



Oban Winter Festival entertains thousands



Tenants raise the roof

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



A Jura family is at the end of its tether after spending the past four weeks living in a house without a roof.

Annchris and David MacLean, their seven-year-old daughter Katie and eight-month-old baby Alasdair are one of five Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) households on the island that have been waiting since the beginning of August for cavity wall work insulation and new roofing to be carried out.

Mrs MacLean told The Oban Times: 'We feel we have been treated disgracefully by ACHA. There has been scaffolding up outside our home in Woodside since July.'

'Work eventually started in October when our roof tiles were stripped but not much has happened since.'

'Our house is freezing, heating costs are ridiculous and my baby has been ill because we cannot keep the house warm.'

Mrs MacLean has been issued with an inhaler for baby Alasdair who has been unable to sleep in his own room as a result of recurring damp problems.

Tenants' shift patterns were

one of the reasons given by ACHA for not carrying out the work in a reasonable amount of time when it was contacted by The Oban Times this week.

'Work at the properties has taken longer than normal due to a number of reasons,' said ACHA chief executive Alastair MacGregor.

'The cavity in the properties was particularly wet and

'I am beyond angry and scunnered at how we've been treated.'

required to be allowed to dry out sufficiently after removing the cavity fill before being refilled.

'When the cavity was dry and ready to be refilled, the association's sub-contractor had some difficulties accessing the island which added to the delay.'

'The most significant delay to the works being completed has been caused by restrictions being placed on our contractor by the tenants to work around their shift patterns.'

'The association was happy to accommodate this. This has resulted in our contractor

only being able to work two and three day weeks by accommodating these requests. This has impacted considerably on the time taken to complete the contract.'

However, Mrs MacLean believes the contractors had ample time to carry out the work and says she even vacated her home on two occasions when told by workmen they were starting, only to come back and find nothing had been done.

She said: 'Some time ago the contractor came to an agreement with my husband that they would not work on our house when he starts his night shift rotation.'

'This happens next week. They have had two weeks of beautiful weather and have done nothing.'

'We will soon be into December and still have no roof. I am beyond angry and scunnered by the way we have been treated.'

ACHA is hopeful that, weather permitting, the roof slating will be completed by this Friday.

Mrs MacLean's neighbour Sue Petit has experienced similar problems and is seeking compensation for extensive water damage to her home.

Oban is proud of you, Bob

Photograph: Bounce Sports



Last weekend was the icing on the cake after a spectacular season for Oban golfer Robert 'Bob' MacIntyre. The 23-year-old was crowned 2019 European Tour Rookie of the Year and Challenge Tour Graduate of the Year. His achievements have now been recognised in the Scottish Parliament after MSP

John Finnie lodged a motion congratulating the Glencruitten golfer. Mr Finnie said: 'I expect this recognition is just the first of many in his career. Hopefully his achievements will inspire the next generation of Oban athletes, whether shinty players or golfers.'

Full story, back page.



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OT

Anger as IJB threatens to axe dementia ward

by Colin Cameron
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Health bosses claim they will be able to 'continue to meet the requirements' of service users, despite threatening to close the region's only dedicated dementia unit.

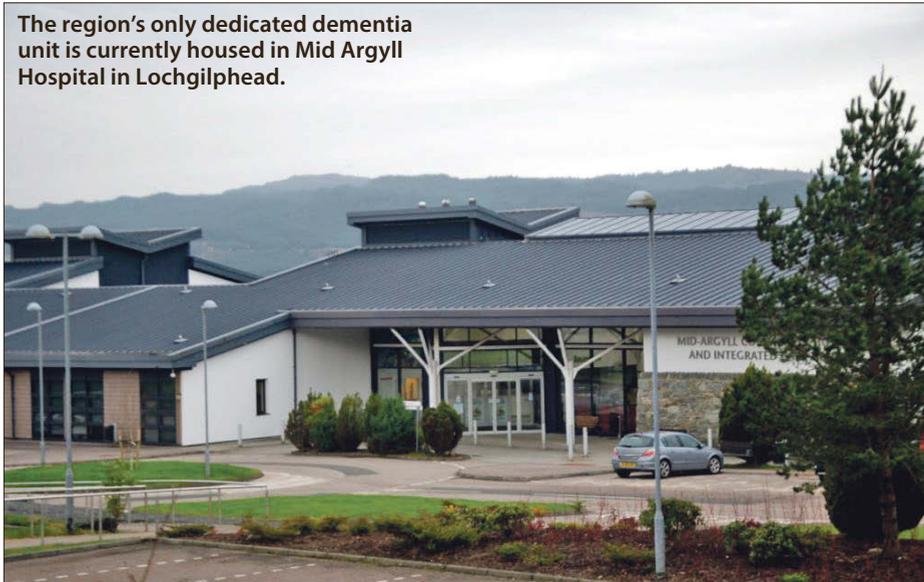
A report on the future of Knapdale ward dementia assessment unit in Mid Argyll Hospital will be presented to health and social care decision-makers on the Integration Joint Board in coming weeks.

As fears grew among staff, the trade union Unison started a petition against any closure plans. Though released a week earlier, the Unison petition was formally launched on November 21.

The eight-bedded ward, which has been closed to new admissions since 2018, has been a target for cuts as Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) struggles to plug a £6.4 million budget gap for 2020/21.

Dawn Macdonald, Unison convener for Argyll and Bute in NHS Highland, said: 'Unison is launching this petition to prevent the full closure of Knapdale ward

The region's only dedicated dementia unit is currently housed in Mid Argyll Hospital in Lochgilphead.



and to call for its reopening to new admissions.

'There are ongoing proposals regarding the future of our dementia services within Argyll and Bute. Unison is standing up for these crucial services and believes, given Argyll and Bute's ageing population, we need to see an expansion, not contraction, of dementia services.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership said: 'We have a duty to ensure our

dementia services meet the needs of the people living in Argyll and Bute and, in line with the Scottish Government's National Dementia Strategy 2017-2020, we provide these in an environment that is suited to the needs of people using the service.

'In most cases, this will mean the appropriate place to care for people will be in the community and they will only be admitted to hospital when there is a

clinical need to do so. We are also looking to invest in our community dementia services and increase access to timely specialist support and assessment to prevent avoidable admission to hospital in the first place.

'All of this links in with us looking at our dementia services generally to ensure we continue to meet the requirements of the people using the service.'

Mid Argyll councillor Dougie Philand described

the proposals as 'astounding', adding: 'We will now see our older people ripped from their communities and shipped off to care outside Argyll and Bute. We have an excellent team in Knapdale ward who should be supported to do what they are good at.'

'I would urge communities to stand up for Knapdale ward and not allow vulnerable people and their families to suffer even more.'

Councillor Sandy Taylor reiterated this point, adding: 'In the event the ward is closed, I will be looking for assurances that patients will not need to be treated out-with Argyll, but would rather see the ward developed as a specialist resource and centre of excellence which could serve wider Scotland.'

As The Oban Times went to press, the Unison online petition had already gathered 1,984 signatures towards its goal of 2,500.

The petition can be found by visiting the Change.org website and searching the word 'Knapdale'.

Visit The Oban Times website for more comment on this story.

Council tackle period poverty

Argyll and Bute Council has made free sanitary products available in a number of public buildings, leisure centres, schools and libraries as part of a drive to tackle 'period poverty'.

Funded by the Scottish Government, the initiative aims to ensure products are available to those who need them in a dignified way.

For further information and for details of how you can access free sanitary products, visit: www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/sanitaryprovision.

Oban linkspan maintenance

Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL) will carry out work to replace the lifting cylinders on linkspan number two at Oban Harbour as part of a planned maintenance programme.

The linkspan will be out of service for 10 days, starting on January 23, 2020.

During this time vessels will use the linkspan at berth number one, which was replaced earlier this year. Minimal disruption to services is expected, though passengers should check www.calmac.co.uk.

CMAL has programmed the work to coincide with the annual dry-docking of MV Isle of Lewis, which is the only vessel used for Oban Harbour which is unable to use linkspan number one.



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Popular Oban music man leaves a lasting legacy

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



A popular Oban music shop owner who died last week following a long illness is the subject of a magnificent tribute by a former customer turned international DJ and musician.

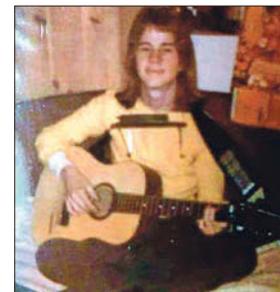
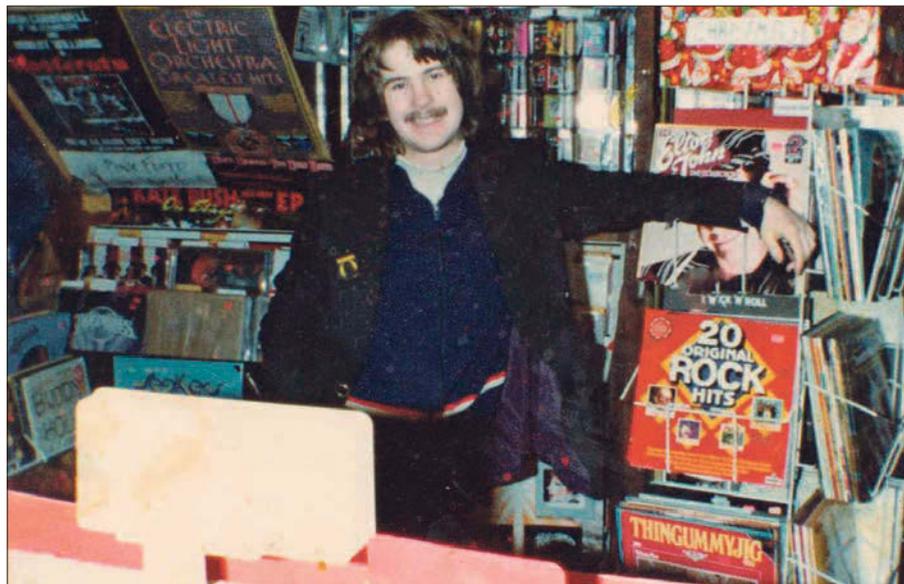
Robin Douglas died on November 17, aged 62, following a battle with Parkinson's disease which began at the age of 30.

The youngest of four children, Robin went to Rockfield Primary and Oban High School before joining his dad at Douglas's newsagent's and stationery shop in Queen's Park Place.

When his father died, 21-year-old Robin and his brother Alistair changed the premises into a music shop which became iconic to the many who spent their pocket money there buying the latest singles.

Mark Fellowes grew up on Loch Awe and has since become an international DJ and musician, performing at major nightclubs in Ibiza and London, including The Ministry of Sound. As a musician, Mark has had a hit single in Belgium as part of a band called Disposable Things, and supported the Jesus and Mary Chain on tour.

'Without Robin in my life, I would never have had the successful career I have,' said Mark.



Left, Robin at work in the record shop, above, as a teenager and in his primary school photograph.

Mark first met Robin when he was seven years old, when he went in to Douglas's with his mother to buy his first 'adult' single - Billy Don't Be A Hero by Paper Lace.

'Over the next few years, I spent a lot of pocket money in Douglas's Records and got to know Robin very well,' he continued.

'When I was 12, I had plans to be a DJ, and the first party I played at was in Connel. Robin was extremely supportive and lent me some records for my first party.

'When I went away to school in Perthshire, I would ring Robin with list after list of records and he would either keep them aside for me, or send me packages of records to my school. Often

with a funny note. Without Robin, I would never have succeeded in my chosen career. The main thing a DJ needs is records, and if there was a particular record I wanted, he would spend hours chasing distributors and other record shops to get whatever I was looking for. That support was invaluable and I have never forgotten it.'

Mark's career saw him move to London but he continued to visit Douglas's on visits home and, as circumstances changed and Douglas's sadly closed in 1991, he continued to write and visit his old friend when possible. 'The talk was always music - and often Rangers,' added Mark. 'As a St Johnstone fan, he loved to

rib me when the Gers beat Saints, which sadly for me was quite often!'

Mark now has a weekly radio show and, on Record Store Day 2018, he dedicated a whole programme to Robin, playing all the records bought from his record shop.

'He was an inspiration,' concluded Mark.

A sentiment shared by Robin's three children, Lorraine, Graham and

Kaireen, and grandchildren, Olivia, eight, Perrie, seven, and Ayda, six.

'Family was everything to my dad. He was the kindest, funniest, strongest man I have ever known, and I am so lucky to have been his daughter. Myself, Graham and Kaireen are so proud to be able to have called him our dad,' said Lorraine.

POLICE FILES

At about 3.20pm on Wednesday November 20, on the A82 near to Bridge of Orchy, a lorry was stopped for allegedly exceeding the speed limit. The driver, a 52-year-old man, was charged and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

At about 1.45am on Friday November 22, a 28-year-old man was stopped by police in Argyll Street, Oban, and allegedly found to be in possession of cocaine. During the incident, a woman, 28, allegedly obstructed officers in an effort to prevent the arrest of the man. The woman was also arrested and both were

later charged and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

At about 3.25pm on Friday November 22, in a flat in High Street, Oban, a woman, 29, allegedly breached bail conditions imposed by the court by approaching a man. Police arrested and charged the woman who was held for court. A report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

At about 9.45pm on Saturday November 23, in George Street, Oban, a man, 52, was arrested for allegedly behaving in an abusive manner and assaulting a woman. The man was charged with the

offences and a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

At about 7.30 pm on Friday November 22, in Lochnell Road, Dunbeg, a man, 29, allegedly behaved in an abusive manner. Police attended and the man was arrested, held for court and a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

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

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OT

Lighting the town red for World AIDS Day

McCaig's Tower will be lit up in red on Sunday to mark the 31st World Aids Day.

In addition, Oban Pride is holding a candle-lit vigil in order to bring people together and show their individual support for those living with HIV as well as their families and friends.

Phill Dexter, Oban Pride chairperson, said: 'We are delighted that the council had agreed to light the tower red.'

'It will act as a symbol to show that Oban stands with and supports people living with HIV, as well as commemorating those who have died from an AIDS-related illness.'

'The vigil also gives people a chance to remember those who have died due to AIDS-related illnesses, whether this be people in general or loved ones they have lost.'

The vigil will take place at the pedestrian area on Stafford Street and starts at 5pm.

Later the same day, Oban Pride is helping to launch the



Phill Dexter, Oban Pride chairperson.

LGBTQ+ Film Club hosted by Oban Phoenix Cinema, when there will be a showing of the 2019 film *The Shiny Shrimps*, starting at 7pm.

Tickets are available from the cinema.

YOURSTORY
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Oban couple found guilty of assault

COURT

A man and a woman have been found guilty of assaulting a woman to her severe injury, which resulted in a cracked rib and punctured lung.

Dylan Restrict, 22, from 2e Catalina Avenue, Oban, and a teenager, who cannot be named due to her age, were found guilty by a jury on Wednesday November 20 after a three-day trial.

They were found to have assaulted the woman by kicking her on the body, punching her on the head, as well as repeatedly stamping on her head.

Restrict and the woman maintained their innocence throughout the trial and their solicitors argued they were acting in self-defence.

The assault took place on December 29, 2018, in Catalina Avenue, out-

side the victim's home. They were also charged with behaving in a threatening or abusive manner and spitting at the woman, but the case against them was found not proven by the jury.

'Dylan said [to the police] he punched her in self-defence.'

Procurator fiscal David Glancy told the jury: 'Dylan said [to the police] he punched her in self-defence. He indicated that if he was involved it was in defence of [the teenager] and [she] said if she was involved it was defending herself against an attack.'

However, Mr Glancy said: 'Think back to how this started. It started with messages over the course

of two days prior. Think about where and when this happened that night – trouble came to her door late at night when she was dressed for a night in.

'She was drawn from her house by being aware that both the accused were outside or close by.'

'The encounter turned violent when Dylan kicked her on the side, she attributes that to her cracked rib and punctured lung.'

Mr Glancy went on to say that the teenager then attacked her, before the two females ended up on the ground with the victim on top. However, in Restrict's defence, his solicitor argued that it was the victim who struck him, before getting the better of the girl.

'Dylan has a right to extend self-defence to act in [the teenager's] interest,' his solicitor added. In the

17-year-old girl's defence, Edward Thornton said it was the complainer who was the aggressor, stating she put her shoes on and went outside towards the couple.

He added: 'She accepted if she had not done any of this, the incident would not have taken place.'

Mr Thornton said his client's position was that the complainer pushed Restrict and the teenager intervened, before the two ensued in a scuffle, which resulted in his client on the ground being bit.

The jury found the couple guilty by a majority decision and Sheriff Patrick Hughes deferred sentencing until December 18 in order for the court to obtain reports.

He said: 'This is very grave offence and one where the court will consider a custodial sentence.'

Community input sought to fund town's Christmas lights next year

Thousands of people watched on Saturday as this year's Christmas lights were switched on in Oban, writes David McPhee.

However, to illuminate the town next year, a community-wide fundraising campaign might be required.

In a bid to save money, due to it facing a £7.9 million funding gap this year, Argyll and Bute Council will no longer pay for the festive decorations.

Andrew Spence, chief executive of BID4Oban, said: 'While disappointing, it is understandable given the cuts to many of the council's budgets and services.'

'Next year, 2020, the major challenge will be funding the installation of festive lights and trees across Oban,' Mr Spence added.

'It is confirmed that Argyll and Bute Council will still allow us to install the existing fittings, however these are now fast approaching the end of their usable life. We need new lights. There are many new and improved lighting designs that can be accommodated in Oban, but they come at a cost.'

'BID4Oban works on a

tight, limited budget which comes from the business community of Oban's 556 businesses.'

'Given that Argyll and Bute Council will no longer fund festive lighting, it is essential that funding is sourced to ensure Oban has a fantastic festive display next year and ongoing.'

'It would be great to see amazing displays on George Street, the Esplanade, Argyll and Station Squares, Albany Street and Combie Street.'

'If you have any ideas or solutions for how to fund the future of Christmas lights in Oban, please contact BID4Oban via email info@bid4oban.co.uk – we need to start planning now.'

BID4Oban already plays a part in the festive decorations – for the past two years the council has given the organisation a grant to install them. However, there was no room in the budget for replacing or enhancing lights.

The council has been responsible for providing the Christmas trees in Argyll Square, Stafford Street, top end of George Street and corner of Lochavullin Road and Crannog Lane.

'It is likely that BID4Oban will have to pick up the costs for the installation of the trees during this and future years,' Mr Spence said.

BID4Oban receives a grant to fund the lights on the main tree, while the solar-powered trees on lampposts are fully funded by the organisation.

Oban Community Council agreed to put their thinking caps on when they were informed of the situation by Mr Spence at Monday night's monthly meeting.

The community council said they could contribute a small amount towards the purchasing of new lights and restoration of others, but that a town-wide funding campaign was needed.

Community councillor George Berry said: 'Christmas is a very special time of year for many and goes a long way to lifting spirits and brightening up the town. We really have to make sure that Oban continues to sparkle at this time of year.'

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Emma Hill (OHS Pipe Band), left, Robert Chipchase and John Lloyd (Lions Club), Callan McCuigan and Kai MacKechnie (OHS Pipe Band) and Nicola Wilson (vice-president, Oban and Lorn Lions Club).

Lions pay the pipers who played the tunes ...

Oban High School Pipe Band were on song last week when they received a cheque for £250 from Oban and Lorn Lions Club.

The cash was raised during the summer when the local benefactors presented evenings of Highland entertainment at McCaig's Tower, featuring OHS Pipe Band and dancers on the first Thursday of each month.

Lions Club member

Robert Chipchase said: 'We have enjoyed a successful season at McCaig's Tower which will enable us to help many worthwhile causes in and around the town. We are most appreciative of the donations that have been made by visitors from all over the world and, of course, the dedication of Oban High School Pipe Band and dancers who provided first rate entertainment.'

Concern over future of Lismore's 'vital' ferry

Islanders on Lismore held an emergency meeting at the weekend amid fears that a lifeline ferry service could be axed, writes David McPhee.

A packed meeting took place on Sunday to discuss the fate of the island's north end ferry, which runs to and from Port Appin.

Islanders said they were shocked to learn Argyll and Bute Council may have to consider scrapping the 'vital' service. Argyll and Bute Council is in discussion with Transport Scotland about transferring lifeline ferry services, which are subsidised by the council at £1 million.

The routes include: Lismore-Port Appin, Easdale-Seil, Luing-Seil and Jura-Islay.

A spokesperson for the community of Lismore said: 'This ferry brings our doctors twice a week, our nurses to visit the frail elderly and the newborn,

Marie Curie and Macmillan nurses on a daily basis when needed, carers when required and also allow islanders to easily visit the Port Appin surgery. It also brings the vets to the island's farmers.

'No islander will be unaffected by this loss. Several rely on the north end ferry as a commuter route to get to work and support themselves and their families. Without it, many would be forced to either live off-island away from their families, or to leave and, as some of these families have young children, this would soon affect the school.'

While Lismore is served by another ferry from Oban, it is a 50-minute journey with only two ferries per day. It is mainly used as a car ferry. Islanders state that both are vital and serve different needs, with one being 'unable to do the job of the other'.

