Roads Less Travelled*.

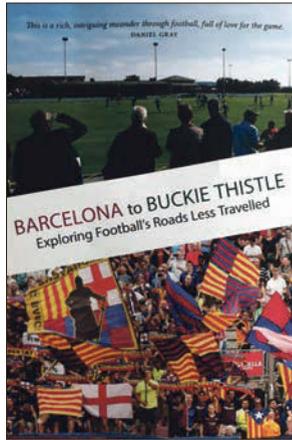
He told the Lochaber Times this week: 'I have just completed my book for Edinburgh-based Luath Press, in which I explore the Highland League, as well as Europe's minnow football nations.'

'My year travelling through the Highland League will live with me forever, and I hope that is made apparent in the pages of the book, which was released last week



Mat, left, with his new book, which is out now.

(November 15). Despite living in Southampton, I venture north five times, covering six games, featuring 10 different teams. I also make it to 14 of the 18 (as it was then) Highland League grounds - taking in the communities that populate



this proud league. At the very least, my travels have converted me into a fan of the Highland League and the region it spans. I am in the midst of organising more trips north as I write.'

In the extract on Fort William FC, Guy writes: 'The

thick wall of firs that encircles the ground looks like it was planted in the early 1970s when the club moved here.

'Too tall now to be topped out without the aid of a significant cherry-picker, they screen the club from the rest of the world, save for a small break and a sliver of a view rarely beaten by any other sporting venue the length and breadth of the country.'

'At the foot of this break, a Narnia-esque entrance beckons. Between the branches, a narrow gate, a little hut, and then the Nevis mountain range rearing up behind the far goal: a silent Holt End, The Kop, Gallowgate End.'

'It takes a moment to sink in. Thankfully, there isn't a queue. A mountain range is an impressive natural 12th man.'

'This awe-inspiring view must have drawn an error or

two from a visiting keeper, not through intimidation like its constructed brethren of Birmingham, Liverpool and Newcastle, but through a simple distraction and wonder as clouds ripple and dapple, changing complexion and contour like a geological chameleon.'

'Cut adrift to the right, that concrete stand beckons. Dislocated from the dimensions of the pitch when the white lines were rotated ninety degrees a few years ago to try and aid drainage (Claggan Park often falls foul of waterlogging), it now stands a forlorn figure.'

'Too full of memories to simply tear down, this smaller version of the one at the shinty club, and no less loved in its time, now slips into dereliction.'

'Fenced off to prevent the failing roof from falling in

on similar lovers of sporting architecture, it and the ghosts of crowds gone by crane from afar to view modern-day matches.'

'Where it was once centre stage, distance and unkempt weeds and shrubs now obscure its view. Saplings and bushes replacing supporters on the crumbling terracing, commemorating favourite spots, regular haunts among friends.'

'With failing rafters once reverberating with the roar of that famous cup game against Stirling Albion, an inaugural Highland League win over Clachnacuddin, it now cuts a sorry sight, although at least it remains, of sorts, a memorial to the past, looking on jealously at the two small pre-fab stands either side of the reconstituted halfway line, beginning to come to life as game night begins.'



Colin Mackinnon, right, and Michael Oliver pick up the award on behalf of Ferguson Transport and Shipping.

## Ferguson wins Scottish Fleet of the Year

Ferguson Transport and Shipping added another accolade to its wall this month when it picked up the Scottish Fleet of the Year award at the Transport News Scottish Rewards event, writes Mark Entwistle.

In front of 600 industry leaders and guests, the Corpach-based company's transport managers and longstanding employees Colin Mackinnon and Michael Oliver proudly col-

lected the blue riband prize together on the company's behalf.

Alasdair Ferguson, group managing director, Jill Ferguson, general workshop manager, and Jack Ferguson, operations director, also attended the event and were delighted to receive the award.

Alasdair Ferguson said: 'This is a fantastic recognition for the company and all of our hard-working staff. It is especially fitting

for Colin and Michael, who have both been with us for 28 years, to collect this special accolade on the company's behalf.'

'Well done to all the team and in particular our drivers who are our ambassadors and the face of the company, representing us all over the country.'

'Our service and maintenance team also deserve a huge well done as they keep the wheels turning 24/7, 365 days a year.'

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LT

# Film crew thank islanders' patience over disruption

## Views sought to help remote communities

Local residents and businesses are asked to note that there may be minor disruption to traffic in some locations next week in Stornoway while the production team for the film *Wise Blood* continues shooting footage at various Lewis locations.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has been working closely with the production to facilitate the filming activity, which started at the beginning of the month, while ensuring minimum disruption locally.

The affected areas next week are as follows:

Monday November 25: morning – parking South Beach Street, Stornoway; afternoon – traffic control, North Beach Street to South Beach Street.

Thursday November 28: traffic control Cromwell Street, Stornoway.

The production team would



like to apologise in advance for any inconvenience caused by this activity and a donation will be made to local community causes in gratitude at the patience and welcome extended by islanders.

A spokesperson for the comhairle said: 'We are delighted that *Wise Blood* has chosen to come to Lewis to make this film and warmly

welcome the cast and crew for the duration of their stay here.

'The investment such productions bring in terms of spend and job opportunities is significant, as well as the added benefit of promoting our islands on the global stage.

'However, we do recognise that while the filming activity is ongoing there can be

**Bouli Lanners, right, is directing and starring in the film.** Photograph: Playtime.

low-level disruption for local residents and we are grateful for people's patience and co-operation with that aspect of the project.'

*Wise Blood* is being co-directed by Belgian director, actor and author Bouli Lanners and Flemish Peaky Blinders director, Tim Mielants.

The film is a love story set in the heart of a Presbyterian community and the spectacular Lewis scenery.

Playing the lead roles, are Michelle Fairley, best known for her role as Catelyn Stark in *Game of Thrones*, Julian Glover (*Game of Thrones*, *Indiana Jones*) and Clovis Cornillac (*Little Tickers*, *Radiostars* and *Bellamy*).

Kate Forbes MSP is urging Highlanders to respond to a consultation on proposed legislation that would seek to help safeguard communities in remote and rural parts of Scotland.



additional consideration when it comes to legislation and investment, as proven by the Islands Bill which has just gone through the parliament.

The Proposed Remote Rural Communities (Scotland) Bill, which was lodged last month by Gail Ross MSP, would enhance the consideration given to such communities by Scottish public bodies.

A similar piece of legislation for Scotland's islands has already passed during the present Scottish Parliament term, and it is envisioned this draft bill would have a similar effect upon far-flung areas on the mainland.