The Port Appin ferry allows people to leave Lismore as early as 7am and return at 8pm, which opens up opportunities to work elsewhere.

Michael Russell, Argyll and Bute MSP, said: 'I remain strongly committed to the two services. I am also in favour, as is the council, of the council-run services being transferred to a single national operator.'

An Argyll and Bute spokesperson said: 'We are in discussion with Transport Scotland over the operation of council-run ferry services. We are committed to making these talks productive so they provide the best possible future for our island communities and our economy.'

A Transport Scotland spokesman said: 'We are committed to considering both the future sustainability of internal ferry services within

the Argyll and Bute Council area and to discussions with the council around any additional revenue or capital funding for local authority ferry services that may be provided in future budgets from 2020-21 onwards; and for this to be considered as part of our negotiations on a transfer of responsibility for the operation of the services to Scottish ministers.

'To help inform discussions, Argyll and Bute Council has consulted with elected members and the local communities to help produce a comprehensive report on their existing services and available infrastructure.

'The report is currently under consideration and this will be picked up in discussions between ministers and officials and the leadership and officers of the council in due course.'

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OT

New chief executive appointed to council

Argyll and Bute Council executive director Pippa Milne will be the local authority's new chief executive from December 19.

Council leader Aileen Morton said this week: 'We had a very strong pool of candidates to choose from.'

'I would like to congratulate Pippa on securing this role, and I look forward to working with her, as chief executive, for the benefit of Argyll and Bute.'

Ms Milne will take up her new post on December 19, when Cleland Sneddon leaves for South Lanarkshire Council.

Ms Milne brings with her 28 years of local government experience, five with Argyll and Bute Council.

As executive director, she has led initiatives that will be key to developing a prosperous future for the area, most notably the Rural Growth Deal for Argyll and Bute.

Ms Milne said: 'Argyll and Bute is an amazing area that deserves a prosperous future and I will work tirelessly to build this. I understand the challenges the area faces, and the difficulties this council deals with every day. I also see the opportunities for success that are there for us to take.'

New venue for Santa's visit

Readers of the West Coast Review will have seen that Santa had planned to visit The View on December 7 and 14.

Unfortunately, owing to a lack of Santa's Little Helpers, Santa's plans have had to change and he will make just one stop this year, to the Royal Hotel, Oban, on December 7 between 11am and 3pm.

Jim Edge, of Oban and Lorn Lions, who helps organise the annual visit, said: 'We would like to take this opportunity to thank the good people at The View for all their help. We are sorry for any confusion caused.'

Entry to visit Santa is free, but donations to Oban and Lorn Lions are welcome.

Serial thief jailed for 28 months

Man admitted attempted break-ins and thefts

An Oban man has been jailed for 28 months for a series of break-in attempts and thefts.

James McMillan, currently in East Dunbartonshire's Low Moss Prison, was sentenced on Wednesday November 20.

He admitted attempting to force open a window at Carr Gom Support Services at Glenshellach Business Park with the intent to steal on June 29 this year, along with nine other charges.

The 26-year-old pleaded guilty in writing to a series of attempted break-ins and thefts between June and July this year - including stealing an air purifier from a residents' common area at Oban's Westbay Apartments. He also admitted breaking into sheds and closes, stealing mountain bikes, as well as a

tent and a quantity of plant pots. The court heard how in one incident, only half an hour after being released from Oban Police Station due to operational pressures, he had tried to open a back door at Westbay Apartments.

Police were called and found a number of metal post boxes had also been forcibly opened.

CCTV showed the accused had been in the area.

In his defence, McMillan's solicitor said that he fell back on old ways after having his benefits stopped and being unable to get treatment for psychiatric issues.

'It was the easy way to cut out the pain and fund himself, having to finance the drug habit,' he added.

His solicitor explained that

McMillan developed a drug addiction to prescription medication after being involved in a car crash.

This, combined with underlying psychiatric issues, saw McMillan move from 'one thing into others'.

'I think at one point this man could have been described as a walking pharmacy,' his solicitor said.

He added: 'His mother took the view that if it were not for the period spent in custody, he would not be alive.'

However, since being in prison, McMillan, who has been diagnosed with ADD and is classed as bi-polar, took the opportunity to go on a detox course.

His solicitor added: 'He fully accepts responsibility for his actions and seems to

be in a better place than he has been for a long time.' He asked the sheriff to consider an alternative to custody.

However, Sheriff Patrick Hughes said: 'There are 10 charges on this indictment, all of those involve crimes which are of great concern to the public.'

Sheriff Hughes said he took into account what McMillan's solicitor said about giving him a second chance.

'The difficulty is for you to be given a chance and re-offend, it means there will be more victims. The sentence must send a message to the community.'

Sheriff Hughes sentenced McMillan to 28 months in jail, reduced from 43 months given his guilty plea, which will be backdated to July 6.

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Local firms offer short-term solution to long-term plastic problem

Three local companies have stepped forward to offer their support in the transportation of recovered beach plastic to a recycling plant in the central belt, writes Fiona Scott.

The Oban Times reported last week that a haul, including fishing nets, fishfarm pipes and packaging previously held at Argyll and Bute Council's Mill Park depot, had been moved and deposited on land next to Oban Airport.

A long-term plan to have the plastic - collected from coastlines and elsewhere across North Lorn - recycled had not been finalised but had to be moved last week due to land at Mill Park having to be freed up for new business and industry opportunities.

Organisers behind the clean-ups were told they had until December 17 to move it from the council-owned land at North Connel.

Volunteers responsible for collecting the plastic waste are delighted that a solution has been found to the problem in the short-term.

Janie Steele, from the developing environmental social venture Footprint Alba, said: 'We are delighted and grateful



Three local firms have now offered to help take the plastic waste to be recycled.

that three local companies have kindly offered their support with respect to transport for us at this time.

'This particular bulk from a number of locations over a relatively short period is just a sample, as many groups across Argyll and Scotland will be more than aware.'

'It's part of a longer-term project and we are continuing to sort the material for onward recycling or storage to avoid the majority going to landfill as is usually the case.'

'Various data is being collected to further inform the project as we continue to address the issues facing all of us with beach and marine litter, especially plastics.'

'This problem needs a strategic and collaborative approach across all sectors

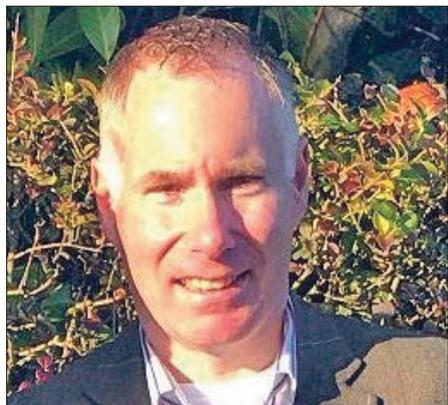
and the local authority and community support is invaluable to help us achieve this.'

The issue of the recycled waste was also raised at Monday night's Oban Community Council meeting where Councillor Kieron Green said: 'It was regrettable the waste collected by these communities could no longer be stored in a secure location but the council used the best option available at the time.'

'This is unrelated to waste collected in the blue bins and taken away by the council.'

'The co-mingled waste that we collect gets taken away to a central facility and processed to ensure that it is recycled.'

For more about Argyll and Bute Council's recycling policy visit www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/recycling.



Gary Mulvaney (Conservative).



Brendan O'Hara (SNP).



Alan Reid (Liberal Democrat).



Rhea Barnes (Labour).

Meet the candidates vying to be Argyll and Bute's new MP

On December 12, four election candidates will battle it out to become Argyll and Bute's MP, writes David McPhee.

Voters in Argyll and Bute will have to choose between Rhea Barnes (Labour), Gary Mulvaney (Conservative), Brendan O'Hara (SNP) and Alan Reid (Liberal Democrat).

The Oban Times spoke with each of the candidates before next month's election.

Rhea Barnes said: 'I am a student, hospitality worker, law clinic volunteer and local girl from Taynuilt. I welcome the opportunity to stand for Labour and fight for a better future for my home.'

'Argyll and Bute is a beautiful place to live but there are problems - bills go up, the NHS fails, public services are cut and privatised, and wages stay the same.'

'I know we can do better as a country and in a wealthy, moral and modern society I believe nobody should be too poor to live.'

'I have been through the system and I understand when things don't work so let's do something about it.'

Gary Mulvaney said: 'We need an MP who is able to push our needs from within government, not a member whose party's sole obsession is independence and the politics of grievance and division. As a local councillor of 17 years, I know the issues that affect our towns, villages and the 23 islands we inhabit and, having worked in business, I understand the challenges they face too.'

'There is so much to do and I am ready to get started. The Lib Dems and Labour cannot win here this time, so unionists need to come together, lend their vote and vote tactically to stop Nicola Sturgeon.'

Brendan O'Hara said: 'There is no such thing as a good Brexit for Argyll and Bute. Our shellfish producers, our farmers and our tourism industry will suffer. That's why in my four years as your MP, I have vigorously opposed a hard Tory Brexit. Brexit also threatens our NHS, with President Trump saying a UK-American trade deal could allow giant, profit-driven US

drug corporations access to the NHS.'

'Are we to be part of an isolationist UK, adrift from Europe or can we be a progressive, outward-looking, independent European nation? A vote for the SNP says that Scotland has the right to choose its own future - one far removed from the chaos of Brexit.'

Alan Reid said: 'I was the MP for Argyll and Bute for 14 years until 2015 when I lost the seat despite increasing my vote. I am standing again because I want to stop Brexit and have no more independence referendums.'

'The divisions these cause are bad for the country. We need to concentrate instead on attracting more jobs to Argyll and Bute and improving our public services, particularly the NHS and more child care.'

'Climate change is another threat we must tackle by generating electricity by renewable means. Doing so can bring jobs here. We must also complete the job of bringing superfast broadband to every home.'

Let the festive season begin

Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

editor@obantimes.co.uk

WHERE IS THIS?



What a hectic weekend that was! After Saturday and the Reindeer Parade, I think my legs are two inches shorter.

It was a wonderful day which began with a visit by Santa and the reindeer to Eadar Glinn where the residents who were able to went outside to meet the reindeer and receive their gift from Santa and then Santa visited those who couldn't make it outside.

We'd like to say a huge thank you to the staff and residents at Eadar Glinn for allowing us to visit and also to Santa and his reindeer for making it such a memorable experience.

Then it was down to Station Square to get ready for the main event, which was a huge collaboration of people helping to set up stalls and road signs and, of course, a pen for the reindeer when they arrived.

Oban Rotary Club, Police Scotland, Oban

and Lorn Lions, Stewart's Amusements, Oban Electric Services, Oban FM and numerous others all deserve huge thanks for bringing it together it time for 5pm when the main man - Santa - followed Oban Pipe Band down George Street to Station Square.

A big thank you to Oban Pipe Band, too, as the Reindeer Parade would not be complete without everyone in the square straining

to hear the pipes announcing Santa's approach.

I can honestly say that this was one of the biggest turnouts for the Reindeer Parade that I've seen, and it was fantastic watching everyone pouring down the street with smiling faces, adults and children alike. In fact, some of the adults were as excited as the children.

So that's the Christmas season started for me. I like to wait until the lights are on and Santa's visited for the first time and now I can think about writing cards and getting the decorations down from the loft.

The photo last week was of the old wall that was between the old high school and the hill behind it. This week it's slightly more up to date.

CONTACTUS
email us at editor@obantimes.co.uk
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Liberal Democrats will STOP BREXIT and any more Independence Referendums.

We will concentrate on the REAL ISSUES like the NHS, more CHILD CARE, the ENVIRONMENT and bringing JOBS to Argyll & Bute.

Kintyre has a crisis with the recent job losses and more threatened. As your MP Alan Reid would work to bring more jobs. We cannot allow jobs to be lost at a factory which makes wind towers when we need to generate far more electricity this way.

Alan REID



OT

Health overspend sparks cuts warning

Key services could face even further cuts if Argyll and Bute Council needs to implement plans to recover a health overspend, a new report has warned.

The local authority's chief executive, Cleland Sneddon, has stated that the forecast overspend by the area's health and social care partnership (HSCP) exceeds what the authority has in reserve.

The council is predicting an overspend of £1.671 million on social work services in 2019/20 – the figure has reached almost £1m in six

months – money that must be paid back.

But only £1.612m of uncommitted money is available to the council, meaning 'emergency measures' may have to be implemented to pay off the rest of the overspend.

Among the services named by Mr Sneddon that are likely to be impacted in such a scenario are education, roads and infrastructure, and customer and support services.

The chief executive also said he would want assurances that the HSCP had put similar measures in place before

putting emergency plans into action.

Mr Sneddon's report was due to be considered by the HSCP's integration joint board (IJB) at a meeting yesterday (Wednesday November 27). Argyll and Bute Council is due to meet in full today (November 28).

Mr Sneddon said in the report: 'Previous years' overspends written back to the council total £4.282m, which require to be repaid by the HSCP and are subject to a tapered repayment schedule, with £100,000 due to have

been repaid in the current financial year.

'Since the approval of the 2019/20 [HSCP] budget, an initial financial recovery plan was agreed on August 7 and a further version of the plan was agreed on September 25.

'Despite these iterations, the agreed savings have not been delivered in full and an overspend remains projected.

'A council financial recovery plan featuring emergency measures would impact on all "retained" council services such as education, roads and infrastructure, commercial

services, customer and support services, development and economic growth, and legal and regulatory services.

'The council is also entering the winter period that in previous years has seen additional budgetary pressures emerge.

'Before implementing emergency measures, I would want full assurance from the IJB that all such similar emergency measures have been implemented by the HSCP, and that detailed plans and management controls are in place for the delivery of the remaining agreed savings.'

New Coll linkspan installed

A new linkspan has been installed at Coll ferry terminal and the service has returned to normal following a three-week closure period.

Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL) has replaced the linkspan as part of its ongoing programme of harbour upgrades and improvements. The linkspan deck had reached the end of its serviceable life and needed to be replaced. It is part of a £3.7 million project to replace the linkspans at both Coll and Tiree ferry terminals.

Operations were handed back to CalMac two days ahead of schedule following a successful work programme.

The linkspan at Tiree will be replaced in early 2020. It will be taken out of operation on Monday February 24 and is scheduled to be back in service on Tuesday March 17, subject to weather and tidal conditions. Vehicles will be unable to travel to Tiree during this period.

Talking Newspapers take to the airwaves with Oban FM

Argyll Talking Newspapers moved to a new medium last week – the airwaves.

At the invitation of Oban FM presenter Alan Macdonald, volunteers chatted about the charity's service, how listeners benefit from listening to their local news and how to sign up.

Argyll Talking Newspapers

keeps listeners up to date with news and events in their area. The free audio service is available to anyone who is visually impaired or has difficulty reading their local newspaper for any permanent or temporary reason.

Volunteers read The Oban Times, the Argyllshire Advertiser, Campbeltown

Courier, Dunoon Observer, Ileach and Isle of Bute News. The news, comment, sport, community events and letters are recorded on to USB sticks, which then wing their way to 130 listeners in Argyll and Bute, Scotland and England.

Since 1986, a growing band of volunteers has been meeting weekly in Ardrishaig to record the newspapers. The recordings are forwarded to the National Library of Scotland to be retained alongside millions of maps, book

and audio files. The charity has also developed close ties with Blind Vision – Oban.

Registering for the talking newspapers is simple – all the organisation needs is your name, address and the newspapers you would like to listen to. For information visit [facebook.com/argylltalkingpapers](https://www.facebook.com/argylltalkingpapers) or call 07710 242915.

Argyll Talking Newspapers chairman Robin Finlay with presenter Alan Macdonald.



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Parking survey prompts action

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



An online survey on parking charges has prompted Oban Community Council to demand an urgent response from Argyll and Bute Council.

Community councillor Laura Corbe ran the survey through the new Oban Community Council Discussion Group Facebook page and reported 'interesting, though not entirely surprising, results'.

Ms Corbe reported back to Monday night's meeting of Oban Community Council, saying that after only a few

days there had been 160 responses to the survey, the feedback from which will be given to Argyll and Bute Council as part of its review into the Traffic Regulation Order in the town.

'Unsurprisingly, 83 per cent of people who responded are unhappy with parking in the town,' she added.

'Particular areas of concern were Rockfield Road, sections of Gallanach Road and Miller Road, while there were conflicting views on central on-road parking. Should we be discouraging the use of cars or extending free parking areas?'

Ms Corbe also reported



there had been several requests for safer cycling routes and bike stands in town.

Community councillor Duncan Martin said there was supposed to be a meeting with Argyll and Bute Council at the start of December but he had not been given a date yet.

'Most people accept now

Oban community councillors have demanded an urgent response on parking from Argyll and Bute Council.

that we have to pay something. It's what we have to pay and how we pay it that is under scrutiny,' said Mr Martin.

Andrew Spence from BID4Oban underlined the need for a solution to some, if not all of the issues, telling the meeting he had been chasing the council on these matters

since January 2018, only to have his concerns 'falling on deaf ears'.

'Oban will lose business if we do not take action and hold the council to account,' said Mr Spence.

While discussion took place, Mr Martin emailed council officers to request a date for a meeting as early as next week.

The parking survey is currently live and can be found on the Oban Community Discussion Group Facebook page.

The group is also working on a plan to reach people who do not use or have digital platforms.

SAMS scientist leads team on ocean warming

An international group of marine scientists has compiled the most comprehensive assessment of how ocean warming is affecting the mix of species in our oceans – and explained how some marine species manage to keep their cool.

Researchers from the UK, Japan, Australia, USA, Germany, Canada, South Africa and New Zealand analysed three million records of thousands of species from 200 ecological communities across the globe.

Reviewing data from 1985-2014, the team, led by Professor Michael Burrows of the Scottish Association for Marine Science in Dunstaffnage, showed how subtle changes in the movement of species that prefer cold-water or warm-water, in response to rising temperatures, made a big impact on the global picture.

The findings are published in the journal Nature Climate Change.

Argyll and Bute Council expresses reservations on tourist tax

A tourist tax in Argyll and Bute could be difficult to implement, the local authority has warned.

Argyll and Bute Council has also suggested should such a tax be implemented, revenue raised in one area of the authority could be spent in another.

The council's views on a 'tourist tax' are contained in a draft response to the Scottish Government on the idea, currently the subject of a consultation by Holyrood.

The draft Argyll and Bute response is due to be considered at a full meeting of Argyll and Bute Council

today (Thursday November 28). While not declaring itself for or against the idea of a tourist tax, or 'local discretionary transient visitor levy', the council's draft response expresses some reservations on its practicality, especially on how it might be imposed on day visitors.

The consultation, containing 33 questions, also asks whether, in the event of a visitor levy being imposed by an authority on a specific area, the money raised should be spent in that area.

The council's draft response to that question states: 'Argyll and Bute Council

believe that any spending decisions from revenue generation remain flexible with spending approvals by area to be made by the local authority. Local authorities are best placed to understand local requirements and are accountable to communities and stakeholders.'

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OT

Behind the scenes at Atlantis Leisure

What a treat it is to be in Oban during November. The nights may have drawn in, but with them come fireworks, winter festival parades, firefighters putting up the first of the Christmas decorations and so much more. There's nowhere like it.

Overnight mayhem

This month kicked off with the 15th Hope2Oban Lock-In, hosted by Atlantis.

The event sees Oban High School first year pupils invited to Atlantis to take part in a through-the-night fundraiser.

Fifteen Atlantis staff led a brilliant group of pupils through a packed programme of sports, pool activities, board games, arts and crafts and even a haunted house.

This was our last major event with Dani Skaines from H2O.

Dani leaves Oban at the end of the year to continue her academic studies and we wish her well.

Thank you to everyone



else who brought the night together. We had a blast.

Staff news

This month saw around 20 staff members take part in a product knowledge training session, including an edition of the useful Good to Great training.

The sessions were held at Atlantis and were attended by staff from various departments of the business including reception, fitness instructors, gym staff and managers.

We currently have four casual staff team members investigating our latest full-time opportunity.

We're struck by the high standard of applications and they've given us a difficult task to choose between them. All the very best to everyone as the process continues.



The Lock-In was a huge success.

We were delighted to sponsor Mark Welsh to attain his pool lifeguard qualification in Glasgow this month.

It's great to have him back at Atlantis having already made such a valuable contribution to the team over the past 10 years. Mark's experience and unique skillset will be particularly helpful in the delivery of our StayActive programme.

Elsewhere, it's numbers

time for our management team as they busy themselves with the sums and figures involved in working out next year's budget. It's a big job but essential to the responsible and efficient running of a charity.

Centre life

The dance studio is being re-branded to better reflect the jam-packed programme of activities it hosts. Look out for new signs in the coming weeks.

We try to offer as many opportunities as we can to gather your ideas for Atlantis so please keep them coming. It helps us run the centre in a way that better meets our community's needs.

It's all very chilled in the café with Beth taking delivery of a new display fridge. The fridge helps Beth store and display her tasty salads and other healthy options.

Take a look the next time you are in.

Our faithful website has worked hard for us over the past few years but we all know how quickly the world of technology moves on. We're working hard to upgrade the website to be more mobile and user friendly with new features that will make your visit easier.

It's also a good opportunity to freshen up the website's look and feel. We'll keep you posted, but eyes peeled for Atlantis' new digital homecoming soon.

Atlantis in the community
This month Atlantis hosted a StayActive Group Forum alongside the Healthy Options team.

This was an event to continue gathering the group's thoughts and ideas as to how we can better support them.

The group was a huge help, coming up with a number of ideas that will benefit StayActive now and as it continues to grow.

We're so grateful for the continued support from our friends at Oban Rotary.

This year, the Rotary has decided to support Atlantis in the improvement of staff training.

Their support is to have a particular focus on creating more opportunities for younger staff members to develop their potential.

Atlantis runs on community support and without partners such as the Rotary things would be very different, so thank you very much to them and all our partners.



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MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



Four weeks ago today, on October 24, the shortlists for the Saltire Society Literary Awards were announced. These annually-bestowed accolades, also known as Scotland's National Book Awards, cover a range of literary genre. I was very pleased and proud to learn that among the titles in the non-fiction category, was the autobiographical *Seòl Mo Bheatha* (My Life's Journey), written by fellow Tirisdeach, Professor Donald Meek from Caolas, Tìree.

The awards recognise works across six categories (fiction, non-fiction, research, history, poetry and first book) and two publishing categories (publisher and emerging publisher).

The winners of each category as well as the overall winner of the Saltire Book of the Year, will be announced at an event this Saturday, St Andrew's Day, in Edinburgh.

Donald is not one who seeks the limelight, he does not have any interest in gathering awards and he won't be longingly and excitedly preparing

a victory speech for Saturday. As with many other strands of life, when adulation is not courted, then it is all the more deserved. That this book has been shortlisted is already a great achievement and whether or not it wins on Saturday night, it sits deservedly in its place among the best Scottish non-fiction works of 2019.

I am no literary critic and am not familiar with the other works that made the final number, but I can say that this is a very powerful, unique and valuable publication.

I have been very privileged to have studied parts of this book under the guidance of its author over the past few months and the content takes one on a journey back through time and gives a clear picture of life on Tìree as it was in days past. I will write more of this book and of my time with Donald and its significance in future articles.

No contemporary writer of prose or poetry can convey the complexities of island identity in a changing world as succinctly and accurately as Donald. I find it acutely

refreshing to read his output on this subject, having for years become intensely frustrated by reading the work of many who attempt to deal with the issue but miss the mark widely and show repeated lack of understanding as to the core and guts of the matter.

As an author, Donald has a unique arsenal of weapons at his disposal: his upbringing in a house of older generations, giving him a rich line of reference further back in history than his own years, his natural gift of intellect nurtured at home and given expansion by formal education to a high level, his strong career and experience as a highly-respected academic, his deep understanding of his own identity and his interest in and knowledge of the identity and history of his people. Most importantly, and binding all these and other attributes together, is Donald's talent and magic as a writer that goes beyond what can be learned, but has been passed through generations to his mind and his pen.

I wish Donald good luck on Saturday.

Steering group seeks new members

Carraig Gheal Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund Steering Group is seeking two new members to help continue the great work already being done, writes Fiona Scott.

Made up of members of the five community council areas bordering the wind farm (Avich and Kilchrenan, Taynuilt, Glenorchy and Innishail, Kilninver and Kilmelford and Kilmore), and up to five representative members of the public, the steering group ensures funds are invested to the benefit of the local community, deciding on funding criteria and making decisions on individual funding applications.

The next round of funding for grants is now open with a closing date of January 2020.

The last round of funding closed on July 31 and the group met in October to decide which main grant applications to approve and by how much. Three grants totalling more than £13,000 went towards the painting of Kilchrenan Village Hall, support to the North Argyll volunteer car scheme and



Members of the steering group at the last meeting in October at Dalmally Village Hall.

the upgrade of the toilets in Dalavich Social and Recreational Club.

Nigel Mitchell, who was the community council member representing Kilninver and Kilmelford, stepped down at the last meeting. Rob Forrest, GreenPower's CEO, was keen to acknowledge the valuable role Nigel and the other group members perform, saying: 'After serving four and a half years on the steering group, I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to Nigel for the time he has given to both setting up and contributing to the smooth operation of the fund.

'Without such willing community volunteers, it would be very difficult to deliver the fund in a way that reflects the local communities' priorities.'

The steering group is now looking for one member each from Taynuilt and Kilninver and Kilmelford Community Councils to fill the two vacancies.

Anyone representing either of these community councils who would like to become involved should go to the Carraig Gheal website for further details or contact Jennie Cowley at jennie@greenpowerinternational.com.

COSY UP WITH CRACKING CRIME FICTION

THIS CHRISTMAS

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Right, Oban Pipe Band led the Reindeer Parade. 17_T48_WinterFestival14

Fiona Shaw and her mum, Elka, from Dunollie Museum, Castle and Grounds, were looking the part at the wreath-making activity. 17_T48_WinterFestival23



The fireworks lit up the town and McCaig's Tower.



As part of the festival, Oban Chocolate Company held their annual gin and chocolate tasting with Kintyre Gin. Jenny Miller won the prize for Best Festive Jumper.



Oban Winter Festival entertainment was unbelievably. 17_T48_WinterFestival08

MOREPHOTOS
www.obantimes.co.uk

Oban Winter Festival entertains thousands

by David McPhee
dmphee@obantimes.co.uk

Haggis and whisky festivals, food and craft markets, reindeer and fireworks were just some of the activities that were enjoyed as part of Oban Winter Festival last weekend.

Thousands of people followed Santa down George Street for the Reindeer Parade on Saturday night, before watching the town's Christmas lights being switched on, both organised by BID4Oban as part of the festival.

Andrew Spence of BID4Oban said: 'The crowd has officially been confirmed at over 5,000 by Argyll and Bute Council – one of the largest ever for the town's Reindeer Parade.'

'This year's event was a great success and it is fantastic to see so many people lining the streets and filling Station Square. We could not run this event without the full support



Riley Wallace, from St Columba's Primary School, and Chaya Wesley, from Easdale Primary School, won the chance to ride in Santa's sleigh. They also won the Rotary Club of Oban's Christmas card competition. 17_T48_WinterFestival16

of Rotary Club of Oban, Oban and Lorn Lions Club, Argyll and Bute Council, Oban FM, Police Scotland, Oban Electrical Services, Oban

Pipe Band, Oban taxi drivers and the Cairngorm Reindeer Company.'

The parade was not the only place where people could meet

Santa's reindeer and Santa made a surprise visit to Eadar Glinn Care Home to meet many of the residents and bring them gifts. Earlier on

Saturday, the festival's Tartan Dash and Haggis Hurling took place, and the various markets were popular.

Sunday was another action-packed day, with Santa's Grotto, the haggis and whisky festivals, Dunollie Makes Christmas, and the day ending with the Oban Winter Festival Light and Fire Show.

Pamela Lockhart, event organiser, said: 'It went really well, again. Everything was busy and people are coming especially for the festival, so that is great.'

At the Haggis Festival, the coveted Golden Haggis went to Minick of St Andrews. The People's Choice Award went to Boghall Butchers, from Bathgate. A notable contender was Grants of Taynuilt, which was a finalist in both competitions.

Pamela added: 'Lots of visitors came to that and all the butchers were there again.'

Alongside the Whisky Festival, it is very popular.'

However, while she enjoyed last weekend, Pamela had her sights set on what is still to come, including The Local Heroes – Lighthouse Keepers' Lunch on Saturday November 30, which will be a celebration of the local heroes of the sea. There will be stalls and food, as well as live music at The View on George Street on Saturday.

The main fireworks display will get under way from 6.30pm on Saturday, with views of McCaig's Tower from the Northern Lighthouse Board Pier advised.

After that, all that is left is The Big St Andrew's Day Bash. This ceilidh will feature Oban Gaelic Choir, Oban Pipe Band, Oban High School Pipe Band, and the OHS Trad School of Music. This will kick off at 7.30pm at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls.

More photos, page 14.

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Clockwise from top left: the Seil Sound Community Choir provided entertainment at Dunollie Makes Christmas. 17_T48_WinterFestival22; the Corran Halls hosted a festive market. 17_T48_WinterFestival05; the Camelot cast were raising awareness of the show at the lights switch-on. 17_T48_WinterFestival17; Oban Distillery manager Deirdre Henderson presents Grants the Butchers with their certificate. 17_T48_WinterFestival26; Archie Cameron, Campbell Cameron, and Laura Johnston with the refurbished Oban FM trailer. 17_T48_WinterFestival13

What's the best gift you can give this Christmas?



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Taylor, nine, from Glasgow, who comes up for the winter festival every year, has his face painted. 17_T48_WinterFestival06



Erika Baines, from Barcaldine Primary, and Freya Felgate, from Park Primary, had the important task of turning on this year's Christmas lights. The pair won the Rotary Club of Oban's Christmas card competition. 17_T48_WinterFestival20



Left, WHHA were delighted to be able to make a donation of £1,000 to the Oban Winter Festival. Gerry Boyle, vice-chairman, presented the cheque to Coolio; and, below, Angela Johansen from the Flower House with her stall at the market on Saturday. 17_T48_WinterFestival07; above, Callum and Ellie McGuchin from Dunbeg enjoyed making decorations at Dunollie Makes Christmas. 17_T48_WinterFestival24; Mya Rippon and Summer Mackie met Santa at the Eadar Glinn fundraiser. 17_T48_WinterFestival12



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BUSINESS NEWS

Scottish Salmon Company wins food and drink awards

The Scottish Salmon Company (SSC) has won three categories at the renowned Highlands and Islands Food and Drink Awards (HIFDA).

SSC picked up three prestigious awards in the Business Growth, Export and Marketing categories at the ceremony in Inverness in recognition of its performance over the past 12 months.



The company has posted record results, grown exports to nearly 70 per cent of turnover and launched Lochlander Salmon into North America.

Now in their 15th year, the awards celebrate passion, quality and innovation across the region. They highlight the finest businesses that are helping put the Highlands and Islands on the food and drink map and are delivered with support from Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

SSC is the leading producer of quality Scottish salmon operating exclusively in Scotland, employing more than 650 people across 60 sites along the remote and rural areas of the west coast of Scotland and the Hebrides. In some of these communities, it is the largest private sector employer.

Craig Anderson, above, chief executive at The Scottish Salmon Company, said: 'Exports have been fundamental to our business growth so it is fitting we have been recognised in these categories. The Highlands and islands are integral to our heritage and our brands and we are proud to be a major employer in the area, creating and, most importantly, retaining value within the rural economy. These awards are testament to the hard work and commitment of our team.'

Calum has been brewing up a storm

A young brewer from Mull and a mainland hostelry have won two of the top honours at the 15th Highland and Islands Food and Drink Awards, writes Fiona Scott.

Calum Bennett, 24, took the Young Ambassador of the Year title, while the Ben Cruachan Inn at Lochawe won the New Business Award.

Held at the Kingsmills Hotel in Inverness, the awards showcase and celebrate excellence and achievement in the food and drink industry in the region.

Raised on the Isle of Mull at Lochdon, Calum went to Salen Primary (Gaelic-medium), Tobermory High School, Edinburgh University, where he achieved an honours degree in geography, then on to Herriot-Watt University for a Masters Degree in Brewing and Distilling.

Calum now lives on the Isle of Harris and works as head brewer at Loomshed Hebridean Brewery.

He has been involved since the beginning in the setting up of what is the first craft brewery on Harris and hopes it will go on to provide new opportunities for young people of the island.

'I believe young people should have the opportunity to enter into all levels of the profession through apprenticeship schemes as well as the academic route enabling them to stay in their own environment,' said Calum, who has also been a great advocate for additional affordable rental housing on the island.

Calum almost missed his award as he hadn't expected to win the category outright so once the recipient of the highly commended award had been revealed he switched off.

'It was a bit of a surprise, to say the least. However, I am passionate about this industry and am extremely proud to be the winner of the Young Ambassador Award.'

The Ben Cruachan Inn won its second food and drink award of the year, winning the Best New Business category.

The inn, which re-opened after a refurbish-



Calum Bennett receives his Young Ambassador of the Year Award and, below, Ian Irvine and Tracey Peedle, co-owners of the Ben Cruachan Inn, with their New Business Award.

ment in 2017, has grown its culinary reputation for high quality, locally-sourced food and has proved popular with Lochawe residents and visitors.

Co-owners Ian Irvine and Tracey Peedle attended the dinner and were delighted to bring the award back to Lochawe against stiff competition.

'To win Best New Business at the Highland and Islands Food and Drinks Awards couldn't be more exciting because it highlights exactly what we set out to do when we began the refurbishment - to bring the inn back to life after years of closure,' said Tracey.

The Ben Cruachan Inn won the gastro pub of the year title at the Food Awards Scotland earlier this year.

Barcaldine-based Highland Fold Ice Cream also made the shortlist for the awards, in the Primary Agricultural Producer of the Year category.





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Lochgoilhead Lodges win top tourism award

An Argyll-based holiday lodge resort has been presented with a top regional tourism award by UK staycation specialist Hoseasons.

Lochgoilhead Lodges was crowned Best Relax and Explore destination in Scotland at Hoseasons' 14th annual gala awards evening – a celebration of the self-catering company's lodge, holiday park and boatyard locations across the UK that have achieved the highest scores in independent customer satisfaction surveys.

Commenting after the awards were presented at the Hilton Brighton Metropole, Brighton, Roy Campbell, director at Lochgoilhead Lodges, said: 'This is amazing. We're so happy to be recognised by holidaymakers and to have received an award based on the strength of customer satisfaction scores.'

'Our team is always appreciative of the support from our guests. We work hard to provide a great holiday experience, whilst



Lochgoilhead Lodges team, Allan Campbell, Keith Campbell and Roy Campbell, receive their award from Hoseasons property and portfolio director Hayley Johnson.

always looking to improve, especially when staycations are becoming more popular.'

Lochgoilhead Lodges is part of Hoseasons' Go Active Breaks collection – a range of 19 countryside lodge locations perfect for families who want to try their

hand at a range of indoor and outdoor activities while getting away from it all on a short break.

Speaking after presenting the award, Simon Altham, chief portfolio officer at Awaze UK, Hoseasons' parent company, said: 'It was an absolute

pleasure to award the team at Lochgoilhead Lodges.

'We all know the importance positive reviews can have on bookings and it's clear from the feedback they've been receiving that they're doing a fantastic job of looking after our customers.'

'They deserve all the plaudits that come their way and I wish them every success for many more years to come.'

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CalMac staff crowned team of year

CalMac's Service Updates Team has been crowned team of the year by the Contact Centre Association for the quality of their customer care.

The ferry and harbour operator beat off competition from major international brands such as Vodafone and SKY to pick up the prestigious UK Excellence Award in the Telco, Utilities, Retail and Leisure category.

The team is responsible for delivering consistent and clear messaging to customers and stakeholders in times of disruption.

'They are the voice of the company when disruption occurs. Their job of keeping our customers up to date with what's happening is essential if they are to get to where they're going with the minimum of fuss,' said CalMac managing director, Robbie Drummond.

'The pressure on the team during times of disruption, for reasons more often than not outwith our control, is intense. Customers rightly need to know what's going on and having staff who can keep calm under stress can do a lot to determine whether a customer's experience is a good one or not.'

'I'm delighted for the team.'

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History society remembers

First World War battlefields in France and Belgium were the focus of the Inveraray History Society's November meeting.

Oban's Kenny Stewart, who has travelled many miles around the two countries researching the devastating battles of the First World War, was the knowledgeable speaker for the evening.

During his travels, Kenny had a particular interest in locating names of servicemen from Argyll in the various cemeteries and memorials close to the battlefields. He identified quite a number and had printed off a page with relevant dates and where the individual had lost his life, for each person at the talk.

Several members of the society were pleased to find information about a relative among Kenny's details.

A moving presentation of carefully selected photographs served to remind members of the enormous loss of life and dreadful conditions endured by 'our boys' during the terrible conflict.

Inveraray History Society member May MacGugan will be the speaker at the society's next event on December 3. She will be presenting 'History of Memories of Iona Abbey' at the usual time of 7.30pm at the Nicoll Hall, Inveraray. Everyone welcome.

£3,250 boost for Tiree heritage project

Historic Environment Scotland (HES) has awarded £3,250 to the owner of Dunboraig Cottage as part of its Historic Environment Support Fund.

The funding will support a project to rethatch the cottage using the traditional marram grass cut from Balevullin beach in front of the cottage.

The cottage is one of only seven thatched houses left on the island.

Amy Eastwood, head of grants at HES, said: 'We're delighted to support the rethatching of Dunboraig Cottage. It's hugely important that these rare examples of traditional thatched houses, which reflect how people historically lived on the island, are protected for the future, using sustainable and traditional conservation methods.'

A gamekeeper's daughter

Morvern Lines

IAIN THORNER

ian.thorner@btinternet.com



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

'Sometimes I got a lift in the post van which went to Corrospine three times a week, but only on condition that when we passed Craigandaroch cottages I kept out of sight, as the old lady who lived there could be a bit strange and would report the postman for carrying passengers, which he wasn't supposed to do. On one occasion, having deliberately broken someone's window on more than one occasion, the same lady went to prison for a few days and, as she lived alone, insisted on taking her cat with her.

'On the days I went up in the post van, I would walk back and be met by Dad at Acharn with the horse and trap. I enjoyed seeing golden eagles, ravens, hoodie crows, buzzards, wild cats and the occasional fox as I walked quietly along.

'The Corrospine road was in good condition then and the post van was up and back in no time. I gather that the last tenants, Dr and Mrs Frank Hollick from Cambridge, who had it as a holiday home, used to take their car and a camper van right up to the bridge at the house. I hear the road is now almost impassable other than by all-terrain vehicles and even they have to take to the hills in places. Contractors carrying materials for the woodland scheme on the Clounlaid side of the road between Acharn and the Falls in 2000 were responsible for its demise on that section. Large numbers of cattle trampling the ditches, and "puddling" the surface during the winter months, along with a lack of maintenance, were to blame for the other.

'I gather various members of the Hollick family used to spend hours on their hands and knees with hammers and chisels during the summer, "cobbling" the worst of the track between the old and the new houses. Sadly, their dedication and hard work only encouraged other vehicles to travel faster, turning that stretch of track into a quagmire.

'At Corrospine, which is now just a bothy, we were greeted by Mrs Livingstone, who was usually dressed in a spotless white apron



or overall with black stockings and black boots. She would look out for us coming and give us a grand welcome when we arrived. Mrs Livingstone was from Morvern and related to the MacMillans, Achnasaul. Archie MacMillan, who lived latterly with his wife Dolly in one of the castle cottages, was a relative. I remember on one occasion seeing a number of men, including my father, levering a huge boulder, about three times the size of our coal shed, off the road onto which it had rolled from the hill above. They had a basket of fresh scones sent down from Corrospine by Mrs Allan.

'We went into the first room on the right which had a coal-fired range, with a little oven to the side. From that came delicious beef or venison stew and potatoes, followed by old-fashioned milk puddings, then scones, bread, pancakes and other homebaking made from eggs laid by her own hens. Mrs Livingstone was an excellent baker and very particular.

'Sometimes Mr Allan was present if the day was cold and wet, otherwise he was on the hill with his dogs tending to the sheep or helping the other shepherds further down the glen. He wore the Ardtornish estate tweed. Mrs Allan was gifted with a tremendous sense of smell and would occasionally say to her husband

that there must be a sheep lying dead in the burn up from the house and that unless he did something about it she would leave. She was always right. Fortunately, the drinking water came from an old well above the road between the two houses! About 2pm, after a cup of tea, we would set off for home. Now and again the bicycle had a puncture or the chain came off, which meant we would have to push it back.

'Allan Livingstone, a descendant of Dr David Livingstone, the famous African explorer, had been a policeman in Glasgow. He witnessed a drunk man, who had been arrested and put in the cells, being beaten up by some of his fellow officers and was so disgusted that he resigned on the spot. Mum used to send the Livingstones newspapers and magazines such as the People's Friend, the Tatler, The Oban Times and the Scottish Field, which had been passed up to Torr Molach from the mansion house by Miss Swinburne, the housekeeper. Potted plants, letters and recipes were exchanged, which I would read to my mother. For all its isolation, or perhaps because of it, Corrospine was always a hospitable house. The Livingstones and their predecessors, the Henrys, all welcomed shepherds, stalking parties and anyone who happened to be passing, in the old Highland style.

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Winter: part three



Main photograph: Mr and Mrs Allan Livingstone at Corrospine House. Photograph supplied by Iain Thornber; **left, Dr and Mrs Frank Hollick, the last tenants of Corrospine. Dr Hollick was senior Fellow of St John's College Cambridge and a well known biologist.** Photograph the Hollick family; **and below, Betty Wotherspoon outside Torr Molach, her old home.** Photograph supplied by Iain Thornber



study nursing and finished up as matron of the well known Kent and Canterbury Hospital (founded 1791), which is still in existence. She died in 1999 and her ashes are under a stone in Kiel graveyard on the hill above me here in Lochaline.

'At the beginning of the First World War, my father enlisted as a piper in the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders. Soon after his regiment landed in France it was moved up to the Front. On the way he met a piper from the Black Watch coming back down the line en route home for some leave. Not knowing if he would survive the carnage, Dad asked him if he would post a letter to his wife when he reached Scotland. "Of course. What is your name and address?" "John Munro, and yours?" "John Scoular," was the reply. The letter duly arrived and eventually both returned home unscathed.