Ms Forbes, pictured, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, said: 'As much of my constituency is rural and remote, I would encourage as many people as possible to respond to this consultation.'

'It is obvious that areas of the Highlands and Islands require

'This is a Member's Bill in Gail Ross's name, but I think this consultation raises awareness of the particular needs of rural areas and I commend Gail for taking this forward.'

According to Scottish Government criteria, remote rural areas are 'areas with a population of less than 3,000 people, and with a drive time of over 30 minutes to a settlement of 10,000 or more'.

The consultation, which includes a question on whether rural constituencies should become smaller despite their relatively small populations (similar to the like of the Western Isles), can be completed online at: [www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/RemoteRuralCommunities/](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/RemoteRuralCommunities/)

The deadline for responses is January 31.

## TAX RETURN DEADLINE

### 31 JANUARY 2020

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# Sheriff says crofter died after being crushed by cattle

by Mark Entwistle  
[mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk)

A man died after being crushed by cattle at his North Uist croft, a sheriff has determined, following a fatal accident inquiry at Lochmaddy earlier this month.

Hector Macleod, 58, was trying to return an escaped Charolais bull to its pen in a cattle shed at his croft on Berneray, where he lived with his partner, Jayne Jackson.

Sheriff Christopher Dickson said there were no 'reasonable precautions' Mr Macleod could have taken to avoid the accident, which happened on April 24 last year.

In his determination, the sheriff noted the crofter had not previously experienced any signs of aggression from either his 19 cows or his eight-year-old bull, which was born and

raised at his croft. Berneray native Mr Macleod was in the main part of the cattle shed and returning the bull to its own enclosure when he was injured.

The bull, along with cows that got out of the shed, were safely returned to their pens and the bull, which was found to have blood on its head but was uninjured, was later put down.

Some of the cows were pregnant and others had calved. Ms Jackson presented her theory that the bull was seeking a female who was 'on heat' – as a calf was born almost exactly nine months to the day afterwards.

In her post mortem report, consultant pathologist Dr Natasha Inglis stated that Mr Macleod's injuries were consistent with him having been attacked by the bull.

After completing his education, Mr Macleod had served in the Merchant Navy and had then joined the Royal Air Force, serving with distinction as part of the crew for Nimrod aircraft during one of the Gulf wars. During the course of his service with the RAF, he had also received medals for bravery.

In 2005, Mr Macleod was given the opportunity to return to Berneray to take over the family croft and had, since then, successfully run the croft, acquired other crofts and built up a herd of cattle.

The inquiry heard that Mr Macleod was a skilled crofter and his death had come as a huge shock to his mother, Ms Jackson and the rest of the community.

Sheriff Dickson said his thoughts were with Mr Macleod's family.

# Islanders have final say on recycling scheme

Island residents and businesses are being invited to an online consultation to offer ideas for a new scheme to boost recycling.

Zero Waste Scotland is hosting a webinar on November 25 from 11am to 12.30pm, to give people a chance to learn more about Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme, and to share their views on how it will work on Scotland's islands.

The online session follows events held on Skye, the Hebrides, western and northern isles earlier this month.

Under the scheme, people will pay a 20p deposit when buying drinks in plastic or glass bottles and aluminium or steel cans. They will then get their money back when returning empty containers.

The scheme will deliver fantastic environmental benefits

by cutting CO2 emissions and reducing waste, according to Jill Farrell, chief operating officer for Zero Waste Scotland.

She said: 'We want to make sure those benefits are felt across the whole country and that the scheme works in every community.'

'This is your chance to help ensure Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme works for the whole of Scotland. We want to hear from residents, businesses and community groups so that we can benefit from their insight into how this scheme can be made a success on Scotland's islands.'

'From logistics and transport, to cash flow and tourism, Scotland's islands will have different needs to the rest of the country. We are looking forward to discussing how we can work together to

make sure Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme delivers for everyone.'

Zero Waste Scotland is especially keen to hear from islands-based drinks producers, retailers, hospitality businesses, and other key stakeholders, such as transport businesses and community organisations.

Questions and views from the consultations will feed into the Scottish Government's Islands Impact Assessment which ensures any significant impacts for islanders is mitigated against.

To sign up, visit [depositreturnscheme.zerowastescotland.org.uk/live-webinar-scotland](http://depositreturnscheme.zerowastescotland.org.uk/live-webinar-scotland)

Questions can be submitted in advance by emailing [drsevents@zerowastescotland.org.uk](mailto:drsevents@zerowastescotland.org.uk)

## MacPhail

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For anyone needing a bit of escape from the rigours being bombarded by the bluster of the current General Election campaigning, give yourself a short therapy session and click on the Trad Music Awards website.

Here you can contemplate the placing of your votes without the worry that doing so will bring about the disaster that is being predicted and counter-predicted across most parties in current cartoon-like weavings of Westminster. Voting for one band over the other, for one festival instead of another, or being extreme in your choice of which album was best in the past year will have no more critical a potential outcome than who's buying the first round of drinks in Aberdeen in a few weeks.

The Trad Music Awards were born in 2003 and are powering proudly into their 17th year with the customary awards ceremony to be held in the newly-refurbished Aberdeen Music Hall on December 7.

Voting comes to an end this Sunday, November 24, with the results of the online ballot to be announced on the big night.

Musicians are a funny breed and the music industry with all its ups and downs, contradictions, complications, competition among those with no interest to compete and a myriad of other catalysts can cause an already generally eccentric group of people to become even more so. Despite the extra pressures felt by musicians faced with the horror of having to canvas for votes, the Trad Music Awards are a great way of bringing so many in the music industry together for one night every year to let their hair down and have a good party in the company of friends and colleagues.

The publicity brought about by winning some of the categories can be very important to the nominees but, as a whole, the awards are good for the entire presence of the traditional music industry. Who wins the individual

gongs is less significant than the overall benefit created.

One of the most valuable aspects of the awards is the retrospective showing of respect to figures of the past as they are inducted into the Traditional Music Hall of Fame. Many of the inductees are those whose contribution over many years have played an important role in creating the music scene of today. Many, too, have been inducted posthumously for important roles played in the music world.

It is for these people and the many volunteers, teachers, committee members and others working quietly in the background that the Trad Music Awards are most important. When awards are given to those who would never dream of seeking adulation or publicity for themselves, that is when they are most vital. It is these modest stalwarts that the publicity-hungry dandies like the rest of us will be toasting on December 7 in the Aberdeen Music Hall. Vote now!