'Dad left his regiment at the end of the war and returned to game-keeping, first at Corrievarkie, then with the Grants at Rothiemurchus, and finally to Ardtornish in 1931 which the Smiths had purchased the previous year. Not long after he arrived in Morvern, he happened to hear that there was someone living in nearby Lochaline called John Scoular. Wondering if this was the man whom he had met quite by chance in France, he went in search of him and was delighted to find that it was. The pair, amazed at the coincidence, struck up a friendship which carries on to this day between Alistair, John Scoular's son, and I.

'When the time came for Allan Livingstone and his wife to leave Corrospine, they moved down the glen to Doirenamairt on the north shore of Loch Arienas. From there, they went to Achnaha, along the Drimnin road, where he died on September 23, 1958. His wife then flitted to Larachbeg. There she passed away on February 24, 1965, aged 88. There were no children. Both are buried side by side in Kiel graveyard, Lochaline, under a handsome grey granite stone not far from our family plot.

'Those were the days!'

'My mother had a sister called Gertrude, known in the family as Geg, who was housekeeper to Lord and Lady Jowitt, who lived in London. [William Allen] Jowitt, 1st Earl Jowitt, PC, QC 1885 -1957: British Labour politician and lawyer, served as Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain under Clement Attlee from 1945 to 1951]. Their house caught fire and Geg saved them by knotting sheets together allowing everyone inside to escape from the upstairs floor before the fire engines arrived. For her quick-thinking, the Jowitts gave her a gold wristwatch.

'During the war we used to send Geg some of the fresh Corrospine butter wrapped in a rhubarb leaf inside a tin along with eggs and, occasionally, venison. The eggs usually arrived intact. On one occasion when the box was opened, a bumble bee flew out! Geg captured it and released it in Richmond Park. Imagine a bumble bee travelling all the way from the Black Glen to London in a tin box? It must have survived thanks to the moisture and sweetness of the rhubarb leaf.

'Geg died aged 55 and was buried in the family plot at Kellas marked by a stone erected by the Houldsworths, owners of the Kellas estate where her father had been head-gardener. Elsie, my elder sister by 10 years, went to London to

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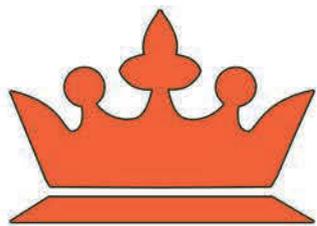
We delve into The Oban Times archives to bring you faces and places from yesteryears



This photograph dates from 1995 but has no information other than the names of those seen here. They are, left to right at the back, Luke Wood and Michael Crabtree, and, front, Michelle Anton, Malcolm Kerr and Cara Potts. As ever, if anyone has more information, please let us know.



This Nativity scene comes from our archive for December 1995 but has no information with it. Can anyone let us know which school it is?



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LETTERS

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Congratulations to all behind the Oban Winter Festival

Oban has been buzzing over the past couple of weeks for the duration of another splendid Winter Festival.

There have been numerous events in a range of venues, with the culmination being the lights switch-on which was held on Saturday at Station Square following the Reindeer Parade organised by BID4Oban.

An estimated 5,000 people turned out for the big event and the atmosphere was festive and fun in the extreme.

The festival has become a major draw for many people from outwith Oban, with the local economy receiving a substantial out-of-season boost as a result.

The organisers put in a huge effort to arrange the many events, and are well supported by businesses in the town, which dress up their windows and get behind the festival. They all deserve our congratulations and thanks.

Everyone is so proud of golfer Bob MacIntyre

We have taken great pleasure this year in reporting the astonishing success of young Oban golfer Bob MacIntyre.

As we report this week, the Glencruitten player has been crowned the 2019 European Tour Rookie of the Year.

It is an amazing achievement in his first season on the tour, and has seen Bob catapulted into the top 70 players in the world. His declared ambition now is make the top 50.

Bob has earned huge plaudits – and prize money – but remains rooted firmly in his home community.

He is a great ambassador for Oban and Argyll, and we await with keen anticipation his first tournament win on the European Tour.

Open letter from Lochaber High School climate strikers

Since January, Lochaber High School pupils have been striking for the climate every Friday in solidarity with youth around the world.

We are doing this to demand action over the biggest crisis humanity has ever faced - climate and ecological breakdown.

The school strike movement was started by 16-year-old Greta Thunberg in August last year. Since then it has spread through countries and across continents to become one of the biggest environmental movements in human history. On September 20 and 27, more than seven and a half million people went on strike from work and school.

This has been a year of environmental disasters. The Amazon rainforest is burning at rates not seen in several years. The 2019 State of Nature report states 11 per cent of Scottish species are at risk of extinction and almost half have declined in abundance. Parts of Australia are fighting their biggest ever wildfires and in August, the Bahamas were struck by Hurricane Dorian, the strongest recorded hurricane in that area.

It is clear we are in a climate crisis and in the midst of the sixth mass extinction. We have run out of time for nice words. Now we need radical and unprecedented action to tackle it.

So, once again, the youth are organising a global school climate strike tomorrow (Friday November 29). We ask for you, the citizens of Lochaber, to join us.

The Fort William climate strike will be starting at 9am tomorrow outside Lochaber High School. At 10am, we will march to Cameron Square in Fort William High Street to continue the strike until 1pm. Please join us, whether it be for 10 minutes or four hours. Everyone welcome.

Holly Gillibrand, 14, Lily Bloom, 14, Josef Kocjan-Briggs, 14, and Josie Bloom, 15.

We all have a duty of care to others on the roads

John Gosling, The Oban Times letters, November 14, makes a number of assertions regarding people who choose to cycle on public roads.

Despite acknowledging they have a 'right to use the carriageway', he feels 'where [cycle tracks] provide a viable alternative ... their use should be mandatory and legally enforced'.

YOUR PICTURES



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

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

Well-designed segregated cycling infrastructure would be welcomed by many cyclists. Unfortunately, the disjointed and meandering Oban to Fort William route leaves a lot to be desired. He also believes there should be a legal requirement for cyclists to wear hi-vis garments and use lights at all times. I presume, for safety's sake, he would want to extend this to pedestrians as well, of which 470 were killed on British roads in 2017 (Source: brake.org.uk), compared to 101 cyclists.

Pedestrians and cyclists are defined by the government as vulnerable road users but

there is certainly no 'legal presumption of innocence on the part of cyclists'. Perhaps Mr Gosling has wrongly assumed the UK has a policy of 'presumed liability' where, in collisions involving vulnerable road users, the more 'powerful' road user is liable unless it can be proven the other party was at fault. The UK does not have such a policy.

I compliment Mr Gosling on his powers of recollection of the weather conditions on a bus journey one day last year and being able to describe in detail a cyclist who was 'effectively camouflaged and pretty well invisible from



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High Street, Fort William. This week's photograph was sent in by Janette MacDonald. It shows St Columba's Cathedral, Oban, on Christmas day 2014.

any distance'. I'm also glad the bus driver was apparently able to see him and waited before overtaking.

The roads belong to everyone. Showing a little more consideration towards all road users would surely make them a lot safer.

Mark Higgins, Combie Street, Oban.

Thanks to kind-hearted people for help after fall

I would like to say thank you to the van driver who stopped at the top of George Street in

Oban on November 12 and the owner or assistant of the mobile phone shop who came to the aid of my husband who had fallen. Both were extremely helpful and caring and their kindness is much appreciated.

Liz Graham, Helensburgh.

Car parking as important as roads infrastructure

I am surely not alone in seeing car parking is a problem that is not unique to Oban.

The UK government and local authorities spend approaching £10bn each year – with an extra £5bn per annum for each of the next five years set aside by the last Chancellor – on building and maintaining roads. The purpose of roads? To enable us to get efficiently from A to B.

When we arrive at B, however, it's a different story: 'How dare you arrive in a car? What do you mean, you want to park it? It's going to cost you. And, if you over-stay the time you've paid for, we'll hit you with a hefty fine. And you've come in a dirty petrol or diesel-driven car? You should have bought an electric car by now. We're going to hit you hard for polluting our air. What do you mean, you can't afford an electric car? And what do you mean, there's nowhere to charge the battery even if you could afford one?'

And towns and cities bemoan the fact spending on the high street is down.

The reality is car parking should be as much a part of our national transport infrastructure as roads but that's not how the UK works. It's called 'management by abdication'. And there will be no change until we demand that change.

Donald Booth,
Creag Mhor, Kintallen, Tayvallich.

Seeking election fans to watch television with

On December 11 my son, Reuben, 20, and I hope to arrive in Oban having left our home in Kangaroo Valley, Australia, to visit my brother James who lives in Oban.

It turns out James and his friends lack enthusiasm for the election, whereas I love nothing better than a vigorous election. I was wondering if, through your columns, we could find kindred company with whom to spend the evening. I like Boris, but think Brexit is a madness and should be abandoned.

John S Bacon, kvrural@gmail.com.

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk



'S fheàrr a bhith a dhith a' chinn na dhith an fhasain! Nach tric a chualas sin gu h-àraid nuair a bha sinn òg agus a' feuchainn ri nòsan ùra èididh agus fuilt a leantainn, ach tha fasain eile a' faotainn buaidh mar a tha ùine a' dol seachad nach eil 's dòcha cho follaiseach dhuinn.

Tha fasain a thaobh de tha "p c", neo air ùr mheas modhail, a' nochdadh bho àm gu àm airson deagh adhbharan ach thig cuid a mhodhan ùra cuideachd a tha car beag faoin. Ach 's coma faoin neo ciallach iad 's e an fheadhainn againn as sinne a tha nas buailtiche ar glacadh ag ràdh neo a' dèanamh rudeigin nach eil a-nise air a mheas iomchaidh.

Nuair a smaoinicheas an fheadhainn againn a tha sean gu leòr air ais can caogad bliadhna, bha mar eisimpleir proifeiseantaich a bha ri àbhachdas bitheanta a' bruidhinn air boireannaich agus air daoine dubha.

Bha dithis air an robh mi fhìn glè mheasail, Les Dawson agus Dave Allen, gu math dàna nan cuid sgeulachdan agus cha fhreagradh tòrr de na bh' aca san latha

'n-diugh. Cha b' e gur e droch dhaoine a bh' annta, bha iad dìreach nan sgàthan air modhan an ama san robh iad ag obair. An d' rachainn a choimhead cuid de na seann phrògraman telebhisean san robh iad? Tha mi smaoinichadh gun d' rachadh, ged a tha mi a' tuigsinn agus a' gabhail gu tur ris na modhan ùra a thaobh spèis dha boireannaich agus dha mion-choimhearsnachdan sam bith.

Ann an saoghal sam bheil sinn uile cho eòlach air a bhith a' faicinn phrògraman telebhisean agus filmichean gan ath-chraoladh bitheanta chan e iongnadh sam bith a th' ann gum bheil a' bhuidheann Disney cuideachd a' foillseachadh an t-seann stuth aige. Ach chaidh mòran den sin a dhealbh agus a chlàradh aig àm far nach robh casg sam bith air mar a bha leithid dhaoine dubha air an nochdadh, neo mar a bha dochann a' tachairt eadar an cat 's an luch Tom agus Jerry!

Chan eil leithid de dheilbh air am meas iomchaidh an-diugh agus a rèir coltais tha Disney a-nise a' toirt rabhadh aig toiseach nan

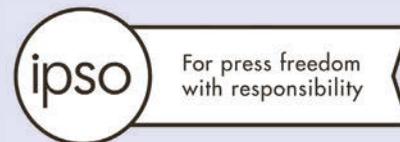
seann dealbh gun deach an cruthachadh aig àm san robh modhan eadar-dhealaichte. Tha iad a' dèanamh sin seach a bhith a' call luach iomadach film agus dealbh èibhinn, ach saoil am bheil an rabhadh sin a' gabhail an leiseil airson a bhith a' dol an aghaidh modh iomchaidh an latha 'n-diugh.

Chan eil clann òga gu bhith mothachail air an rabhadh sin is iad a' faicinn iomhaigh dhaoine dubha air a chur ann an suarachas, neo ma tha iad a' faicinn sabaid bhorb eadar Tom agus Jerry!

Where protocol and politically acceptable behaviour is constantly changing, is it enough for the Disney Corporation to post a warning on old favourites like Tom and Jerry advising viewers that these films were made at a time when rules were different?

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

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



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

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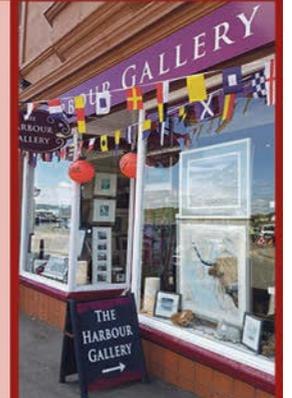
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DISTRICT NEWS

ARGYLL AND BUTE

The deadline for applications to this year's Argyll and Bute Youth Awards has been extended until this Saturday, November 30.

If you know an inspirational young person aged between 11 and 25 years, let them know how great they are by nominating them.

The awards celebrate the achievements of the area's young people and nominating someone is easy.

All you have to do is visit <https://form.jotformeu.com/RoannaC/ab-award-nomination-form>.

If you require help completing the form, or would like a paper copy, call 01700 501368 or 01369 707161.

Award categories are: Unsung Hero; Youth Entrepreneur; Youth Volunteering; Health and Wellbeing; Youth Environment; Citizenship; Youth Arts and Sporting.

EASDALE

House-to-house poppy collections around Easdale, Seil, Luining and Kilmelford totalled £1,825.56.

'This is a wonderful amount. Collectors were mostly Royal British Legion Scotland Easdale branch members, but we were assisted by supporters in Kilmelford and on Luining and a small number of shops and businesses.

'Grateful thanks go to everyone,' said Jean Alexander, secretary of the Easdale branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland.

LOCHAWA

St Conan's Christmas Tree Festival opens tomorrow, Friday November 29, at 1.30pm, Saturday at 10am, and Sunday December 1 at 11.30am. It closes each day at 6pm.

Members of the public can vote for their favourite from more than 50 trees, search for Santa's elves, try their luck in the festive raffle and relax with a hot drink and home baking. Oban Community Singers and Tarbert Ladies' Choir will be performing between 2.30pm and 3.30pm on Saturday and Sunday. Entry by donation.

Community hub ideas galore



Residents hope to transform Ardchattan's old school into a community hub. Photograph: Chris Lavis-Jones.

A heritage centre and gin distillery are just some of the ideas Ardchattan has come up with for its former school building.

At a recent 'have your say' event, the session was buzzing with lively discussions around opportunities it could offer if it belonged to the community.

Heritage and history featured in many of the suggestions, as the area has a rich industrial and cultural past and an amazing geological footprint, all of which could form part of an exhibition if there was space, said Ardchattan

Centre project chairwoman Breege Smyth.

The monthly pop-up tearooms are already successful and many people felt a cafe, along with a bakery and shop, would be a welcome amenity.

The centre's project group has contracted architect Shauna Cameron to produce a feasibility study based on the community's suggestions for the building and grounds.

Shauna will be meeting with the community at events at the school over the next few weeks and will

present plans and drawings at a public event in January.

Mrs Smyth said: 'We are delighted to have Shauna Cameron working with us to transform this school and grounds into a centre that will be ambitious and imaginative with the well-being of the community at its core.'

The next tearoom event is on Sunday December 15 between 1pm and 3pm. Shauna will be there to hear more ideas.

To make suggestions or find out more about the project, email breege@journalist.com.

MULL AND IONA

From Monday December 2, householders and businesses on Mull and Iona will no longer have to put plastic bottles, tubs and trays, tins, cans and empty aerosols into separate bags before they are put into blue recycling bins.

Instead they can put all the material directly into blue bins.

There are no changes to the materials collected, dates of collection

or collection frequencies. The only change is removing the need to put it in bags. Argyll and Bute Council will therefore no longer provide plastic bags to households on Mull and Iona.

OBAN

Save the date for Scotland's Biggest Parents' Evening at the Corran Halls, Oban, on Thursday January 30 from 4-7pm.

The event, being organised by Skills Development Scotland in conjunction with Argyll employers, is one of 20 taking place across the country.

It is aimed at showcasing critical skills and future occupations to help prepare the young workforce.

Some of the organisations confirmed so far are SAMS, Allenergy, West Highland Housing, Oban Distillery, Dawnfresh, Scottish Sea Farms and the fire service.

Friends of Oban Hospice are inviting the community to remember someone special by sponsoring the hospice lights on a tree in the Corran Halls gardens.

Each sponsor's dedication will be recorded in the 2109 Light up a Life book which will be on display in the Corran Halls at the switch-on ceremony on Tuesday December 10 at 7.30pm.

The book will then be available to view in the Dove Centre, 24 Stevenson Street.

Light up a Life forms can be collected at the Dove Centre and either handed back there or returned by post. Members of the Friends of Oban Hospice will also be at Tesco on December 2, 3, 4 and 6 with the forms.

SEIL

Costa Rica's wildlife is the topic for Lorn Natural History Group's next talk on Tuesday December 10 at 7.30pm in Seil Island Hall.

Rob and Audrey Lightfoot travel the world to experience natural diversity and Rob, a licensed bird-ringer, is one of the group's committee members. Admission to the talk is free for group members and £2 for non-members.

Volunteers raised £820 bag-packing in Tesco, Oban, in aid of the Seil-based Seed for Life - Feed for Life charity which helps farmers in Malawi grow crops then provide food to feed 1,400 children each school day.

'Thanks to the generosity of so many kind customers and thank you to Tesco for allowing us to do this,' said fundraiser Jean Alexander.

MULL

Tobermory Christmas producers' markets have added a new date - Monday December 23, noon until 3pm, at the Aros Hall, Main Street.

Mull Otter Group is holding its annual general meeting in the Isle of Mull Hotel's Muilleach Lounge on Saturday November 30 at 2pm. Guest speaker Carol Benetto, education outreach co-ordinator for the otter

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At random

MARTIN LAING

mlaing@obantimes.co.uk



Rotary welcomes new member Ciorsti



New Oban Rotary member Ciorsti Baxter has been welcomed by the club.

President Douglas Small had the honour of inducting the Rotary Club of Oban's latest member into the group.

Ciorsti Baxter, a former high-ranking police officer in Oban and Glasgow, became the newest member of Oban Rotary

last week and was welcomed by existing members during a ceremony at the club's regular lunchtime meeting.

Ciorsti already participates in the town's community activities and is Brown Owl at Oban Brownies, a position held for

many years by outgoing stalwart Brown Owl Caroline McInnes.

Mr Small said: 'We are delighted to welcome Ciorsti as our newest member and are very pleased that a person of such high standing, ability and dedication to good causes

has decided to join our club. She has already demonstrated great enthusiasm and I have no doubt she will be a fantastic club member in the years ahead.'

Anyone interested in becoming a Rotarian should go to obanrotary.org.uk.

Left in the dark

Winter is well and truly upon us with chilly days and gusting winds leading to a drop in temperatures.

That's fine but what concerns me is the early nightfall and dark mornings, especially given the poor state of some of the street lights in parts of Oban.

Among those areas in which I walk regularly and where the lighting is extremely bad is Lochside Street, just outside the Kwik Fit garage and next to The Original Factory Shop.

There are at least two street lamps not working, plunging this stretch into almost Stygian darkness. What makes it worse is the footpath is uneven with broken surfaces and puddles.

This is a fairly busy part of the town centre which many pedestrians use and it has, I believe, become dangerous for those of us on foot.

It is, as the old saw has it, only a matter of time until some poor soul - maybe me - trips and hurts themselves navigating this pavement in the dark.

Come on, Argyll and Bute Council. Please fix the lights.

What a difference

There was a fair amount of grumbling across the town in recent times over the traffic disruption caused by the resurfacing work in George Street.

Thankfully, the roadworks have been completed and have made a significant improvement to the main road through Oban.

As an aside, the 'cannon fire' loose manhole cover just outside Cuan Mor, which I flagged up a few weeks ago, has also been fixed. The extremely loud blasts that went off thousands of times day have at last stopped.

The guys who did the work toiled hard and in sometimes unpleasant conditions but they have done an excellent job and made a major difference.

It was short-term pain for long-term gain. I offer my thanks to those who did the work.

What do you think?

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

specialist group in the International Union for Conservation of Nature will speak on Otters of the World. There will be also be a report on Mull Otter Group's work in 2019 and an update on rescued cub Forsa. Refreshments provided. Everyone welcome.

ISLAY

The 1st Islay Cubs and Beavers have made a national shortlist to name and exoplanet and its star.

The young islanders entered the name Finlaggan for the exoplanet and Dunyvaig for its star, after the ancient seats of the Lords of the Isles on Islay. Islay is the only Scout Group in the UK to make the final stage and one of only two suggestions from Scotland.

The Scout group is now looking for

the community to get behind it and vote to see such important historical Scottish landmarks take their place among the stars.