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

## Talk Money Talk Pensions Do You Know Your Pension Options?

If, like Citizens Advice, you have reached the age of 80 you may already be drawing on your pension savings. But if you are still to decide what to do with your pension pot, do you know your options?



Since April 2015, people who have a workplace or personal pension have had more freedom to decide how

to use their pension savings. So, if you don't know your options you should - Pension Wise from your local Citizens Advice Bureau is the UK government backed scheme that gives you free and impartial guidance about your options. Gillian McInnes Manager of Argyll and Bute Citizens Advice Bureau says:

"Choice can be good. But now there are more options available for those with personal or workplace pensions making a decision about what to do with your savings can seem daunting."

"If you are confused about your pension options or simply want to know more, help is at hand. Since April 2015, we have provided one-to-one guidance to thousands of people across Scotland helping them to make better decisions about pension savings in excess of £1 billion."

"Free and impartial Pension Wise appointment will set out the options available to you and explain the pros and cons of each taking into account your plans for the future. You can learn about the impact of each option on your tax and benefits, how to shop around for products and services and keeping your pension safe. Finally, we will set out the next steps for you to take and send you a written summary of our meeting."

Anyone aged 50 or over with a defined contribution pension scheme is eligible for a Pension Wise appointment. Call Pension Wise on 0800 138 3944 or go online at [www.pensionwise.gov.uk](http://www.pensionwise.gov.uk) to book your appointment. Contact your local Citizens Advice Bureau to find out more.

LT

# Santa's elves competition at record 340 entries from Loch

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

As preparations continue for Lochaber's Christmas Festival on November 30, the competition to become one of Santa's Elves for the day attracted a record 340 entries and gave the judges, Jodie Jordan and Sophie Kerr from Ferguson Transport and Shipping, a long and difficult task.

Finally, after much deliberation, the winning entries in the competition sponsored by Lochaber Rotary Club and The Lochaber Times were chosen - seven-year-old Phoebe MacDonald from Mallaig Primary and eight-year-old Poppy Geddes from Lady Lovat Primary, Morar.

This year's challenges involved colouring in Rudolph and tackling a festive wordsearch, attracting the



biggest ever response in the Festival's 12-year history.

Winners Poppy and Phoebe will ride with Santa

on his sleigh, pulled by the Cairngorm reindeer, from

Judges Jodie Jordan and Sophie Kerr, from Ferguson Transport and Shipping, together with Rotarian Ken Johnston sift through the record number of entries; and right, Phoebe's winning entry.

Cameron Square to the Nevis Centre, waving to the crowds and then helping Santa at his grotto.

The cost of bringing the reindeer to Lochaber is funded by Ferguson Transport and Shipping. Alasdair Ferguson, group managing director, said: 'We are pleased to once again sponsor the Rotary Club's 12th annual Christmas Festival by providing the funds for the Cairngorm reindeer to visit on the day. 'Every year, the Rotary

Club works tirelessly to provide the local community with this fantastic festive event for all the family. We are delighted to support them again this year and are willing to continue for many years to come.'

The festival, which is held in the Nevis Centre, with more than 70 stalls craft and food stalls, bouncy castle, buskers' corner, grand raffle, Santa's Grotto, opens its doors at 9.30am with Santa and the reindeer arriving just after midday.

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**Eye to eye** with John Wallace

## Wellie Boots or Sunglasses?

Isn't the weather fickle? Earlier this month we had gales and heavy rain and ...now...brilliant sunshine and freezing temperatures. Combine that with increasingly short days and long nights and, if you are a driver, you have the perfect storm. Dazzled with the low lying sun during the day and struggling to see at night.

Driving in Argyll is a dangerous occupation at the best of times. During the summer it's trying to avoid tourists stopping on dangerous corners to watch the Highland cattle and deer. At this time of year it's coming round a bend to find the sun straight in your face and being completely blinded. Even pedestrians have problems with the sun. Walking up from the pier



the other day I struggled to see the cars whizzing round the bottom of Argyll Square due to the sun shining into my face.

If you own a car you should have had it checked out to ensure all its systems are working properly. If you are intending to travel you are advised by all the motoring organisations to ensure you have adequate supplies of food, water and

warm clothes for the journey. As a driver you should also ensure your eyesight is performing well. If you need glasses for driving you should ensure they are up to date and the lenses are in good condition. You should also have up to date prescription sunglasses. Polarised lenses are best for around here as they reduce reflections and glare from the wet roads.

Most importantly, you should have regular eye examinations. Every day I see patients whose vision is below or just on the legal minimum for driving. Yet, despite my advice they continue to drive. Please, don't be an accident waiting to happen. Contact your optometrist and book your eye examination.

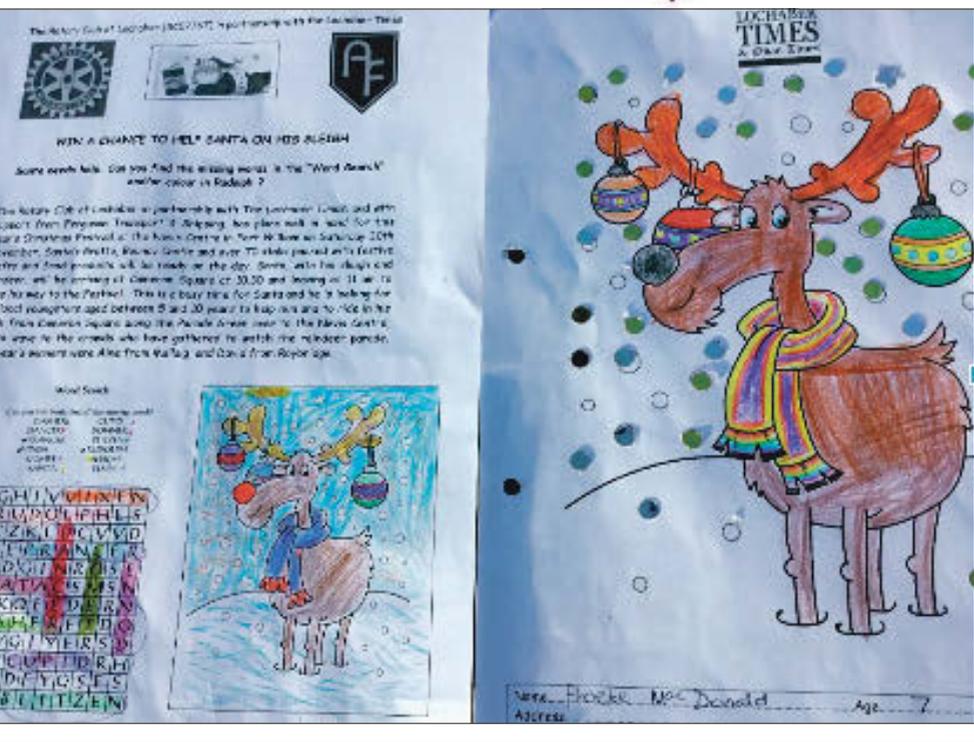
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# Attracts chaber



## Epic sale around Mull raises £12,000 for Children in Need

The intrepid team that set out to sail for eight days non-stop round Mull under skipper Joey Gough for Children in Need have raised in excess of £12,000, with the amount still rising.