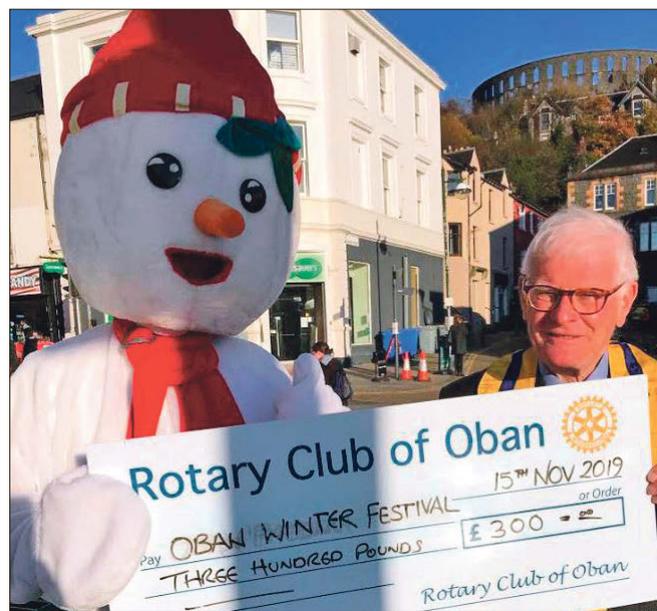
Voting closes on December 2. The winner will be announced mid-December. Go to exoworld.co.uk to vote.

OBAN

Oban Winter Festival received a £300 boost from the town's Rotary Club. Club president Douglas Small handed over the cheque to festival mascot Coolio, right.

David Smith from the organising committee said: 'Rotary is delighted to support the event with funds but is also pleased to offer club members as stewards for festival events.'

This year members helped at the Enchanted Woods event.



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OUTDOORS

Gigha trust on hunt for new Achamore gardener

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



The Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust is looking to appoint a head gardener to the famous Achamore Gardens on the island.

The gardens were laid out by Colonel James Horlicks in the mid 20th century and are a world renowned Landscape with Outstanding Designations as a Work of Art and for Horticulture.

Within their 54 acres, they include several important rhododendron collections which are jointly managed with the National Trust for Scotland, as well as a large walled garden and woodland walks. They attract thousands of visitors every year to Gigha and are the centre-piece of the island.

Ian Wilson, chairman of the Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust, said: 'The trust is looking to appoint a creative and passionate experienced professional who will work with the trust and community to develop the garden.'

'The garden was lucky enough to have some wonderful gardeners in the past, some of whom still live on Gigha. However, since they retired, we have been struggling to keep the gardens at their best.'

'Over the past couple of years, we have been working really hard to stabilise the trust finances, so we are excited to now be in a position to launch a nationwide search for a new gardener who will help us restore them to their glory.'

'With great support from the National Trust for Scotland, we are

hopeful we will find someone with the skills and passion to work with the trust and community to do this.'

The role is full-time and permanent, with a rent-free cottage on the beautiful island available to the successful applicant.

Gigha lies off the west coast of Kintyre and is served by hourly ferries all year round. The island has an active and growing primary school, daily commute to the high school in Campbeltown, award-winning hotel and Boathouse restaurant along with beautiful beaches and landscapes.

For more information about the role, contact chair@gigha.org.uk or call the trust office on 01583 505390.

The renowned Achamore Gardens on the Isle of Gigha.



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This week's walks

Vote for the climate in General Election

The impacts of the climate and ecological crisis are becoming increasingly apparent.

July 2019 was the hottest month on record, with Hurricane Dorian, which devastated the Bahamas in September, the second strongest Atlantic storm on record. Earlier this month parts of Derbyshire and south Yorkshire suffered severe flooding after a month's worth of rain fell in a day. We are also in the midst of the sixth mass extinction with up to 200 species disappearing every day.

Last year the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported that we have 12 years to avert climate catastrophe, based on the number of years we have left until the carbon budget is used up for 1.5°C of warming.

Realistically, global carbon emissions need to peak immediately and then fall dramatically every year to achieve the 1.5°C goal. The time for action is now and with every year of inaction the potential to prevent warming above 1.5°C diminishes further.



The climate and ecological crisis is the defining issue of our time, and in the General Election on December 12 we need to elect a government committed to taking the necessary action to tackle this emergency.

Jake Woodier, from UK Student Climate Network, says in The Ecologist: 'If we proceed to elect a government that isn't prepared to lead us towards a rapid transition away from the fossil fuel economy, we're locked in to a further five years of inaction, ensuring we lose nearly half the time available to embark on this necessarily ambitious task to secure our futures. There is no time to delay.'

According to a poll in September by Opinionium, more than half of those polled (54 per cent) said climate change will affect how they vote, with the proportion

rising to 74 per cent for under-25s. The poll of 2,000 UK adults was conducted before the October Extinction Rebellion protests, but after the global climate strikes in September, which saw 7.5 million people taking to the streets.

A separate YouGov poll suggests the majority of the UK public would support a radical plan to transform the economy and tackle the climate crisis, highlighting the growing awareness of the scale of the crisis, and the increasingly radical policy solutions the public is willing to support.

Fort William's school climate striker and Lochaber Times environmental columnist Holly Gillibrand recently tweeted: 'The #GE2019 must NOT be about Brexit. Vote instead for a liveable planet, a biosphere and a sustainable future. Vote for what really matters - life on Earth.'

This General Election needs to move beyond Brexit. There is no time to delay. We need to vote for the climate if we are to secure a future without catastrophic climate and ecological breakdown.

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

Sunday December 1, Rannoch to Corroul, Rannoch Moor.

Train to Rannoch, walk to Corroul, return by train to Bridge of Orchy.

Limited parking available at Bridge of Orchy Stn. Alternatively, use the large CP S of Bridge of Orchy Hotel at NN29739. From Rannoch station head east along the B846 for about 2Km.

At NN458575 turn left on to a track. 600m after crossing a bridge at NN 435603 the track becomes a path and shortly afterwards splits. Take the left fork, leaving the river, and head up the lower slopes of Sron Leachd a'Chaorainn. The path continues to the ruins of Corroul old lodge under the flank of Carn Dearg, and round to Peter's rock. Head west from here down to the end of Loch Ossian and the track to Corroul station. Return train to Bridge of Orchy is at 1825.

Grade: M. Distance: 17Km. Height to climb: 380m. Map(s): LR41,42,50, EX35. Meet at: Bridge of Orchy Stn NN300394 for 1048 dep. Leader: Ann Jones 07770 434114.

Thursday December 5, Carn Dearg (North), Glen Roy.

Park 400m before Brae Roy Lodge, NN333911. Walk up the private road and at Turret Bridge take the left hand fork. Continue to a fank in Glen Turret. Cross the Allt Eachach and continue NE up the glen to the watershed at 570m. From

here, walk N to the summit of Carn Dearg, 815m. Return by walking SW down the ridge to reach Glen Turret.

Grade: M+. Distance: 14km. Height to climb: 715 m. Maps LR34 EX400. Meet at Fort William WM NN113742 at 0915. Start of walk 10.00 Leader: Andrew Gilbert 07808 924722.

NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

Full walk details at www.nevishillwalking.club. If anyone would like to go on a walk, contact club secretary Suzanne Theobald on 01397 701783 or email enquiries@nevishillwalking.club

Saturday November 30, Fraoch Bheinn, Sgurr Mhurlagain, Loch Arkaig.

Two Corbetts easily accessed from Strathan at the head of Loch Arkaig. Do one, or both.

Start from the end of the public road at the head of Loch Arkaig, NM987916, where limited parking is available.

Head W on the track into Glen Dessarry for 1km. At NM978916, just W of the Dearg Allt, turn N up a path and follow it up towards the S ridge of Fraoch Bheinn. Continue up to the summit, 858m. Turn E and descend steep rough ground to reach a broad col at NM994937, 458m. A path leads SW from the col down to the track in Glen Dessarry.

* For the 2nd Corbett, continue E up the flank of the SW ridge of Sgurr Mhurlagain to its crest. Turn NE and head up to the summit. Return to the col and descend SW on the path to the track in Glendessary. Head E back to the start. 1st Corbett: 9km, 798m ascent. * Both Corbetts: 14km, 1220m ascent.

Suggested by Jane Ollerenshaw. Coordinated by Ken Steverson.

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LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

Oban Christmas panto set to be an absolute cracker

It's that time of year when theatrical types look forward to getting into makeup, putting on dresses and high heels – and that's just the boys! Yes, pantomime season is upon us once again and galloping into the Corran Halls next week is Camelot – the Panto.

Following on from the success of Fiddler on the Roof earlier in the year, local theatre troupe Spotlight Musical Theatre Group return for Oban's 2019 panto season.

This year the tale unfolds with the dashing Prince Arthur who is due to wed Princess Guinevere. But evil Morgan Le Fay (booooo!) helps love-struck Valerin the Vicious (boo again!) to kidnap Guinevere with a little back-up from his mum



and some hapless henchmen. Can Nurse Connie, Laughalot, Nell, Arthur, King Uther and Teddy come to the

rescue? Will Merlin discover the secret of eternal youth or, like the rest of us, have to head to the nearest chemist

in search of face creams and other potions?

There are many a familiar face on stage, including Katie

Kathleen Bate is deliciously wicked as the evil queen of the night, Morgan Le Fay.

Robinson playing Guinevere and her real-life new husband John Robinson trying to kidnap her as the evil Valerin the Vicious. Jack Anderson plays the valiant Prince Arthur and Kathleen Bate is deliciously wicked as Morgan.

Swapping his boiler suit for a bedazzled frock is Mr Bolt n Fix himself Roddy MacEachen as Nurse Connie. Richard Baker leaves behind the 'high wires' of SSE to become our intrepid, yet slightly cowardly, Laughalot, the court jester. Other Spotlight regulars heading up

the cast are Aimie Baker, Ellie Cooper, Peter MacArthur, Kate MacGregor, Michael Wall, Morven Wright and, of course, a huge local chorus and backstage heroes.

The show is directed by local theatre stalwart Kevin Baker, with a talented production team helping bring his vision to the stage.

Preview night is Wednesday December 4 at 7.30pm where all tickets are £6.

The magic continues on Thursday to Saturday at 7.30pm and there is a matinee on Saturday at 2pm. Tickets are priced £6-£12 (family ticket from £30-£35) and are on sale now at the Corran Halls Box Office on 01631 567333 or nip in to see them during opening hours.

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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 UR/NEW: Eorpa/European Current Affairs
21:00 Leabhraichean-latha a' Chogaidh Mhoir/ Great War Diaries (rpt)
22:00 UR/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)

DIHAOINE 29 An t-Samhain

FRIDAY 29th 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 30 An t-Samhain

SATURDAY 30th November

16:00 Programan Chloinne – Children's Programming
17:45 An Là – News
18:00 UR/NEW: Scottish Premiership – Livingston v Hamilton
20:00 Machair (rpt)
20:30 Cuimhneachan/Remembrance (rpt)
21:00 Belladrum 2019 (Highlights)

22:00 An Sgrudaire (rpt)
22:15 Luingeann Lannsaireachd (rpt)
23:00 Scottish Premiership – Livingston v Hamilton (rpt)

DIDÒMHNAICH 1st An Dùbhlachd

SUNDAY 1st December

16:00 Programan Chloinne – Children's Programming
18:15 An Là – News
18:30 Seachd Là – News Review
19:30 UR/NEW: Alleluia! (rpt)
20:00 Eorpa/European Current Affairs (rpt)
20:30 Ceathrar air Chuairt (rpt)
21:00 UR/NEW: Elena Baltacha
22:15 Pìobairean Bhoirnis/ Pipers of Bornish (rpt)
22:30 UR/NEW: Belladrum 2019 (Highlights)

23:00 Trapped S2 (rpt)
23:50 Dhan Uisge (rpt)

DILUAIN 2 An Dùbhlachd

MONDAY 2nd December

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 UR/NEW: Bill Lawson – Sar Shloinntear (The Genealogist)
22:00 TradFest (rpt)
22:30 Opry le Daniel (rpt)
23:20 Dhan Uisge (rpt)
23:30 An Sgrudaire (rpt)
23:45 Belladrum – Cridhe Tartan (Highlights)

DIMÀIRT 3rd An Dùbhlachd

TUESDAY 3rd December

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 Cluinneam!/The Switch On (rpt)
22:00 Bill Lawson – Sar Shloinntear (The Genealogist) (rpt)
23:00 Trad fest (rpt)
23:30 Alleuia! (rpt)

DICIADAIN 4th An Dùbhlachd

WEDNESDAY 4th December

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 UR/NEW: Opry le Daniel
21:50 Dhan Uisge (rpt)
22:00 UR/NEW: Scottish Premiership – St Mirren v Motherwell

DIARDAOIN 5th An Dùbhlachd

THURSDAY 5th An Dùbhlachd

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 UR/NEW: Eorpa/European Current Affairs
21:00 Benny (rpt)
22:00 UR/NEW: An Sgrudaire
22:15 Elena Baltacha (rpt)
23:00 The Quay Sessions – Lucy Spraggan (rpt)



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Russian pianist to play Oban

Oban Music Society will welcome pianist Vitaly Pisarenko to St John's Cathedral on Sunday December 1 at 3pm. London-based Russian pianist Pisarenko has been steadily gaining worldwide recognition since winning some of the most important international awards in 2015.

Critically acclaimed as a pianist of unusually soft touch, prodigious technique and captivating expressiveness, Pisarenko has performed in more than 30 countries, and has played with a large number of orchestras around the world, with the Association of Music Critics of Argentina presenting him with the 2018 Revelation Award.

At his concert in Oban, Vitaly will play Beethoven Sonata Op. 2 No. 1 in F minor, Chopin Polonaises Op. 26 No. 1 and No. 2, Ballade No. 3 Op. 47, Beethoven Sonata Op. 31 No. 2 in D Minor, Bartok Suite Op. 14, and Stravinsky – Agosti 'Firebird'.

Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk

Too early for Christmas?

I hesitate to say it while it is still (just about) November, but Glasgow is definitely beginning to feel Christmassy!

Last week, I stumbled across the Christmas market by the St Enoch Centre and (even more conveniently) happened across the Loch Fyne whisky stall.

The following week, I ended up (also by pure chance) at the Country Living Fair where businesses such as Sound of Iona Tartan, Isle of Skye Candles, and Isle of Barra Distillers had stalls.

I'm sure there were many more great Highlands and Islands businesses but I was unfortunately only in very briefly.

Christmas in Glasgow, of course, is heralded each year by a number of cèilidhs, listed here, as well as a whole ballroom full of teachers 'projecting themselves into insanity' for the famous (sold out) Vatersay Boys gig in the Barrowland on

Friday December 6. What an evening that will be!

Glasgow Skye Gathering nears

The Glasgow Skye Gathering'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 the secretary, Karen Campbell, to make their choices from the menu (indicating any special dietary requirements) before Monday December 2.

The following evening, Saturday December 7, the Glasgow University Union plays host to the annual concert. The line-up includes singers such as Wilma Kennedy, Rachel Walker, James Graham and Arthur Cormack.

Tickets for the concert are £10 (or £8 for students) and it begins at 7.30pm. After the concert, at approximately

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Glasgow got Christmassy at the Country Living Christmas Fair last weekend with lots of Highlands and Islands businesses in attendance.

hosting a cèilidh on Saturday December 7 in the Augustine United Church, by George IV Bridge, in Edinburgh, at 7.15pm for 7.30pm.

Gaelic singers will be Gillebride MacMillan and Bria Mason. Neil MacLure will be the piper for the evening and John Archie MacMillan the Fear an Taighe. There will also be instrumentalists on the bill who are not yet confirmed.

Tickets for members are £5 and non-members £6. Children can enter for free if under 16 and accompanied by an adult. There is no need to book tickets.

The last cèilidh was attended by 50 people, most of whom were locals who would expect to return, so it is great to hear that the cèilidh through in Edinburgh is doing well.



10.30pm, the dance will begin to the music of Robert Nairn and his dance band.

Clydebank cèilidh

The Clydebank Highlanders will hold their December cèilidh on Friday December 13 at the usual venue of the Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, at 7.30pm.

The association was very grateful to all the artists

who played and sang at their last monthly cèilidh on November 8 and also to the committee and the faithful followers who keep the association going.

Comunn Tir nam Beann Dun Eideann

As part of their centenary season, Comunn Tir nam Beann Dùn Èideann will be

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FRIDAY 29TH NOVEMBER

Frozen 2 | PG 12:00/16:15/18:45
The Peanut Butter Falcon | 12A 16:30
The Good Liar | 15 18:45

SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER

Shaun The Sheep: Farmageddon | U 11:00 ★
Frozen 2 | PG 13:00/15:30/18:00
The Peanut Butter Falcon | 12A 14:15
The Good Liar | 15 18:30
The Vanishing | 15 20:30

SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER

Frozen 2 | PG 13:30/16:00/18:30
The Addams Family | PG 14:30
The Good Liar | 15 16:30
The Shiny Shrimps | 15 19:00

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



TOSCA LIVE FROM LA SCALA 5PM

This fantastic new production of Giacomo Puccini's Tosca follows the publication of musicologist Roger Parker's critical edition for Ricordi; The Music Director Riccardo Chailly presents Puccini's work in the light of this most recent research, building on the great success of La Scala's Turandot, La Fanciulla del West, Madama Butterfly and Manon Lescaut. Giacomo Puccini's masterpieces have so far been presented in versions that often bear the burden of tradition.

MONDAY 2ND DECEMBER

The Good Liar | 15 12:00/18:45
Frozen 2 | PG 14:15/18:45
The Peanut Butter Falcon | 12A 16:30

TUESDAY 3RD DECEMBER

Frozen 2 | PG 12:00/16:15/18:45
The Peanut Butter Falcon | 12A 16:30
The Good Liar | 15 18:45

WEDNESDAY 4TH DECEMBER

Frozen 2 | PG 12:00 ★/16:15/18:45
The Peanut Butter Falcon | 12A 16:30
The Good Liar | 15 18:45

THURSDAY 28TH NOVEMBER

The Vanishing | 15 14:30 ★
Frozen 2 | PG 16:15/18:45
The Peanut Butter Falcon | 12A 17:00
The Good Liar | 15 19:15

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



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

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Christmas Day

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Boxing Day

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HOTEL - OBAN

Blas Festival concerts are to explore love and loss in Gaelic

This year's commission at Blas Festival, Gaol no Gonadh?, will see three artists featured in a series of concerts take a light-hearted look at Gaelic songs of love and loss.

Gaol no Gonadh?, which means love or loss, will feature Gaelic singers and musicians Rachel Walker and Ewen Henderson performing some of the most beautiful Gaelic love songs, accompanied by interesting stories and introductions by Jo MacDonald. The songs and accompanying stories will explore courtship, heartbreak, marriage and the consequences of remaining single, ensuring an evening of beautiful songs, tears and laughter.

These concerts take place tonight, November 28, Maclean Room at Eden Court, Inverness, 7.30pm; November 29, Achmore Village Hall, 7.30pm; November 30, Ben Nevis



Distillery, Fort William, 7.30pm, with support from Lochaber Gaelic Choir.

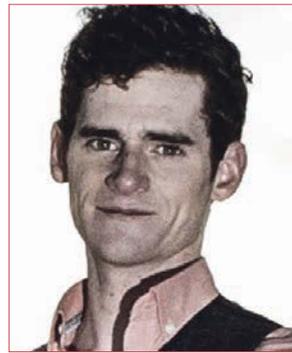
Jo MacDonald is a native Gaelic speaker from Lewis. During her career, spent largely with the BBC, she worked mainly in factual and education programming. Before leaving the BBC at the end of 2008 she was managing editor of BBC Gàidhlig.

Jo, who still broadcasts occasionally, but works mainly as a freelance researcher,



writer and translator, is a board member of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and MG ALBA.

Rachel Walker is a Gaelic singer, songwriter and tutor, based in Lochaber. Rachel has performed throughout Scotland and further afield and has recorded three solo albums, while adding her voice to many other recordings, including many of the Skipinnish albums, and most recently providing vocals on Arthur Cormack's



new CD, Buanas. Rachel is the conductor for Lochaber District Gaelic Choir and she also won the An Comunn Gàidhealach Gold Medal for solo Gaelic singing in 2017. Rachel works as a lecturer of music at West Highland College UHI.

Ewen Henderson hails from Lochaber and is steeped in the traditional music and Gaelic culture of the area. Ewen started learning the fiddle aged five and has since

Left to right are Jo MacDonald, Rachel Walker and Ewen Henderson.

mastered an impressive array of instruments. Ewen is a founding member of the group, Mànrán.

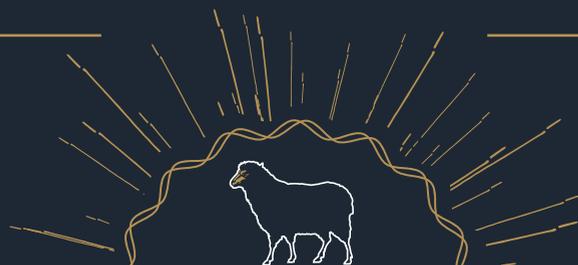
Blas, which means 'taste' or 'sample', is organised by Fèisean nan Gàidheal in partnership with The Highland Council and takes place from November 22-30, culminating in a variety of events across the Highlands to celebrate St Andrew's Day. It aims to celebrate Gaelic culture and the thriving Scottish traditional music scene in venues across the Highlands and Islands.