Having had to manage a range of weather conditions from flat calms to F9 winds and big seas, the crew of Tangle o' the Isles, a First 32s5, sailed back to Dunstaffnage Marina on Friday (November 15), co-inciding with the end of The BBC Rickshaw Challenge.

### Gales

They had been at sea, or in shelter from gales, for eight days and seven nights and their achievement was recognised on The One Show as well as the BBC Children in Need TV programme.

Said Joey: 'We all want to say a huge thank you to everyone who donated so generously to raise such a fantastic amount. I had a distant hope that we may reach a five-figure sum, but this has really exceeded our expectations. I am keeping the JustGiving



The crew of five faced some huge challenges during the Children in Need fundraiser.

page open via our website for a time in case anyone else wishes to contribute to boost this amount. I want to thank the crew who put themselves through some pretty tough sailing for the cause and also the shore team and sponsors for their support.'

The experienced sailors of Joey (Dunrobin), Twig Olsen (Taynuilt), Christine MacFarlane Slack (Ballachulish), Colin Campbell (Acharacle) and Robert Bradley (Melbourne, Australia) circumnavigated Mull nearly four times during the

eight days, experiencing a wide range of weathers and sea states. The non-stop circumnavigation in Tangle was a major offshore challenge and must have been one of the most difficult fundraising feats undertaken for Children In Need.

The team streamed back live videos via social media and the boat was tracked on AIS throughout the journey. For the full story, visit [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk) and to donate to the fundraiser, visit the JustGiving page at [www.tangletheisles.com](http://www.tangletheisles.com).



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LT

## LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)  
or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HBPraise for team  
behind Lochaber  
Ideas Week

It would not be an overstatement to say that Lochaber Ideas Week has taken on a life of its own and is now firmly established as a brilliant addition to the area's calendar.

As Lochaber Chamber of Commerce says in this week's View from the Chamber article: 'There's so much to learn from making unexpected connections, and huge potential to learn from different industries and areas about ways to improve our own work...this whole week is a chance to take a break from ploughing your own furrow and to discover what other people are doing.'

Lochaber Ideas Week still has more to come, with a Go for your Goals seminar scheduled for tomorrow (Friday November 22).

The team at Lochaber Chamber deserve wide commendation for their efforts in bringing the whole week together.

Glen Etive filming  
concerns are justified

The Highlands, renowned for their stunning scenery, have long been the location of choice for film-makers.

However, residents of Glencoe and Glen Etive have this week voiced their frustration over the disruption they say is foisted upon them, often with little or no notice.

Community councillor and Glen Etive resident Mark Shone does not want to dissuade companies from using the glen, but wants to know in advance and chairwoman Viki Sutherland has suggested that film companies should be obliged to pay a donation of £250 per day to community causes.

Both ideas appear to be reasonable and deserving of merit.

Cyclists blighted by an  
irresponsible few

I have to agree with the letter about cyclists from John Gosling of Barcaldine in last week's Lochaber and Oban Times, but I do feel that the vast majority of cyclists are being 'done down' by the irresponsible actions of the few who seem to think that 'it's all about them'.

Please correct me if I'm wrong, but, as I understand it, it was the cyclists themselves who originally complained about having to share the public roads with normal vehicular traffic.

At great expense, a network of cycle paths was built, many of them right alongside main roads, but all too many cyclists still seem to prefer to ignore them and dice with death on the main roads instead.

I have no problem with cyclists as such using the roads, but at least do it responsibly. The average speed of a leisure cyclist is around 15mph whereas the average speed of a motor vehicle is around 45mph, and bear in mind too that around half of the motor vehicles are working vehicles which have schedules to which to keep, so I think it's a bit off when cyclists refuse to let motor vehicles past them.

**Davie Kerr, Onich, Lochaber.**

Deer are being driven from  
wintering ground

Jamie Hammond, SNH deer officer, is right to warn drivers about the dangers of deer on our public roads during the hours of darkness (Letters November 14) but it is a pity he does not explain why they are there.

In most cases, the reason is their traditional wintering ground is rapidly being replaced by thousands of acres of new, grant-rich, woodlands.

Don't blame the deer, Mr Hammond. The few that have survived your organisation's relentless eradication policy in the past few years are only trying to find shelter.

SNH has an input into deciding fence lines when a planting scheme reaches Forest and Land Scotland. Its staff should tackle the problem then and give both deer and the travelling public a break.

**Iain Thornber, Knock House, Morvern.**

MSP and MP should make  
case for more money

You ran a version of the very long open letter

## 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](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk), post it to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB. Alternatively, hand it in to our offices in Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, or to our office in High Street, Fort William.

addressed to me from the local SNP MP and MSP, a letter that they found the time to send to the press, but didn't have the courtesy to send to me directly (Letters, November 7).

On the council, all councillors work well together – particularly when addressing the major challenges the local authority faces. Last year the SNP councillors supported the administration's budget, and this year there were only slight differences between the administration's budget and the SNP's.

It would be great to see our MP and MSP work with the council to make the case to

the Scottish Government for more money for Argyll and Bute. COSLA has made a very clear ask of the Scottish Government in terms of funding for local councils next year – three per cent plus inflation.

The choices facing the council would be substantially different if this was delivered and, of course, it is the Scottish Cabinet, including our MSP, who actually make the decisions.

The fact is that over the past 10 years, the council has had to make savings of over £50 million. That means real hardship for many local people – many jobs lost, many services



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# DISTRICT NEWS

## ROSS, SKYE AND LOCHABER

A total of 18 candidates are seeking election on December 12 for the three Highland UK parliamentary general election constituencies.

The Ross, Skye and Lochaber constituency has seven candidates and they are: Gavin Ingo Berkenheger (Scottish Conservative and Unionist), Kate Brownlie (Brexit Party), Ian Blackford (Scottish National Party), Donald MacLeod Boyd (Scottish Christian Party 'Proclaiming Christ's Lordship'), John Robert Erskine (Scottish Labour Party), Craig Thomas Alexander Harrow (Scottish Liberal Democrats) and Richard Crewe Lucas (Scottish Family Party - Putting Families First).

## LOCHIEL

Masonic Lodge Lochiel 1200 celebrated a century in the Corpach and Banavie area on Saturday November 9 with a ceilidh and members attending remembrance services.

The lodge was set up in 1919 for returning servicemen in the area who could not get to the lodge in Fort William, which has been present since the 18th century.

Masonic lodges exist for the same reason now as they did hundreds of years ago - to offer men the chance to help out their communities and better themselves.

The lodge's Right Worshipful Master (RWM), Leslie Gow, said: 'Charity is the main thing for the lodge. Masons are the second biggest charity givers in Scotland, after the National Lottery.

'We take a collection every week and if anyone ever approaches us for charity then it is looked upon favourably. We cannot offer a great amount of money like some of the older lodges, but we do what we can.

'About 10 years ago we were struggling to get young people, but now we have quite a few youngsters who will keep the lodge going for another century.'

Often thought of as a secret society, Mr Gow dispelled those rumours, saying that 'secrets' are protected

## Dunvegan youngsters dress down for CIN



The pupils at Dunvegan Primary School on Skye raised £86 for Children in Need by wearing either yellow or spots rather than school uniform on Friday. Money was raised through pupils giving a small donation at the start of the day and also through a duck race sweepstake that was streamed nationally on the CIN YouTube channel. There was also face painting and children enjoyed a range of activities learning about where the money goes and the children who will benefit. Photograph: Marion Macgregor



From left, David Stafford PMWJW Lochiel 1200, Leslie Gow RWM Lochiel 1200, Dave Crilly Provincial Grand Master of Inverness-shire, John McIntyre WSW Lochiel 1200. Photograph: Anthony MacMillan Photography

building techniques that are based on the building of King Solomon's Temple, and lodges are focused on constructing men of good character.

The Masons are changing with the

first 'commoner' becoming the head of the Masons in Scotland, Ramsay McGhee, a retired police officer, in hopes of attracting a larger breadth of people into 'the craft'.

'Greenpeace volunteers will be out again in the near future asking more people to put their name on the petition to be presented to Burger King.'

The BBC recently reported that Burger King sources some chicken from Brazil and also sells some British meat that is reared, at least in part, on soya shipped from the region.

The company told BBC News it had written to its meat suppliers to remind them of its policy of not accepting products raised on former rainforest land and that its beef suppliers in the UK use soya as a minor food additive only.



People in Fort William were asked to sign Greenpeace's petition by local campaigners.

## ARDNAMURCHAN



Pictured are Jean Campbell, Blythswood Care; Debbie White, Ardnamurchan High School, and pupils Megan MacDonald and Isabella Sutherland.

## FORT WILLIAM

Earlier this month, local Greenpeace volunteers took to Fort William's High Street to speak to people and asked them to put their names to a petition calling on fast food company, Burger King, to stop 'flame-grilling' the Amazon rainforest.

Local Greenpeace co-ordinators Kevin and Janet Hickman were among the environmental activists and Mr Hickman told us: 'As we all know, forest fires have been raging throughout the Amazon rainforest throughout the summer, many started deliberately by farmers, emboldened by the Brazilian president's policies to expand agriculture.

'The Greenpeace petition is calling on the company to stop sourcing meat and soya from Brazil while the Amazon burns. Other major brands, including North Face, have stopped sourcing raw materials from Brazil, concerned that their products could be contributing to the damage.



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Pupils in Strontian are hoping to make other people's Christmas a little better this year by taking part in the Blythswood Care Shoe Box Appeal, helping to send items around the world to people less fortunate than themselves.

Taking part were the S1-3 classes at Ardnamurchan High School, overseen by teacher Mrs Deborah White as part of the Religious and Moral Education lessons.

In Strontian Primary, the Pupil Council took charge of the project, with a little help and guidance from Mrs Rachel Patterson.

Last year's shoe box appeal produced more than 100,000 boxes and these were distributed to countries as far afield as Albania, Kosovo, Moldova, Serbia and the Ukraine.

## FORT WILLIAM

Friends of Nevis (FoN) held its autumn litter pick and curling ponds tidy-up recently.

The group wants to thank all the many volunteers who took part and says it was great to have so many helpers of all ages, some who had come a long way for the event.

Litter was cleared from as much of the glen as possible. This included a large amount of camping equipment, which the owners had abandoned.

With help from two members of the Curling Club, the ponds area was tidied, leaves raked up and the main pond prepared for possible winter use.

FoN would like to thank the Ben Nevis Highland Centre, who once again hosted the start of the event.

Several events will take place between now and Christmas - two bird ringing sessions (weather dependent) will be held at the Glen Nevis Visitor Centre on Sunday November 24 and Sunday December 15; you can drop in to these events at any time between 9am and 3pm.

There will also be a conservation event on Saturday December 7 - for more information visit [www.friendsofnevis.co.uk](http://www.friendsofnevis.co.uk), email Rory on [info@friendsofnevis.co.uk](mailto:info@friendsofnevis.co.uk) or call on 01397 701088.



The young Mallaig actors who wowed the audience with their performance of **MacBeth**. Photograph: Splat Media.

## Mallaig young actors deliver stunning MacBeth performance

After weeks of after-school rehearsals, nine young ambassadors from the Mallaig area delivered a stunning interpretation of MacBeth in a packed One Touch Theatre at Eden Court, Inverness, recently, as part of the Shakespeare Schools Festival, the world's largest youth-drama initiative.

Mallaig High School has taken part in the event for several years, but for 2019 it was decided that the opportunity to participate should be extended to the local primary schools.

The performance received massive praise from both the organisers and representatives from St Sylvester's, Elgin, and Drummond School, Inverness, who were also taking part.

Teacher and director of

the performance Dougie Beck said in order to make the play accessible to the young thespians, the script was devised with a weighting towards visual and stylistic elements in terms of interpretation, and this absolutely 'wowed' the audience.

### Dedication

'Our formal feedback highlighted the children's discipline on stage, maturity and group work; we would add to that dedication, resilience, independence and a feeling that the ultimate ownership of the play and the way it developed was in the hands of the children,' Mr Beck told us.

'We are astronomically proud of our young actors. They are a credit to themselves, their families, their

schools and their communities. Can't wait to do it all again next year!

'Huge thanks to parents who acted as taxi drivers during rehearsals, to Innes Morrison who drove us to Inverness and back and to cluster head teacher Martin Sullivan for representing the schools on the night.'