Other acts at this year's Blas include the Gary Innes Band, Cape Breton sisters Dawn and Margie Beaton, Tide Lines' Robert Robertson and Ross Wilson, Sian, Iain Macfarlane and Ingrid Henderson and

neo-trad trio Project Smok. This year also features two special partnerships. Blas and Small Halls Festival will present shows in Kyleakin and Edinbane featuring a world-class line-up of musicians including Capercaillie's Donald Shaw, fiddler Duncan Chisholm, Granton-on-Spey multi-instrumentalist and composer Hamish Napier and BBC Young Folk Award winner, uilleann piper Jarlath Henderson.

Arthur Cormack, Fèisean nan Gàidheal chief executive, said: 'Blas Festival has become an important event in the calendar for communities across the Highlands and Islands since its inception in 2005. We are delighted to be able to put on Blas Festival this year, once again, to showcase and celebrate our homegrown talent.'

For tickets, go to www.blas-festival.com



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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.

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

FORT WILLIAM

Salvation Army Hall
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Thursday 3pm, 5pm & 7pm
Tel: Gillian 07796 040 803

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slimmingworld.co.uk



Grant support for rural hub for booklovers

Until recently, the rural communities in the Ross of Mull had no easy access to a library, especially since the mobile libraries were withdrawn from service several years ago.

In 2018, a local group approached LiveArgyll to set up a library hub in a room in Creich Community Hall, near Fionnphort.

The library quickly became a meeting place for more than 60 local book-lovers of all ages, but the layout in a restricted space made comfortable browsing difficult.

Thanks to grants from The Waterfall Fund, MESS and individual donations, the Creich Community Library now has some beautiful new bespoke shelving, transforming the room into a library space that is practical and inviting.

The new shelving was designed and made by Rutger Emmelkamp of Knockvologan Studies using locally-sourced Douglas fir.

New wall-mounted units were carefully conceived to

make the best use of a space which, typical of rural community halls, has multiple usage.

A versatile mobile folding unit to house children's books can be wheeled into the main hall for special events such as the monthly Book Bug sessions for young readers.

The community library is run entirely by a small team of volunteers and carries a wide range of books to meet all tastes, provided by LiveArgyll, with new stock every four months. The library is open every Wednesday from 4pm to 6pm, offering tea, coffee and cake for browsers.

Pat McCann, business operations manager at LiveArgyll, said: 'It is great to hear that Creich Community Hub is doing so well.

'We are grateful to the number of volunteers who give their time to deliver a library service from the various hubs across Argyll, thus ensuring that those in isolated locations can get access to library books.'

Premiere screening for Argyll film students

Secondary pupils from Argyll took to the red carpet on Sunday when Oban Phoenix Cinema premiered 12 short animated films created by the students, writes Fiona Scott.

Screen Argyll brought young people aged 16-19 together at Oban High School in October for a week-long animation course as part of the BFI film academy.

This intensive programme included hands-on film-making workshops where the young people were given the skills to develop an idea from rough sketch to big screen.

The course gave them the opportunity to work with professional animators and film-makers on script writing, model making, animation, video editing, lighting for camera and sound design.

The students used these new skills to work together to create their own animations



The BFI Academy students were awarded certificates in recognition of their productions.

before presenting them at a screening which they created and coordinated.

BFI Film Academy coordinator Brodie Sim said: 'We were really impressed by the films created by the Argyll students. During this process they have gained a deeper insight into the industry, enabling them to identify areas they may want to pursue and a greater understanding of how to progress.

'It also offers participants

the chance to gain a qualification which they can include in their CVs and the opportunity to submit their film into a variety of festivals.'

The result was an eclectic mix of animated media which challenged the large audience present at Sunday's screening.

Following a question-and-answer session, all the students received a certificate in recognition of their achievements.

Transition - Alex Moran;

Who Am I - Sophie Nichol, with Cameron Collings; Diamonds of Lost Earth - Louis Hendry; Rooms - Joshua Thomson, Liam Campbell, Matthew Houston, Hamish MacDonald, Cameron Collings; SYZGY - Reed Barrow; Swag Jam - Neve Shannon Davies; The Ballet - Anakaren Maldonado, James Rycroft, Amanda Maceachan; The Moon - Millie Stewart; History of Gems - Suzanne Turner.

Three of the films - Transition, The Ballet and The Moon - have been short-listed for Scottish Youth Film Festival which takes place this weekend (Saturday November 30) in Edinburgh.

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Friday the 6th of
December



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WHAT'S ON

In partnership with Oban Town Diary BID4oban.co.uk

THURSDAY 28TH NOVEMBER

Oban Men's Shed

Salvation Army Hall

9:00am - 12:00pm

Slimming World - Fort William

Salvation Army Hall,
3:00pm, 5:00pm & 7:00pm

Tel: Gillian 07796 040803

Oban Health Walks

Oban Congregational Church

10:00am - 12:00pm

Recovery Cafe

New Hope Kitchen

12.30pm

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans

FREE JUKEBOX EVERY THURSDAY

FRIDAY 29TH NOVEMBER

Hope Kitchen Music Group

Salvation Army Hall

1pm-4pm

Christmas Tree Festival

St Conan's Kirk

1:30pm - 6:00pm

OWF Children's Workshop

The Rockfield Centre

Parsley's Cat Cafe

New Hope Kitchen

2pm

Innovative Scotland

Corran Halls

7pm

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans

Danny Mooney

Open till 2:00am

SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER

Christmas Tree Festival

St Conan's Kirk

10:30am - 6:00pm

Hill Walk

Arrochar

All day

Parkrun

Ganavan Sands

9.30am

Create & Make

The Rockfield Centre

10am-4pm

Gaelic Bookbuds

Furan Centre

10.30am

Tea for MD

St. John's Cathedral

10.30am - 2.30pm

Gaelic Conversation Group

Furan Centre

12pm-1.30pm

Community Cafe

Salvation Army Hall

12:00pm - 2:00pm

St Andrew's Day Young

Entrepreneurs' Market

Oban Distillery

2pm-4pm

Junior Entrepreneurs' Market

Oban Chocolate Company

4.30pm-6pm

St. Andrew's Day Fireworks

McCraig's Tower

6.30pm

The Big St. Andrew's Day Bash

Argyllshire Gathering Halls

7.30pm

Live Music & Entertainment @

Markie Dans

Lisgeul Au Ceilidh

Open till 2:00am

SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER

Christmas Tree Festival

St Conan's Kirk

11:30am - 6:00pm

Morning Service - Refreshments

follow

Salvation Army Hall

11:00am - 12:00pm

Live Music & Entertainment @

Markie Dans

QUIZ NIGHT at 9:30pm

£1 per person, max of 6 per team

Win £20 bar voucher

MONDAY 2ND DECEMBER

Oban Men's Shed

Salvation Army Hall

9:00am - 12:00pm

Slimming World - Fort William

Salvation Army Hall

9.30am & 11.30am

Tel: Gillian 07796 040803

Fellowship Meeting

New Hope Kitchen

2pm

Slimming World - Lochgilphead

Union Street/Argyll Street

5:30pm & 7:30pm

Tel: Rhona 07880 878906

Martyn's Monday Club

New Hope Kitchen

7pm-9pm

TUESDAY 3RD DECEMBER

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 4TH DECEMBER

Oban Men's Shed

Salvation Army Hall

9:00am - 12:00pm

Open Day

Greenshoots Garden

10.30am-3.30pm

Hope Kitchen Beach clean

(meet opposite the View)

10.30am

Knitting Group

New Hope Kitchen

2pm

Slimming World - Oban

Glencruitten Church Hall

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

Tel: Gillian 07796 040803

Spotlight - Camelot

Corran Halls

7.30pm



Jolomo is exhibiting paintings of Carbeth after 50 years of the sketches sitting unfinished.

Jolomo opens 250th exhibition

One of Scotland's most popular and hard-working artists has celebrated the opening of his 250th solo exhibition.

Argyll-based John Lowrie Morrison (known as Jolomo) believes The Light of Glasgow and the Huts of Carbeth, which opened at the Glasgow Gallery in Bath Street on Saturday, is his 250th solo show, 'though it might be a couple more than that!'

John, who studied at Glasgow School of Art in the late 1960s and now lives in Tayvallich, Argyll, started exhibiting while he was still at school.

While John is best known

for his paintings of landscapes on the west coast of Scotland, the new work in the Glasgow Gallery exhibition celebrates his relationship with Glasgow, where he grew up, and the surrounding countryside.

For the first time, he has painted a group of works which focus on the area around Carbeth in the Campsie Fells where his family spent holidays.

John said: 'My family had a hut at Carbeth and five or six other members of our family had huts - aunts, uncles, cousins. We went out every weekend, cycled out,

or got the Bluebird bus from Buchanan Street bus station.

'The huts had no electricity or running water - we had a dry Elsanol chemical toilet and water came from a spring nearby. For lights, we used tilley lamps or oil lamps. It was all very old fashioned, but absolutely wonderful. From a ridge near my family's hut, you could see right down the valley. I was out drawing all the time.

'I did hundreds of drawings and pastel studies at the time, but could never get them into finished paintings. Now I have, so I have closure - after 50 years!'

Events may charge. Please visit www.obanwhatson.co.uk for more details. To list your event, please call 01631 568000

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St Orans & Dunbeg Church Christmas Fayre

Connel Village Hall
on Saturday 7th December
11.00am - 3.00pm
Gifts - Baking - Preserves
- Decorations - Books -
Coffee & Tea - Soup Lunch

Oban Accordion & Fiddle Club Thursday 5th December 2019. 7.30pm

Royal Hotel
Guest Artist:
Robert Nairn Trio
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All Welcome!

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Refreshments, baking,
preserves, raffle, books

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Author shares a Christmas present to be treasured

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Did you know that at the very moment you were born Mrs Claus allocated you an elf?

It's true! Your very own elf who watches to see when you have been naughty and nice. Every year, just before Christmas, your elf reports to Santa and Mrs Claus so they can decide what presents you can have from your list.

Yet there are some people who don't believe in Santa. I know, it's crazy! Once they stop believing in Santa, then their elf is banished from the North Pole and only allowed to return when they start believing in him again.

Gabriel the Elf is worried. His child is beginning to think that Santa is not real. He doesn't want to be sent away from all his friends at the North Pole, but what can



he do? There is only one thing he can do...

He must prove that Santa is real. The Christmas Present is the creation of Alexander

McCabe. Inspired by Ian Fleming's reasons for writing Chitty-Chitty-Bang-Bang, the Stirling-born author wanted to give his first son Gabriel,

now five, a gift unique to him. Last week McCabe arrived in Oban's WHSmith shop to sign copies of his first children's book, and spoke of his per-

Alexander McCabe was in Oban last week to sign copies of his book, *The Christmas Present*.

sonal connections to the book. 'The Christmas Present is a festive "feel-good book" that took me two weeks to write,' he said.

'However, I think it has always been in me and I have taken a lot of it from my ideas of Christmas as a young boy.

I wanted to give my own son something special, something that didn't have great financial value but something to treasure regardless.

'That is the message I wanted to get across within the book also.'

McCabe has had a varied career - he has taught English in China and Saudi Arabia and successfully combined undergraduate and postgraduate

degrees in Commercial Law with travelling extensively throughout Europe as a truck driver.

Successfully securing a PhD scholarship in Law at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand, resulted in the chance meeting that would forever change his life - meeting his Canadian wife, Marie.

Now settled back in Scotland, the couple have embraced and enjoyed a completely new experience - that of being parents. Their son, Gabriel, provided the inspiration for *The Christmas Present*, while McCabe's next project, *King of the Gnomes*, will be dedicated to their two-year-old, Noah.

Both Alexander and Marie hope that the books provide their children with just a sliver of the pride that they give them every day.

WHAT'S ON @ CORRAN HALLS



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DEC
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04-07

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JANUARY 2020



THU JAN
02 **MANRAN**

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FRI JAN
10

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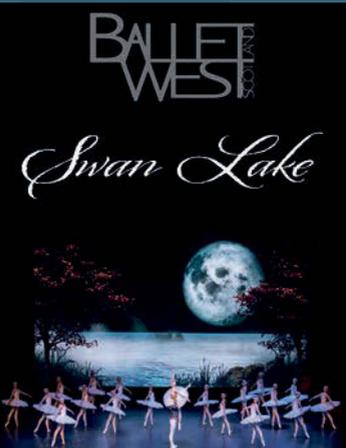
Doors: 1:30pm
Start: 2pm
Tickets: £17 + 1 Booking Fee



SAT JAN
25

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MONDAY: 08.00 am on Fm, 08.10 breakfast show, 9.00 Monday morning with Stephen, 11.00 Ian Simmonds Monday Mix, 17.00 Drivetime, 19.00 Rosie's Highland fling with Rosie MacColl, 20.00 John McLuckie's show, 21.00 David Cullen show, 23.00 Through the night with Clyde 2
TUESDAY: 08.00 am on Fm, 08.10 Breakfast show, 10.00 Ken Hunter's Tuesday morning, 13.00 Macky on Fm, 17.00 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 19.00 Highest praise with Stuart Chalmers, 20.00 Clyde 2 through the night with the Greatest Hits.
WEDNESDAY: 08.00 am on Fm, 08.10 breakfast show, 09.00 Sounds Scottish repeat, 10.00 The Comfort Zone with Lesley Blair Simmonds, 13.00 Doug Carmichael in the afternoon. 17.00 Drivetime with Campbell Cameron, 19.00 Country meets Rock & Roll with Len Ford & Kenny MacLachlan alternating. 21.00 Gordon's Grooves with Gordon Macintyre, 12.00 Midnight through the night with Clyde 2.
THURSDAY: 08.00 - 11.00 Breakfast with Andy and Sarah, 11.00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 15.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 19.00

Christine's collection, 21.00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22.00 Margo till midnight then Through the night with Clyde 2.
FRIDAY: 08.00 breakfast show with Laura, 10.00 Teeny and Tiny aka Harry, Janet, and Anna, 17.00 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 18.45 Sports View, 19.00 Country meets Country with Jackie Craig, 21.00 Peter Rainnie 12.00 Midnight through the night with Clyde 2.
SATURDAY: 08.00 The Breakfast show with Stephen MacPhee. 10.00 Saturday Morning live with Linda Crosher, 13.00 Clyde2 Sports and the Greatest hits, 18.00 Sports view - Oban Fm Dream team, 19.00 Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling, 20.00 Dave Lewis, 22.00 Margo till Midnight then Through the night with Clyde 2 and the Greatest Hits.
SUNDAY: 09.00 Sunday Morning with Breege, 11.00 Sunday brunch with Allan MacKechnie, 13.00 Clyde 2 on a lazy Sunday afternoon with the Greatest Hits, 19.00 New Country show - David Entwistle, 21.00 Drum & Bass - Graham Scott, 23.00 Clyde 2 through the night with the Greatest Hits.

Skipinnish announce summer gig in Stirling

Skipinnish are to headline a special summer show in a big top in Stirling's City Park next year, on Saturday August 22.

From humble beginnings performing in pubs, clubs and village halls in 1999, the rise of Skipinnish over recent years has been astounding.

The band has created a mix of self-penned Celtic songs and strong tune sets along with classic anthems such as Walking on the Waves, The Island, Alive and Western Ocean. The result has been a huge wave of popularity, with sell-out shows across some of the the country's most prestigious venues, chart hits and an ever-growing home and international fan base.

Skipinnish will be joined through the afternoon and evening in Stirling by a host of special guests, including the renowned Scottish rock band, Big Country; the three-



time Brit award-winning artist Eddi Reader; and the up and coming band from Stornoway, Peat and Diesel, who recently have hit the Scottish music scene like a Hebridean storm.

Gates open at 3pm and more artists will be announced closer to the show.

And, for those fans looking to make a weekend out of it, organisers are offering camping tickets, available for the Friday and Saturday nights (August 21 and 22). The dedicated area will be in

City Park, close to the music arena, and, for those camping on the Friday night, a special party is being hosted.

Skipinnish's co-founder, Angus MacPhail, said: 'This will be the biggest Skipinnish gig yet and we are very, very excited, The prospect of performing under the majesty of Stirling Castle to the biggest gathering ever of our amazing fans is incredible.'

'The past few years have felt like we are living in a dream, with more fans and bigger gigs in more exciting venues than we ever could have imagined.'

'Stirling on August 22, 2020, will be the highpoint of our musical voyage so far. We cannot wait.'

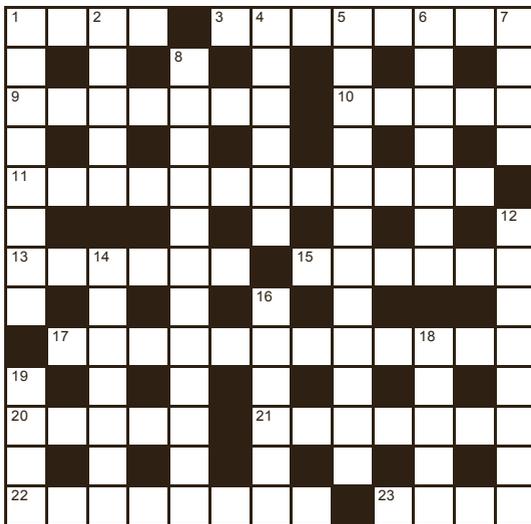
Concert promoter LCC Live, which hosted Runrig's The Last Dance at City Park in 2018, is organising Skipinnish's Stirling show. Its event manager, Carlie

Davidson, said: 'We're thrilled to be bringing Skipinnish and their special guests to Stirling's City Park for a special afternoon and evening of live music in the Big Top tent. Skipinnish's live performances are always out of this world, and we know that those attending will have a great night.'

'In addition, for those fans wanting to make a weekend out of it, we are offering the opportunity to camp before and after the concert, in a dedicated camping area close to the music arena. It is going to be a great weekend in Stirling, so please come along and join us.'

Tickets for Skipinnish in the Big Top Tent on Saturday August 22 in Stirling's City Park, as well as camping tickets for the Friday and Saturday nights, are on sale now from www.ticketline.co.uk; 0844 888 9991.

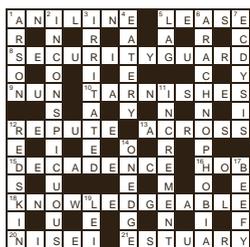
Crossword



Across

- 1 Press down (4)
- 3 When pressures from all sides are equal (8)
- 9 Confines (7)
- 10 Christmas song (5)
- 11 Colorado insect (6,6)
- 13 One of less importance (6)
- 15 Coin (6)
- 17 Many elements to a word (12)
- 20 Type of tv entertainment (5)
- 21 Shut out (7)
- 22 Giving (8)
- 23 Toe the line (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



Down

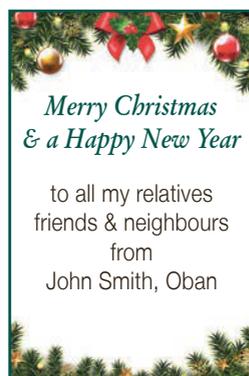
- 1 A motion to carry a ball to move forward (8)
- 2 Worth (5)
- 4 Squat (6)
- 5 Enforcement usually concealed from the public (6,6)
- 6 Type of paint (7)
- 7 Central part of an egg (4)
- 8 Greetings missive (8,4)
- 12 Resting place (8)
- 14 Heavy fabric with a woven design (7)
- 16 Entrepreneur (6)
- 18 Advertisement text (5)
- 19 Whirlpool (4)

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Published on 12th December

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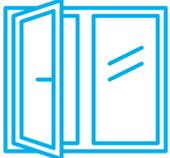
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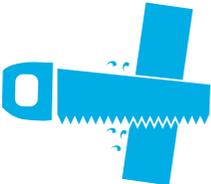
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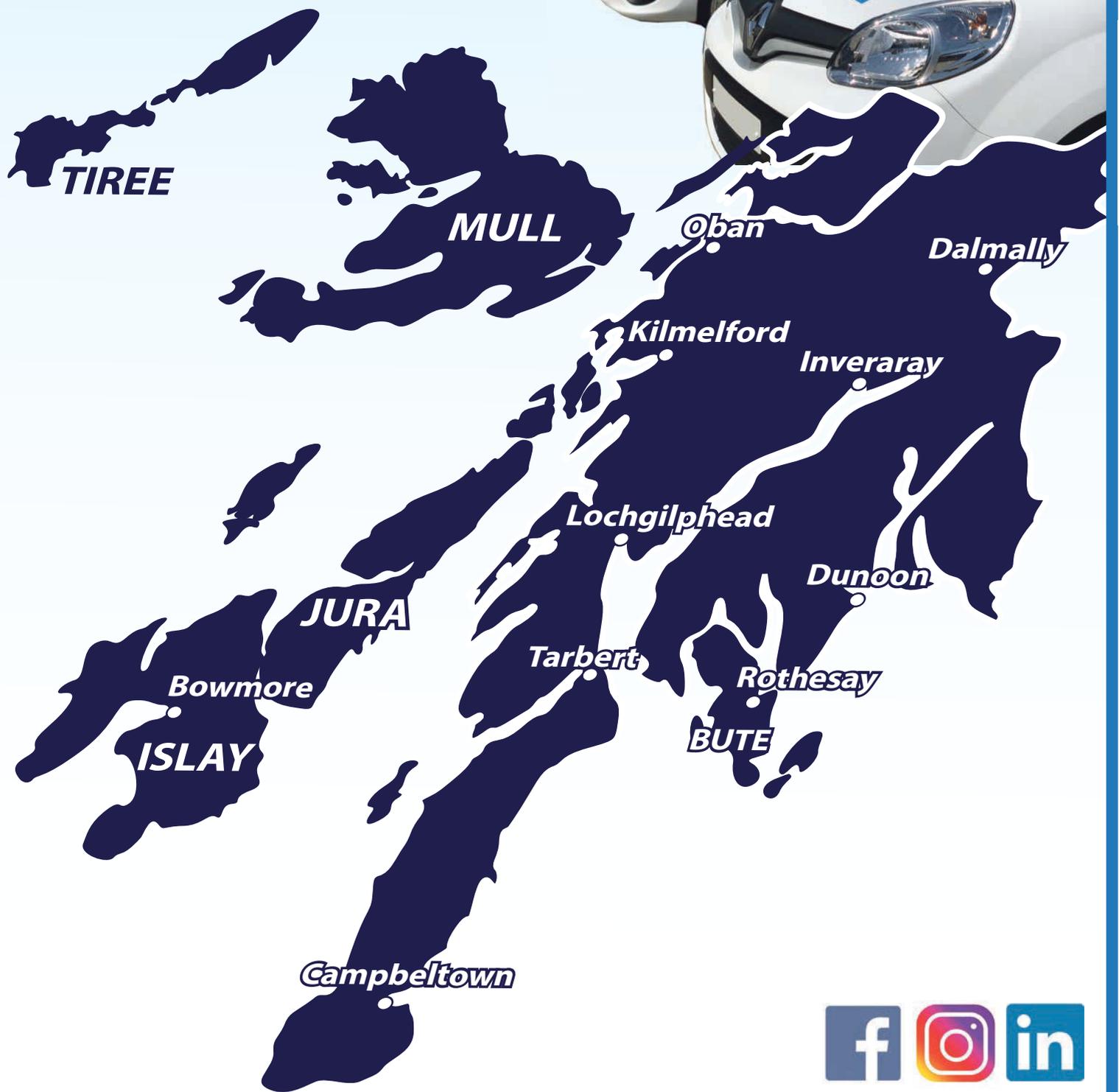
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Unions hit back at BBC programme

The four UK farming union presidents have responded to the BBC's documentary Meat: a threat to our planet?