Pictured are Laila Tarn, Mallaig High School; Amira McLauchlan, Lady Lovat Primary; Freya Davis, Mallaig Primary; Ailsa Macdougall, Arisaig Primary; Seth Hamilton, Mallaig Primary; Annie Marinova, Mallaig Primary; Tilly MacDonald, Lady Lovat Primary; Evie McCarthy, Mallaig Primary and Murdo Morrison, Mallaig Primary.

## Shinty talk to bring in new year in Lochaber

One of the oldest medals in competitive shinty is to be handed over to the West Highland Museum in Fort William for safe-keeping and display.

The medal, awarded to a Brae Lochaber player after the 1897 Camanachd Cup final, which they lost to Beaulys, has recently been found by a local family.



The medal and the St Mary's Primary School Challenge Trophy, which is being reintroduced to play among young children in the Fort and Lochaber area, will be on display as part of a fundraising illustrated talk to be held in January.

The illustrated talk, The Caman and the Calluinn - shinty's place in the games and diversions of New Year, and thoughts on the history of the shinty stick - will be delivered by Dr Hugh Dan MacLennan, pictured, recalling many of the fascinating incidents related to shinty matches at New Year in Lochaber and beyond.

The talk will focus on the historical background to these gatherings and recount details of some of the spectacular events which have ensured that New Year shinty matches are one of the most enduring traditions associated with the game.

Dr MacLennan will also discuss shinty artefacts held in the West Highland Museum and also the history of the production and manufacture of shinty sticks.

He said: 'The West Highland Museum has a number of interesting and important historical artefacts - I discovered that it also holds an image of the 1897 Camanachd Cup final, the second ever match for the trophy, before the medal appeared. New Year, or Old New Year's Day shinty matches have always been a great part of the shinty community's traditions, and this talk will provide an ideal forum to draw all these strands together.'

Dr MacLennan is also keen that people in the Fort William and Lochaber areas will bring old camans and any made locally over the years to show at the evening, when the remarkable history of the making of the caman will be detailed.

The talk is being held in the Moorings Hotel, Banavie, on January 8 at 7.30pm and will be a fundraising event for the West Highland Museum and Lochaber District Shinty Memories Group.

Tickets are £5 and available from the West Highland Museum, Fort William.

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# Lochaber Shinty Club hand out the awards

Lochaber Shinty Club held its annual dinner dance and awards night in the Spean Bridge Community Centre last Saturday evening, where the efforts of all who support the teams and the volunteers who keep them operating were recognised.

Trophies were also presented to members of the male and female teams.

### Award winners

Cameron MacIsaac, most improved player U-14; Ben Delaney, first team player of the year and supporters' player of

the year and Ronnie Fulford, U-14 player of the year.

Ladies' winners: Anna Berardelli, second team player of the year; Ann Cameron, most improved player, Kirsty Campbell, U-18 player of the year and Mairi Duncan, first team player of the year.



Lochaber Shinty Club award winners (left to right) Cameron MacIsaac, most improved player U-14; Ben Delaney, first team player of the year and supporters' player of the year and Ronnie Fulford, U-14 player of the year. Photographs: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos



Award winners of the Lochaber Shinty Club ladies' teams (left to right) Anna Berardelli, second team player of the year, Ann Cameron, most improved player, Kirsty Campbell, U-18 player of the year and Mairi Duncan, first team player of the year.

## Award winners at Kilmallie Shinty Club



Kilmallie Shinty Club's first team player of the year – Innes Blackhall.



Kilmallie Shinty Club award winners with their respective coaches and club stalwart and chairman Alistair MacIntyre, back left. Photographs: Abrightside Photography



Aidan Love was the Under 17s and second team player of the year.



Under 17s most improved – Jordan Campbell.



Under 14s player of the year – Kyle Nolan.



Under 14s most improved – Alexander MacNiven.

LT

## JUDO

## Lochaber Judo Club success



Lochaber Judo Club's young judoka proudly show off the medals they won at the recent Invergordon Judo Festival last month. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

## FOOTBALL

## SLT continue winning run

South Lochaber Thistle	4
Eastwood Parkmount	1
GGAFL Division One	

South Lochaber Thistle made it three league wins in three with a comprehensive victory over Eastwood Parkmount A in the Greater Glasgow Premier Division One.

The visitors arrived at the Kinlochleven astro in fine form, sitting third in the table after five games and it was Parkmount who started the brighter, taking the lead after just five minutes.

In a match which was becoming attritional, it was home skipper Martin Munro who was on hand to level the score on the half-hour mark.

The ball sprayed out in a melee before Munro spun from five yards out to convert.

Things continued to

get better for the hosts with veteran Dave Forbes, powering through the centre of the park in a man of the match performance, slipping a cunning pass through for Munro to score his, and SLT's, second of the day to round out the half.

In the second half, the Jags were able to mount further pressure and it was Forbes this time who got himself on the score sheet.

The free kick, awarded some 35 yards out from goal, didn't look immediately promising until he stepped up to blast an Exocet finish up, across and around to leave the Eastwood keeper stranded.

The scoring was rounded off by Forbes's midfield partner Andrew Maclean, who bagged Thistle's fourth while following up a spill from the keeper.

## ATHLETICS

## LAC hold first winter race

A total of 71 runners took part in Lochaber Athletics Club's first race of the winter season in the Cow Hill Winter League on Sunday, which saw John Yells the first male home in a time of 00:39:59.

Two-and-a-half minutes behind him in second place was fellow LAC runner Callum Fraser, with Mike Brossard in third spot with a time of 00:43:00.

First female home overall was Lisette Walter (LAC) in 00:49:11, with Ailsa Lopez (LAC) second in 00:50:08 and Sarah MacDonald (LAC) third in 00:51:20.

Full results on LAC website at lochaberac.co.uk.

## LOTTERY NUMBERS

Balachulish Shinty Lottery's numbers were 5, 15 and 17. No winners, so next week's draw is for £600.

Caol Community Centre Bingo Club Lotto: numbers for 21/11/19 were 6, 11 and 14. No winners so £600 next week.

Caol Regeneration Lotto: winning numbers for 14/11/19 were 11, 17 and 20. No winners so £1,100 for next draw on 21/11/19.

Fort William Golf Club Lotto: numbers for 14/11/19 were 9, 13 and 19. One winner of £1,300 so £100 available for draw on 21/11/19.