They said: 'At no point did the documentary explain the vast differences between American meat production and UK production. This was a massive oversight considering the BBC's audience and would have left people with the impression that all meat is produced in the same way.'

'We know the public want to eat sustainably and they can do this by investing in the UK livestock sector, which is already producing some of the most climate-friendly beef and lamb in the world, and has an ambition to do even more.'

'Beef production in the UK is already 2.5 times more efficient than the global average and four times more efficient than places which are deforesting land. Simply showing the environmental impact of beef production in North and South America does nothing to help people make informed choices about food which can be grown



The UK unions' presidents are, left to right, Andrew McCornick, NFU Scotland; Ivor Ferguson, Ulster Farmers' Union; Minette Batters, NFU; and John Davies, NFU Cymru. Photograph: Cliff Donaldson

and reared in ways that offer benefits for the environment. 'For example, with the UK's climate, landscape and grass-based systems, we have the means, and the ambition, to provide quality, nutritious meat in ways that not only protect the environment but help mitigate the world's impact on the climate.'

'The documentary did, however, demonstrate the concerns UK farming has about future trade, and what

we could expect to see on our supermarket shelves if the government were to allow food into the country which has been produced in ways that would be illegal here.'

'If we are to maintain our values of environmental protection and animal welfare, which are at the core of UK farming, and we know the public want to uphold, future trade deals must ensure all imports meet the standard required of UK farmers.'

Around the markets

Islay - United Auctions on Friday November 22 sold 418 Suckled Calves and Store Cattle. Bullocks averaged £712.05 (+£41.66) per head to £1140 for a 610kg CharX from J Morris Jnr, Woodend and 218.24p/kg (-0.97p) to 262p/kg for a pen of 3, 254kg CharX from Dunlossit Farming, Keills. Heifers averaged £683.64 (+£54.91) per head to £930 for a pen of 4, 444kg CharX from C McMillan, Tallant and 224.52p/kg (+16.55p) to 265p/kg for a pen of 7, 279kg AAX from RSPB Aoradh Farm. An excellent show of spring born calves was presented to a strong force of mainland buyers resulting in sellers returning home highly satisfied with the day's proceedings.

LEADING PRICES PER HEAD
BLKS(234) - AAX - £1020, £980(3), Keppols; £970(2), Gartacharra; £950, Tallant; £900, Ardarnal. CHARx - £1140, Woodend; £950(3), Tallant;

£850, Aoradh. LIMx - £970, Gartacharra; £930, Tallant; £910(4), Coillabus; £900(2), Eskinish; £885(6), Keppols; £880, Paic A Chlassan; £855, Ballychattrigan. SIMx - £760, Carrabus.

HFRS - AAX - £850, Rockside Farm; £740(7), Aoradh Farm. BSHx - £610, Paic A Chlassan. BRBx - £650, Bayview. CHARx - £930(4), £855(2), Tallant; £795(7), £785(6), £775(3), £760(12), £755(3), £750(3), Aoradh Farm; £645(10), Dunlossit Farming, Keills; £630, Ardtalla Estate. LIMx - £885, Carrabus Farm; £880, Gartacharra; £875, Paic A Chlassan; £875(4), Keppols; £855(3), Ballychattrigan; £795, Carrabus Farm; £780, Ballychattrigan; £775(2), Kintra; £760(5), Keppols. SIMx - £790(2), Carrabus.

INCALF HEIFERS - £950(2), Kilmeny Farm.

LEADING PRICES PER KILO
BLKS - AAX - 243p(4), 238p(3),

Aoradh; 208p, Dunlossit Farming Keills. CHARx - 262p(3), 260p(3), Dunlossit Farming Keills; 259p(3), 258p(6), Aoradh; 255p, Dunlossit Farming Keills; 254p(2), 248p(6), 246p(8), Aoradh; 245p, 239p(2), 238p, Ardtalla Estate. LIMx - 260p, Smaladh; 256p(2), 253p(3), Dunlossit Farming Keills; 252p(2), Kintra; 252p(6), Dunlossit Farming Keills; 250p(11), 247p(4), Kilbride; 245p(2), 243p(4), Kintra; 243p(7), Dunlossit Farming Keills; 241p, Kintra. SIMx - 231p, Ardtalla Estates.

HFRS - AAX - 265p(7), Aoradh Farm. CHARx - 263p(3), 261p(6), 260p(11), 259p(3), 257p(4), 256p(7), 252p(2), Aoradh Farm; 232p, Ardtalla Estates. LIMx - 259p(4), Kintra; 253p(2), Kilbride; 250p(4), Kintra; 245p, Kilbride; 243p(3), Kintra; 242p, Woodend; 241p, Kintra; 240p(9), Kilbride. SIMx - 226p, Ardtalla Estates.

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THE ADVENTURE begins here

RENAULT IS NAMED 'EV MANUFACTURER OF THE YEAR' AT GREENFLEET AWARDS

- Renault scoops coveted title at the annual GreenFleet Awards
- It's the second win for Renault in this category following 2017 success
- New ZOE praised for its great value for businesses and impressive range
- Award recognises the brand's extensive EV car and commercial fleet
- Renault also shortlisted in the City Car and LCV categories

Renault has been named Electric Vehicle Manufacturer of the Year at the prestigious GreenFleet Awards. It's the second time the brand has received the coveted trophy, following a similar success in 2017.

The judges praised Renault's commitment to making electric vehicle development, with the New ZOE leading the brand's EV charge. With its 245 mile (WLTP) range, a completely new interior with recycled interior plastics and upholstery as well as excellent ownership costs, the pure electric hatchback sets new standards in its

segment.

Speaking about Renault's success Editor of Green Fleet News' Angela Pisanu said: "Standing out in a highly competitive category, Renault scooped the award for Electric Vehicle Manufacturer of the Year for making electric mobility a realistic option for business users, with the ZOE able to achieve a 245 mile range. Coupled with the new Master Z.E. large van, as well as the existing zero-emission small van, the Kangoo Z.E 33, Renault offers electric powertrains across all vehicle segments, up to 3.5 tonnes."

Groupe Renault Fleet Director Mark Dickens commented: "We're delighted to win Electric Vehicle Manufacturer of the Year at the Green Fleet Award for a second time. It once again demonstrates that Renault is a market leader in this sector, committed to delivering electric vehicles that appeal to both individual and corporate customers across the UK. New ZOE in particular demonstrates this approach, with its enhanced range, zero tailpipe emissions, low taxation and smooth, silent running making it an extremely attractive and cost

effective option for many fleet customers."

Renault's range of EV models currently runs to the Twizy and New ZOE, with plug-in hybrid (PHEV) and hybrid (HEV) E-TECH versions of the All New Captur and All-New Clio due in 2020. The brand's commercial fleet is equally extensive, with the Twizy Cargo, Kangoo Z.E. 33 and New Master Z.E. offering businesses a wide choice of zero tailpipe emissions vans.

For more information on Renault's Z.E call W.D Semple on 01499 302150

APPROVED RENAULT DEALER - WWW.WDSEMPLE.COM - FINANCE AVAILABLE * T&C'S APPLY

REG	MODEL	COLOUR	MILEAGE	PRICE	REG	MODEL	COLOUR	MILEAGE	PRICE
68	Renault Captur, TCe 90 Iconic	Blue/Black	1900	£12,500	66	Renault Kadjar Dyn S0Nav, Dci	black	32,000	£10,950
68	Renault Captur DCi 90 DYN SNAV	Black/Silver	6,600	£13,600	15	Dacia Duster 4x2 Laureate Dci	blue	41,000	£8,250
68	Renault Kadjar, 1.3 TCe DYN SNAV	Red	9,700	£15,250	64	Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 SE 5-door	blue	39,000	£5,650
68	Renault Clio PLAY TCe	Red	3,287	£9,350	64	Dacia Duster Laureate Dci 4x4	silver	43,000	£7,500
66	Peugeot 208 GT Line Hdi	red	14,000	£9,750	64	Renault Clio DYN DCi,	red	64,000	£5,650
66	Dacia Duster Prestige DCi 4x4	blue	36,000	£10,250	13	Renault Megan 5dr H/B DCi, Auto,	white,	48,000	£5,250
66	Fiat Punto Popular Plus	white	8,500	£6,950	62	BMW Series SPH 1.6	black	48,000	£7,950
66	Dacia Sandero DC1	silver	15,000	£8,500					

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PRESS RELEASE

RICS warns future Government: to go green, you must overhaul policies affecting the built environment



The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) has called on the future UK Government to move past Brexit and to overhaul current domestic policies to build a more sustainable country that future generations can be proud of and to fulfil aspirations to be carbon-neutral.

A new approach for the built and natural environment calls for any new Government to put the climate, sustainable construction, placemaking and future-proofed housing policy at the forefront of the agenda.

It also includes a clear call to action for the next leading party to take stock of the UK's top domestic issues and refocus how the built and natural environment can play a crucial role in future-proofing the UK's towns, cities and economy.

RICS offers more than 35 recommendations focussing on three main topics impacting the built and natural environment and its professionals: climate change, housing supply and high street rejuvenation.

Some of the key asks from RICS include:

- Level the stamp duty playing field - undertaking a full-scale review of stamp duty
- Make business rates fairer and easier for small businesses - promoting and supporting a thorough review of the current business rates system to ensure legislation matching the Non-Domestic Rating (Lists) Bill is re-introduced
- Level the playing field between

high streets and those businesses operating primarily on the internet. Government should evaluate the current state of play and assess whether an internet sales tax or similar could be employed to fund high street renewal

- VAT for repair should be cut - cut VAT for repair, maintenance and improvement works in existing buildings.

Hew Edgar, RICS head of UK Government Relations and City Strategy said: 'Chartered surveyors play a leading role in tackling our most pressing domestic issues in the UK and in key areas of the housing crisis, adapting to our changing environment, mitigating against climate change, and working on our high streets and their rejuvenation.

'We are keen to see real change in the way government approaches these key issues.

'These sectors, and our professionals who operate within them, are vital to economic development, helping to support stable and sustainable investment and growth across the UK.

'We believe the next government, regardless of configuration, needs to provide a holistic approach to support the built and natural environments.

'Failure to address the issues highlighted within the manifesto in a planned, cohesive way will have a serious impact on the wider economy, which will exacerbate existing housing and infrastructure deficit and hinder any aspirations to be one of the greenest countries in the world.'

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This is a hands-on role working in the outside section of the retail operation at our Fort William site, selling and delivering timber goods to customer walk-ins from the local area. We'll also expect you to keep this yard area tidy and organised at all times, as well as helping out when required in the retail sales office. All in all, it's a busy and mixed job where no two days will ever be the same.

Alongside a valid C1 licence and CPC certificate, we're looking for great customer service skills and the ability to prioritise your own workload. You'll also be articulate, numerate and methodical in your approach. A Forklift licence would be an added advantage, although training can be provided.

In return, you can look forward to developing a long-term career with one of the industry's leading employers. As well as the competitive salary, this position includes other benefits such as an excellent bonus, employer's contribution pension scheme and company sick pay.

For more information, and to apply, visit our website: www.bsw.co.uk/careers

Closing date for applications: Monday 9th December 2019.

The company's Job Applicant Privacy Notice is available at www.bsw.co.uk/careers/terms

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Want to join the team that delivers the most epic experience in the highlands?

Looking to be part of a company that is socially conscious and is taking real steps to make a difference?

Have a PCV licence?

As a visitor centre driver & tour guide, you'll lead tours in the underground world of Cruachan Power Station, aka The Hollow Mountain.

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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HIJOBS HIJOBS
RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT

Argyll Animal Aid will be having an exciting relaunch and restructure in the New Year! We are happy to announce that we are currently recruiting for the following posts:

2 x Full time Animal Welfare workers

1 x Senior Admin/Project Assistant:

hours can be negotiable on this post, so long as they fit the needs of the charity.

We are also recruiting for both sessional workers and volunteers!

Post salaries are dependent upon experience.

Please contact **Kristin MacKillop** for recruitment pack

kristin.mackillop@gmail.com

Argyll Animal Aid is a Registered Charity: SCO13211



Careplus (Bute)

Careplus are looking for reliable **Support Staff** to work on the Isle of Seil – 30 min south from Oban.

Staff will need to be drivers with a car / or car can be provided.

Staff Enhanced Conditions Include:

- Block Hours per day including Travel days
- All Travel Expenses
- Daily Allowance
- Free Accommodation in the area
- Signing on Payment

If you are interested please contact :

Careplus

19 Gallowgate, Rothesay-
Isle of Bute, PA20 0HR

Tel – 01700 502650

Email – info@careplusbute.com

RECRUITMENT

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

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PUBLIC NOTICES



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

Senior Buildings Officer

Located in either Portree, Benbecula, Stornoway or Oban

£37,418 – £45,241

Do you have significant practical experience of the building, civil engineering or utilities industry? Does that include works tenders and project management?

Do you want to be responsible for the management of a range of works and maintenance projects on the Scottish Governments crofting and farming estates?

Do you want to work day to day from an office close to home but get the opportunity to travel across Scotland?

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www.work-for-scotland.org



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

THE A83 TRUNK ROAD (INVERARAY) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION ON USE OF ROAD) (NO. 3) ORDER 2019

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS give notice that they have made the above Order under sections 2(1) and (2), 4(1) and 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, temporarily prohibiting traffic on that length of the A83 Tarbet - Lochgilphead - Campbeltown Trunk Road from its junction with the entrance to The Avenue Car Park, Inveraray in a generally northerly direction in Main Street South, Main Street West, Main Street East then in a north westerly direction in Front Street East and Front Street West to its junction with the entrance leading to Inveraray Castle, a distance of 575 metres or thereby. The Order, which is required to facilitate the Inveraray Christmas Parade 2019 and to enable members of the public to participate in this event will be in operation from 30th November until 1st December 2019. It is anticipated that the restrictions will be in place for approximately 30 minutes from 18.30 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

P REID
A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF



Rule 5.6(1)(a) NOTICE TO MRS ROSE-MAE CHIN or SLIWINSKI residing formerly at West Haven, Achintore Road, Fort William, FH33 6RW and residing formerly at 1 Hillside House, Belford Road, Fort William, PH33 613T and whose whereabouts to the petitioner are unknown Court ref. no. FTW-SQ8-19

An action has been raised in Fort William Sheriff Court by RICHARD SLIWINSKI, Pursuer, calling as a Defender MRS ROSEMAE CHIN or SLIWINSKI whose last known address was formerly at West Haven, Achintore Road, Fort William, PH33 6RW and formerly at 1 Hillside House, Belford Road, Fort William, PH33 613T. If MRS ROSE-MAE CHIN or SLIWINSKI wishes to defend the action she should immediately contact the sheriff clerk at Fort William Sheriff Court, Sheriff Court House High St, Fort William PH33 6EE from whom the service copy initial writ may be obtained. If she fails to do so decree may be granted against her.

Duncan James Swarbrick, Swarbrick Law, Speyside Business Centre, Dalfaber Industrial Estate, AVIEMORE PH22 1ST. Solicitor for the petitioner

Project Manager Wanted

Ardnamurchan Lighthouse:
"PROJECT 21"

18 months from January 2020
(with scope for extension)

Salary £24,000 + accommodation
(provided at the lighthouse)

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.

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Ionmhàs Fearainn Na H-Alba

Registered Company Number: SC170704.
Registered Charity Number: SC025610



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CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS

YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited.

Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited and the Advertiser on the one part and the Publisher on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.

1 Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.

2 The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.

3 The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.

4 An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertiser's order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person.

5 Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement.

6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by

the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.

7 The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.

8 Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular advertisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose.

9 The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other

charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.

10 Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.

11 Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.

12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions. Published by Wyvex Media Limited, PO. Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB, Tel: (01631) 568000
www.obantimes.co.uk and registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. <http://termsandconditions.wyvexmedia.co.uk>

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATIONS

M E McAllister
Port-A-Reidhleinn,
Kilchoman
0.101ha - Proposed new development
102075

R Campbell
10 Cornaigbeg, Isle of Tiree
0.2ha - Proposed new development
101015

Written comments from any member of the crofting community within the locality of the croft and any expressions of demand for the croft (which may be made public), may be sent to the Crofting Commission by 26 Dec 2019. Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW - info@crofting.gov.scot

Our privacy notice is available at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk/privacy-policy or on request. Full details at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk

Proposed Assigment of a Croft

Mr Duncan MacDougall is applying to assign the tenancy of the croft, School Croft, Island Of Colonsay, Colonsay & Oronsay, to Mr Andrew Abrahams, Poll Gorm, Island of Colonsay, Argyll, PA61 7YR.

Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW, info@crofting.gov.scot by 28th December 2019.

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD

CREATE A NEW CROFT DECISION(S) ISSUED

Application by C Rozga & E Rozga has been Approved. Orca Croft, Case 97109

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.

North Argyll Carers
Centre Ltd

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Thursday 12th
December 2019
Royal Hotel
Argyll Square, Oban
12 noon

We look forward to seeing you

Career opportunities



SITE MANAGER - OBAN

We are looking for an experienced Site Manager to join our team in Dunbeg Development in Oban. The successful candidate will be responsible for organising & monitoring progress, meeting deadlines and ensuring a safe working environment. This a full time/permanent position 8am-5.30pm (Mon-Fri).

Please send CV to jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk or call 01546 602989 for further information.