# Heartache for plucky Lochaber



Lochaber	14
Loch Lomond	15
West Region Division 3	

After a month's break, Lochaber RFC were back in action in a top of the conference clash at home to Loch Lomond.

Both teams were in great form after only losing one game each all season, with Lochaber's only loss away to Loch Lomond in the first game of the season.

Lochaber were struggling for a front row for Saturday's game, with vice-captain William Stewart and Sam Kane still injured.

And with James Young, Rory MacKay and Christopher Morrison all unavailable, Lochaber had to call in an emergency prop Joshua Ryder from Highland 2nd XV and fly-half Scottie Diack filling in at hooker.

Lochaber started well and took an early lead in the first minute through the boot of Jonathan McCook from a penalty.

Loch Lomond had a chance to level up the scores in the fifth minute but the attempted penalty hit the post and



Callum Boyd fights his way through the Loch Lomond defence in Saturday's clash at Banavie.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Alan Hamilton ran it out of Lochaber's 22.

It soon came apparent that Lochaber's makeshift front row were having a hard time against a very solid Loch Lomond pack.

Lochaber stretched their lead with another penalty from McCook on the 23rd minute. Loch Lomond had another penalty just three minutes later but this time the kick was dragged just wide.

In the 30th minute McCook converted another penalty to

make it 9-0. Lochaber looked to have scored the first try of the game in the 35th minute when the forwards worked their way into the right hand corner but as they crossed the line Loch Lomond were able to hold them up and force them into touch. A very tight first half drew to a close with Lochaber just edging it.

Ten minutes into the second half and Loch Lomond got their first points. With a scrum five meters out, they were able to push Lochaber

## RUGBY

back over their try line to score to make it 9-7.

But 15 minutes later Lochaber were in for a try of their own when, after a free kick at the scrum around Loch Lomond's 22, Matt Murray found Conor Taylor hitting the line flat out on the angle. Taylor ran though the gap to score in the corner.

With the conversion missed it made the score 14-7. On the 75th minute Loch Lomond had their second try of the game which came exactly the same way as their first, pushing Lochaber's scrum back over their own try line.

This time the conversion was missed to leave Lochaber with a narrow lead at 14-12.

However, heartache was not far away for the hosts when, in the 79th minute, Loch Lomond were awarded a penalty in front of the posts to win the game 14-15 at the death.

Lochaber now have to travel away to Glasgow University Medics for what will probably be their hardest game of the season so far. The two teams will then meet again on December 7 at Banavie for the West Bowl final.

## Runners brave freezing conditions

A great morning was had by high school students at this year's Leanachan Cross-Country on Thursday of last week, despite the freezing conditions.

Students from Tobermory, Plockton, Portree, Kilchumein, Kinlochleven, Lochaber, Ardnamurchan and Mallaig High Schools battled it out for the top spot.

Hosted by Lochaber Rural

Education Trust and supported by Active Schools co-ordinators from High Life Highland, the event was held in memory of Peter English.

Results were as follows:  
S1/2 girls - 1st - Evie Kellet, Tobermory - 15.47,  
2nd - Mya Carmicheal, Ardnamurchan - 16.48,  
3rd - Keira Whittingham, Plockton - 17.39.

S1/2 boys - 1st - Ross

Macleod, Portree - 13.34,  
2nd - Sorley Swabey, Lochaber High School - 13.58,  
3rd Ruari Preston - Portree - 14.56.

S3/4 girls - 1st - Isla MacArthur, Kilchumien - 35.38,  
2nd - Dobrochna Czaplá, Lochaber High School - 36.48,  
3rd - Ailsa Janzen, Kinlochleven High School - 38.04.

S3/4 boys - 1st - Ronnie

## CROSS-COUNTRY

Fulford, Lochaber High School - 27.28,  
2nd - Finlay Fraser, Lochaber High School - 27.42,  
3rd - Alex Jamieson, Portree High School - 27.54.

S5/6 girls - 1st - Bethan White, Ardnamurchan High School - 49.08,  
joint 2nd - Mairi Nonheblel, Kallista Knight - Tobermory High School - 59.07.

S5/6 Boys - Jamie McConnell, Lochaber High School - 41.25,  
2nd - Freddie Fulford, Lochaber High School - 45.41,  
3rd - Donald MacVicar, Tobermory High School - 46.33.

The fastest girl overall was Evie Kellet from Tobermory High School, whilst the fastest overall boy was Ross Macleod from Portree.

The team award shields this year went to Plockton High School in first place, with Mallaig High School in second.



The trophy winners. Photograph: Abrightside Photography.

# Fort FC chairman says club will ban anyone who damages reputation

Fort William FC chairman Peter Murphy says anyone who damages the club's reputation will be banned and, if necessary, reported to the police, following incidents that marred Saturday's Highland League Cup home game against Fraserburgh.

In a statement, Mr Murphy said the club was investigating two incidents that occurred in the aftermath of the home cup tie and has appealed for witnesses to come forward.

He said: 'We at Fort William FC will not accept any form of anti-social behaviour at our games.

'This includes verbal or physical abuse of players, officials, supporters or committee members from both clubs.

## Two incidents

'We are aware of two incidents at the end of the game yesterday that we are currently investigating.

'We would ask anyone who may have witnessed anything of an unacceptable nature to contact the club by emailing fortwilliamfc@highlandleague.com.

'We will ban indefinitely anyone who brings down the reputation of our club and pass evidence to the police if necessary.'

And fans took to online



Fort William FC chairman Peter Murphy.

media, with some calling for those responsible to be banned from Claggan Park for life.

The incidents came after Saturday's home defeat, which saw Fort go down 1-3 to the Broch following two late goals.

Until the last 10 minutes it had been an evenly matched contest with both sides failing to convert chances into goals.

Home keeper Mateusz Kulbacki made a number of top drawer saves to keep the scoreline reading 0-0 until the 75th minute when the



Fort's Ross Gunn tackles Broch's Ross Willox.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

visitors' Paul Young rifled a screamer of a shot into the top corner of the Fort net.

That made it 0-1, but eight minutes later, on the 83rd minute mark, the Fort's Ross Gunn tried a strike from 20 yards out only to see the Broch keeper save it and then spill the ball.

## First goal

But the advancing Daryl Taylor needed no second invitation to tap the ball into the net with his first goal in a Fort shirt and level it 1-1.

A draw looked on the cards but then the visitors' Sean

## FOOTBALL

Butcher and Willie West broke Claggan Park hearts when they found the back of the net in the 85th and 87th minutes.

The home side refused to concede, however, battling right to the final whistle and Fort's Aidan Taylor was unlucky not to claw one back two minutes into extra time, sending his shot wide.

Next up for the Fort is the long journey to Harlaw Park for the game against Inverurie Locos on November 30.

# Kirsty shares national sports coaching award

Fort William's Kirsty Delaney has been crowned joint winner of the Young Coach of the Year at the 2019 Highland Coaching, Officiating and Volunteering Awards.

Hosted at Highland Rugby Football Club's premises at Canal Park, Inverness, this month, the awards are run by High Life Highland in partnership with sportscotland to recognise the outstanding contribution and significant impact of local coaches.

This year organisers received 36 nominations, the most across all 32 local authorities in Scotland.

Two young leaders from Nairn - Benjamin Dudley and Corrie Bell - read out the winners' accomplishments, and trophies and certificates were presented by Steve Walsh, chief executive for High Life Highland.

As part of the Active Schools programme, Kirsty - who shares the award with Inverness tennis coach Jana Brady - regularly coaches



Kirsty Delaney, pictured coaching a group of youngsters, was named joint winner of the Young Coach of the Year Award.

football, shinty, gymnastics and multisport, as well as running sessions for autistic children and helping to mentor young sports leaders.

She also coaches shinty at Lundavra Primary School as a volunteer and selects and manages school team which attends interschool competitions.

She is a talented coach and sports woman and was described as having 'a wonderful manner with young people and is able to bring out the best in them'.

The awards ceremony heard Kirsty is respected by the youngsters she works with and, by making training fun, is able to inspire them to work harder and achieve more.

She is the captain of Lochaber Camanachd Club women's team and is an inspiration to her team-mates on and off the field.

She encourages younger players to get involved, offering transport and other support to those too young to drive. Four primary aged pupils who attend Active

## COACHING

Schools football sessions coached by Kirsty have been selected to train with youth teams; two are with Rangers and another two play for Inverness Caledonian Thistle.

This year Kirsty completed her Shinty Level 1 coach training and is midway through her SFA L1.2 Award.

Her nomination was submitted by Bridget Thomas, Active Schools co-ordinator for the Lochaber cluster.



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## WEATHER

**Thursday**  
Light cloud and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures 5°C to 7°C.

**Friday**  
Light cloud and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures 6°C to 9°C.

**Weekend Outlook**  
**Saturday**  
Light cloud and a gentle breeze  
**Sunday**  
Light rain and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures 7°C to 10°C.



FRIDAY

## TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday November 21, 2019 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

	01.13	3.0	06.31	1.5
<b>Thur</b>	13.27	3.4	19.56	1.6
<b>Fri</b>	02.24	3.2	07.46	1.4
	14.33	3.6	20.59	1.4
<b>Sat</b>	03.15	3.4	08.51	1.2
	15.22	3.8	21.49	1.2
<b>Sun</b>	03.56	3.7	09.46	1.0
	16.03	4.0	22.32	1.0
<b>Mon</b>	04.32	3.9	10.36	0.8
	16.42	4.1	23.12	0.9
<b>Tues</b>	05.07	4.0	11.22	0.7
	17.20	4.2	23.50	0.8
<b>Wed</b>	05.44	4.1	12.06	0.7
	17.57	4.1	***	**

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

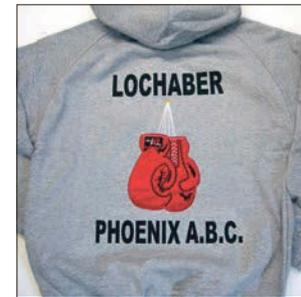
Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

**Chain, shackles and buoys all available to purchase.**

Kirsty shares national sports coaching award

Heartache for plucky Lochaber

# Siobhan crowned Lochaber's first female boxing champ



## 10-PIN BOWLING

### Alleycats lead scratch division after week two

After week two of the Lochaber Building Supplies 10-pin bowling leagues at the Nevis Centre in Fort William, Alleycats lead the scratch division and are now the only team with the maximum of 10 points.

Team With A Bowling Problem are in second spot with eight points with Retrovators in third place with seven points.

In the handicap division, Team With A Bowling Problem and Alleycats both have eight points followed by Retrovators in third place with seven points.

Individually, the best scratch game in week two was by Steve Day (Team With A Bowling Problem) with a game of 171. Brian Stewart (Peaky Bowlers) had the top handicap game and season high so far of 233, whilst Nick Richardson (Alleycats) had both the top two-game scratch series of 329 and Steve Day also had the top two-game handicap series of 426 (season high so far).

The best scratch team scores of the week came from Alleycats with the top scratch game of 584 and the top two-game scratch series of 1152. The best handicap team scores came from Team With A Bowling Problem with the top handicap game of 767 and the top two-game handicap series of 1483.



by Mark Entwistle  
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A little bit of sporting history was made at the weekend when mum-of-two Siobhan Duncan became Lochaber's first female boxing champion.

Duncan annexed the Scottish Novice Female Welterweight championship after a gruelling final bout against Natalie Deans from the Edge boxing club.

Having seen Deans win her semi-final the previous day, Duncan decided she would put her height advantage to good use by forcing the smaller Deans onto the back foot by utilising straight punches from the centre of the ring and refusing to give ground.

These tactics led to an exciting opening round which the Lochaber boxer clearly won but Deans's ferocity ensured there were some fierce exchanges as Duncan would sometimes battle at mid range rather than at length.

The Lochaber fighter used intelligence in the second round to adapt her tactics to keep the shorter Deans at the end of her straight punches, stepping back when her opponent rushed forward and then countering with hurtful blows from both hands.

Again winning the round, Duncan had to endure some solid punches from Deans as her low guard at times left her

too exposed defensively. The third round was a real war of attrition because, while Duncan for the most part kept things at long range, there were times when the battle was fought at close to mid range.

Duncan again showed she was still thinking on her feet as she cleverly switched from body to head and brought in uppercuts when Deans, who had a very tight defence, occasionally lowered her head.

The bout was extremely hard-fought with Duncan, who celebrates her 32nd birthday this week, coming through the proverbial 'gut check' when things got tough and won all three rounds claiming a unanimous decision on the judges' scorecards and claiming her first title.

A great achievement for someone who only started training last year but now works out four or five days a week, sometimes twice a day, incorporating sprint sessions into regime as well as her boxing sessions.

It's also a real family effort for the Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club representative as Duncan's whole family help in looking after her girls Kayla and Carly on training nights to ensure she can attend the boxing club sessions.

**Siobhan Duncan is Lochaber's first female boxing champion.**

Photograph: Iain Ferguson



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