PUBLIC NOTICES

Argyll and Bute Council

PLANNING

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

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
19/02377/PP	Alterations to guest house and erection of extension to form owners accommodation	Ach Na Mara, Corran Esplanade, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 5AQ
19/02314/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse and garage	Plot 1 Land East Of Cala Na Sithe, Kilmore, Argyll And Bute
19/01968/PP	Erection of telecommunications equipment compound with 20 metre high lattice tower and associated works	Land East Of Bardrishaig, Cullipool, Isle Of Luig
19/02315/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse and garage	Plot 2 Land East Of Cala Na Sithe, Kilmore, Argyll And Bute
19/02237/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse (Amended design relative to planning permission reference 17/01100/PP to include sunroom)	Plot 2B, Land South Of Drimmin, Kilchrenan, Taynuilt, Argyll And Bute, PA35 1HF
19/02044/PP	Alterations and extensions to hotel and refurbishment of staff accommodation	Alexandra Hotel, Corran Esplanade, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 5AA
19/02349/LIB	Installation of 4 replacement external doors and formation of stone clad up stand externally at exposed foundations	Iona Abbey, Isle Of Iona, Argyll And Bute, PA76 6SQ
19/02351/PP	External alterations, including balcony, terraces and re-cladding works to main entrance	Isle Of Mull Hotel, Craignure, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute, PA65 6BB
19/02399/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land West Of Stalkers Cottage, Dalmally, Argyll And Bute
19/02396/PPP	Site for erection of dwellinghouse	Land North East Of Dunmhairi (Plot 3), Kilchrenan, Argyll And Bute
19/02400/LIB	Installation of 8 replacement timber louvre bell chamber screens, bird protection to belfry comprising bird spikes to external ledges and protective netting to back of new louvre screens	Old Parish Church, Glencruitten Road, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 4DN
19/02401/PP	Installation of 8 replacement timber louvre bell chamber screens, bird protection to belfry comprising bird spikes to external ledges and protective netting to back of new louvre screens	Old Parish Church, Glencruitten Road, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 4DN
19/02383/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 13/02675/PPP (Site for the erection of 5 dwellinghouses)	Land North West Of Cinnamara, Port Ellen, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute

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

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:

www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



SCOTTISHPOWER RENEWABLES (UK) LTD

ELECTRICITY ACT 1989

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017

ELECTRICITY (APPLICATIONS FOR CONSENT) REGULATIONS 1990

Notice is hereby given that ScottishPower Renewables (UK) Ltd, (company registration number NI028425 registered address The Soloist, 1 Lanyon Place, Belfast, Northern Ireland, BT1 3LP) has applied to the Scottish Ministers for consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 to construct and operate Sheirdrim Renewable Energy Development on land approximately 11 km south of Tarbert on the Kintyre Peninsula in Argyll and Bute (Central Grid Reference 181302, 657098). The proposed Development would have an installed capacity in excess of 100 MW comprising of up to 19 turbines with a ground to blade tip height of up to 149.9 metres, with an installed capacity of around 114 MW and two ground mounted solar arrays with an installed capacity of around 20 MW, producing a combined output of around 134 MW. A battery storage facility would also be installed with storage capacity of around 38 MW of energy. The proposed Development is subject to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and an EIA Report has been produced.

ScottishPower Renewables (UK) Ltd has also applied for a direction under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 that planning permission for the development be deemed to be granted.

A copy of the application, with a plan showing the land to which it relates, together with a copy of the EIA Report discussing the Company's proposals in more detail and presenting an analysis of the environmental implications, are available for public inspection in person, free of charge, during normal office hours at:

Location Name	Normal Opening Hours	Address
Argyll and Bute Council, 1A Manse Brae	Monday - Friday: 9.00am to 4.00pm	1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD

and is also available at the following location, during the opening hours of that facilities:

Location Name	Normal Opening Hours	Address
Whitehouse Community Hall	When the facilities are open for activities	Whitehouse PA29 6XR

The EIA Report can also be viewed at the Scottish Government Library at Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ; on the application website at https://www.scottishpowerrenewables.com/pages/sheirdrim_renewable_energy_development.aspx; or at www.energyconsents.scot.

Copies of the EIA Report may be obtained from ScottishPower Renewables (UK) Ltd (telephone: 0141 614 0451) at a charge of £1,000 hard copy and £15 on CD/DVD or USB. Copies of a short non-technical summary are available free of charge.

Any representations to the application may be submitted via the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit website at www.energyconsents.scot/Register.aspx; by email to the Energy Consents Unit mailbox at representations@gov.scot; or by post to the Scottish Government, Energy Consents Unit, 4th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU, identifying the proposal and specifying the grounds for representation.

Written or emailed representations should be dated, clearly stating the name (in block capitals), full return email and postal address of those making representations. Only representations sent by email to representations@gov.scot will receive acknowledgement.

All representations should be received not later than 10th January 2020, although Ministers may consider representations received after this date.

Any subsequent additional information which is submitted by the developer will be subject to further public notice in this manner and representations to such information will be accepted as per this notice.

As a result of a statutory objection from the relevant planning authority, or where Scottish Ministers decide to exercise their discretion to do so, Scottish Ministers can also cause a Public Local Inquiry (PLI) to be held.

Following examination of the environmental information, Scottish Ministers will determine the application for consent in one of two ways:

- Consent the proposal, with or without conditions attached; or
- Reject the proposal

General Data Protection Regulations

The Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit processes consent applications and consultation representations under The Electricity Act 1989. During the process, to support transparency in decision making, the Scottish Government publishes online at www.energyconsents.scot. A privacy notice and a fair processing notice are published on the Help page at www.energyconsents.scot. These explain how the Energy Consents Unit processes your personal data. If you have any concerns about how your personal data is handled, please email: Econsents_admin@gov.scot or write to Energy Consents Unit, 4th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU.

www.highland.gov.uk



TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

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

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

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
19/04990/PIP	Land 30M NW Of Mo Dhachaidh Ormsaibeg, Kilchoan	Erection of house
19/04874/FUL	5 Lochaber Place Fort William	Retrospective change of use of the property into a HMO
19/05115/FUL	The Longhouse Corpach, Fort William	Installation of 2 no. Pod Units for Holiday Letting

Time period for comments is 14 days

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PENTAX CAMERA - Asahi Pentax 35mm MV camera (not digital). Excellent condition. Collectors camera with original case, £40.00 Telephone 01546 605374

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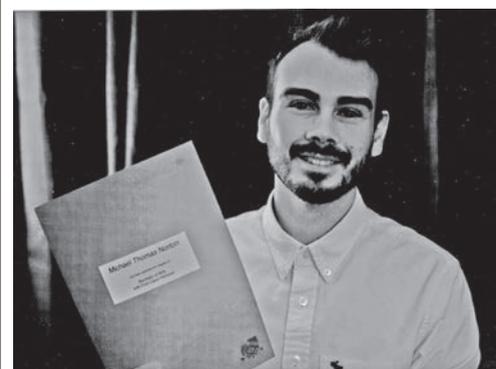
Happy 40th Michelle



Love Mum, Dad & family.

GRADUATION

MICHAEL T. HORTON



Recently graduated from Edinburgh Napier University with a Bachelor of Arts degree with First Class Honours in Television. He is the second son of Yvonne Gorman and the late Alan Norton, Broxburn and grandson of Morvern and the late Andy Smith, Dunbeg.

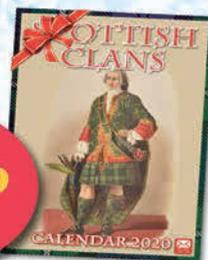
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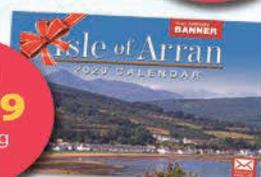


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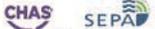
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DEATHS

CRUICKSHANK - Marion Cruickshank (Allan, McPate) suddenly at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee on Wednesday, November 20, 2019. Loving wife of the late John, sister of Neil, Anne and the late Catherine, much loved mum of Laura and Scott, mother-in-law of Mark, loving gran of Danielle, Carrie, Eilidh and Amber. Funeral service at Parkgrove Crematorium, Friockheim, Angus on Monday, December 2 at 3.30pm.

JACKSON - William MacLeod (Billy), 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.

MACINTYRE - Peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban surrounded by his loving family, on November 19, 2019, in his 88th year, Hugh MacIntyre, beloved husband of the late Flora, much loved dad of Fiona, Margaret, Shona and Hugh, and a loving grandad, great-grandad and great-great grandad. Rest in Peace.

MACKELLAR - Jessie (née Campbell). Peacefully, after long illness, bravely borne, Jessie passed away at her home Gowanbank, Bunessan, with all her family by her side on Wednesday, November 20, 2019. A devoted wife to Glen. Much loved mother to Alasdair and Colin. Granny to Elizabeth, Erin, Lexie and Sophia. Sister to Anne, Anda, Elizabeth and the late Lexie. Much loved Auntie and sister-in-law. Funeral will be held on Tuesday, December 3 at 12.30 p.m. at Bunessan Church.

SMITH - Peacefully at home, after a long illness, borne bravely, on November 22, 2019, James Smith, in his 68th year, of Lorn, Bridgend, Kilmichael Glassary, by Lochgilphead, youngest son of the late Hugh and Flora Smith (Balliemore Farm, Kilmichael Glassary), and dear brother, brother-in-law, uncle and cousin to all the family. A good neighbour, dear friend and associate to many in the farming community. Funeral service will be held in Lochgilphead Parish Church, on Friday, November 29, 2019, at 12.00 noon. Thereafter to Achnabreac Cemetery. Family flowers only. Donations to Marie Curie and MS Centre, Lochgilphead.

SWANN - Suddenly at home on Friday November 15, 2019, in his 72nd year, Malcolm Swann, much loved husband of Audrey, a dear dad, grandad and great-grandad. A celebration of Malcolm's life will be held at The Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban on Friday, November 29 at 1.00

p.m., thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection/donations if desired for the British Heart Foundation.

WILSON - Marjorie. Peacefully on November 22, 2019, Marjorie (MacFadyen), aged 95 years, beloved wife of the late A J Branks Wilson, much loved mum of Mhairi and son-in-law Eddie. Connections in Bothwell and Tiree. Funeral to take place in Daldowie Crematorium, Broomhouse on Thursday, November 28, 2019 at 12 noon to which all relatives and friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAMERON - Donnie and family would like to offer heartfelt thanks to the many family, friends, neighbours and well-wishers who showed great kindness and support on the sudden, sad loss of Iona. A special word of thanks to Bill Skene for his comforting funeral service and to Manson & MacBeath Funeral Directors for their sensitive and professional handling of the arrangements. Thank you to everyone who attended the service, the generous sum of £600 collected in memory of Iona has been forwarded to Fort William Golf Club.

JEFFREY - The family of Jason Jeffrey would like to express their thanks for the kindness shown for Jason. We were overwhelmed by the cards, meals, cakes, flowers and people popping in to support us at this time. We would also like to thank the Lochaber community, friends, family and colleagues who came to his Celebration of Life service and those who participated in the service. Thank you. Simon, Tracey, Dean and Rebecca.

KENNEDY - The family of the late Isobel (Bella) Kennedy would like to express their heartfelt thanks to the following; the medical and nursing staff of both the Lorn and Islands and Mull and Iona Hospital, Dr Grose of the Beatson Center, Glasgow; Donald MacDonald (Roderick and team) for their attentive and sensitive handling of all funeral arrangements; the staff and volunteers at Glen Iosal Housing in Tobermory for

their loving care and support they gave Isobel during her 10 year tenure there. She truly flourished and was surrounded by a caring team, led by Linda Noble. Thank you also to Reverends David Carruthers and Liz Gibson for their thoughtful and moving sermons. Lastly, thank you to all her friends and extended family for their notes, calls and flowers, as well as those who travelled distances to join us on the 19th and 21st November, your expressions of sympathy will forever be remembered.

MILLIKEN - The family of John would like to thank everyone for their kindness before and after his recent passing. Grateful thanks to Ian MacInnes and all at D&A Munn for their care, compassion and professionalism. To the Rev. Donald MacKinnon for his sincere and heartfelt service and also to the church elders, and organist Ken Moncrieff. A particular and sincere thank you to Norman Nicholson, Helen Jordan and the Oban Bach Choir for their extremely moving and exquisite tribute and also to family friend Jane Pearce for her beautiful Bach flute solo - how John would have loved these! We would also like to thank Petals of Oban for the beautiful flowers and to the Royal Hotel for their excellent service and buffet. Finally sincere thanks to all who attended the church and graveside and who generously donated to Mary's Meals. At peace now.

MEMORIALS

CRYANS - Mr George Carlin Cryans born January 23, 1935, sadly departed November 30, 2013 in his 80th year. George served his country for 15 years in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders serving in Singapore, Oman, Borneo, Berlin and at home in Scotland. A keen animal lover, bird breeder and Gamekeeper but his proudest achievement was being a father and a devoted husband of Catherine, married for 58 years.

George, we never knew that morning that God would call your name
In life we loved you dearly
In death we do the same
Still loved and missed very much.

- Love from Cathy, Ann and Willie and Charlotte and John Paul and family.

GILLIES - In loving memory of Graeme, who died on December 3, 2006.

No longer in our lives to share
But in our hearts you're always there.

- With love Dad, Mam, Scott, Kevin, Sarah, Cameron and Rory, Ross, Asha, Sandy and Lauren.

MACCOLL - In loving memory of John, devoted dad and dad-in-law, who died November 30, 2010.

Those we love don't go away

They walk beside us every day,
Unseen, unheard, but always near,
Still loved, still missed and very dear.
- Elspeth and Billy.

MACDONALD - Mary Remembering



Mary MacDonald
23.8.66 30.11.17

Beloved mum, daughter, sister, partner, sister in law, aunty and great aunt.

A heart of gold stopped beating
Two shining eyes at rest
God broke our hearts to prove to us
He only takes the best
We know you had to leave us
But you didn't go alone
For part of us went with you
The day he called you home
To some you are forgotten
To others just part of the past
But to us who loved and lost you
The memories will always last.

MACDONALD - Remembering with love my darling daughter Mary, who passed away November 30, 2017.

You always had a smile to share
Time to give, time to care
A loving nature kind and true
These are the memories we have of you.

Until we meet again
Wait for me at the gates
Rest in Peace.

- Your loving mum and family, Ballachulish and away.

MACDONALD - Marybell. Precious memories of my loving mum, who passed away on December 1, 2008.

Always loved and remembered.
- Angus, Morar.

MACDOUGALL - In loving memory of my much loved mum Grace MacDougall, called home on November 30, 2018, also remembering all loved ones gone before.

Those we love don't go away
They walk beside us every day
Unseen, unheard but always near

So loved, so missed, so very dear.
- Shelagh.

MACINNES - In loving memory of my dear wife Ina, who passed away on November 28, 2010.

No tears, no verse, no words can say,
How much I miss you every day
- Love Roddy xx

MACINNES - In loving memory of a dear mum and granny, who passed away on November 28, 2010.

The good times we had as a family

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A beautiful nature, a heart of gold,
These are memories, we'll always hold.

Love and miss you always
- Fiona, Brian and Euan, Kevan, Claire and Ellie xx

MACINTOSH - In loving memory of my dear wife, mum and gran, who died on November 27, 1979.
Always remembered.

- Inserted by her husband and family, Isle of Barra.

MACINTYRE - In loving memory of Calum, who died November 27, 2015.
Never forgotten.

- Joyce.

MACINTYRE - In loving memory of Calum, who died November 27, 2015.
Remembered every day x.

- Mark, Donna, Gary and Shannon.

MACKENZIE - Treasured memories of Willie, much loved husband, dad and grandpa, who passed away on November 29, 2008.
Forever in our thoughts.

- Neileen and family.

MACLACHLAN - Precious memories of my dear husband Ian, who passed away on November 28, 2016.
Silent thoughts, memories dear

Treasured more each passing year.

- Chrissie, Caalmojo, Kilmory.

MACLACHLAN - In memory of Ian MacLachlan, a dear father and senair, who passed away November 28, 2016.
Worthy of remembrance.

- Allan and family.

MACLACHLAN - Precious memories of our dad, senair and sinn senair Ian, who passed away November 28, 2016.

Silent thoughts of times together

Hold memories that will last forever.

- Catherine, Bill, Iain, Katie and families.

MACLACHLAN - Precious memories of a dear father and senair Ian MacLachlan, who died November 28, 2016.
No need for words

Except to say
Still loved and missed in every way.

- Joan, Emma and Kirsty x.

MACLACHLAN - Treasured memories of our dad, senair and sinn senair Ian, who passed away November 28, 2016.

Every day in some small way
We miss you more than words can say

In our hearts you will always stay

Loved and remembered every day.

- Morag, David, Allan, Angus, Iain and families.

MACLEOD - Precious memories of Murdo, who died on November 29, 2017. Missed every minute of every day.

- Jane and family.

McMONAGLE - Treasured memories of Peter, who passed away on December 3, 2014, a dearly loved husband, father, granda and great-granda.

The rolling stream of life rolls on

But still the vacant chair
Recalls the love, the voice, the smile

Of the one who once sat there.
- From Phil and families x

WEATHERALL - In loving memory of Katie, our dear mum and granny, who died November 27, 2018.

Always in our thoughts and hearts.

- Anne, Carine, Wolfgang, Andy and Jamie.

Fondly remembered and sadly missed by her sister Annie.

Co-op shares early good tidings

Dozens of good causes across Oban and the West Highlands received an early Christmas present this week when Co-op revealed a £221,000 funding boost from its members.

The money will be shared by 45 organisations, all of whom are making a difference to communities throughout the region. These include Ewen's Room, Lochaber Sensory Care and Loch Fyne Pipe Band.

This is the latest round of pay outs from the community fund and brings the amount Co-op members have invested in causes in Oban and the West Highlands since the scheme launched in September 2016 to £736,000.

Nationally, nearly 4,500 groups are sharing more than £17 million, bringing the total value of the fund since its launch to more than £56 million.

Rebecca Birkbeck, director of Community and Shared Value at the Co-op, said: 'The local community fund is now a well-established way of supporting local causes who help to make communities safer, happier and healthier places to live and we're delighted to support such a wide range of groups.'

'By choosing their local cause online, our members are telling us what really matters in their communities and we have used this information to help us identify new groups to support throughout next



Community groups have been given a cash boost from the Co-op.

year. Feedback from our Community Wellbeing Index - which highlights the areas where communities can benefit from support - has shown we should be focused on protecting and improving community spaces, helping people reach their full potential by developing their skills and promoting health and well-being.'

When members shop with the Co-op, one per cent of

what they spend on selected Co-op branded products and services goes to the community fund.

By joining the Co-op's membership scheme, shoppers can contribute to the money raised for the causes and they can choose which of these causes they wish to support by logging on to the Co-op's membership website at www.coop.co.uk/ membership.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

I have been asked at different times and in different ways, in the immensity of this world and in the blink of an eye that is our time on earth, 'Do I matter? Does what I do matter?'

And, of course, the answer is, absolutely.

I think Jesus would say our meaning is wrapped in the Great Commandment to love God with our whole being and to love our neighbours as ourselves. He similarly gives us a new

commandment to love one another as he has loved us.

To those closest to us, our love matters and matters greatly. It is visiting the lonely or grieving, taking care of the neighbour's dog and/or children during an emergency.

I see and experience this daily, but especially when I am given the honour of leading a funeral service.

It is hard to enumerate all the many large and small kindnesses shown to me on a regular basis that do not so much give meaning to my life, but make the living of it sweeter.

You and I, all by ourselves, are inconsequential on

the world stage. But that is only if we see ourselves as individuals.

Our small actions matter and make a difference. My bank account would be more than seven times greater if I received a penny from everyone in the world rather than if one person gave me £10,000,000.

We can love our larger world and neighbour by merely giving up our conveniences. Choosing public transportation over our car. Cutting out single-use plastics.

These are just a couple of the many, many small things we can do for the environment we live in that,

multiplied many times over, can make a large difference in the common good.

All these actions can be rooted in a sense of duty, out of guilt or out of necessity. But they can also flow out of a deep spiritual connection to God and all that God has graciously given to us. And that deep spiritual connection is love.

I find meaning in life by being a part of God's family and this family is committed to loving the world and sacrificing, if need be, to be a part of the loving solution to all that ails us.

Reverend Tom Telfer, Kilchrenan and Dalavich, linked with Muckairn.

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Shinty season comes to

Oban Camanachd finished second in the Mowi Premiership and Skye Camanachd U17s lifted the Mowi London Shield following the shinty action on Saturday November 23.

Mowi Premiership

Lochaber v Oban Camanachd – points to Oban Camanachd

Oban Camanachd finished second in the Mowi Premiership after being awarded the points when Lochaber were unable to fulfil their fixture at Spean Bridge.

Lochaber last played on Saturday September 14 when they lost 3-0 to Kyles Athletic and this was the fourth attempt to play the match.

The fixture was previously twice postponed because of an unplayable pitch and also didn't go ahead in mid-October when Lochaber were deducted two points as they were unable to raise a team, a penalty which confirmed their relegation.

Lochaber are preparing their field for next season, whilst Oban Camanachd were keen to play the match knowing two points would seal a second-place finish with Lovat and Kyles Athletic dropping to third and fourth place respectively.

Camanachd Association officials consulted all the clubs involved and everyone agreed Oban Camanachd be awarded the points.

The outcome completed the Mowi Premiership season.

It means that during their first season in charge, Oban Camanachd boss Stephen Sloss and his assistant Kenny Wotherspoon have led the side to Scottish Sea Farms Glasgow Celtic Society Cup success as well as finishing runners up in all three national competitions - the Mowi Premiership, the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup and the Artemis Macaulay Cup.

Mowi London Shield final

Skye Camanachd U17 4 Newtonmore U17 0

Skye Camanachd U17s lifted the Mowi London Shield for the second

successive season with a 4-0 victory over Newtonmore U17s at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree.

The final had been delayed as several of the Newtonmore players featured for their second team squad which clinched the Mowi North Division 1 title the previous weekend. A number of neutral venues were considered for the final but, with pitch maintenance plans in place across the Highlands, none were available so there was a coin toss, which Skye won, to decide who should host the final.

Pipers Angus MacKinnon and Seonaidh MacLeod led the teams onto the field. Both sides looked strong, particularly down the centre of the pitch with Skye's Ross Gordon and Newtonmore's Struan Ross lining up in full centre positions.

Skye made a stunning start, taking the lead within the first 60 seconds. Calumn MacKay launched a good hit-in from the right which found Taylor Matheson who turned his marker and ran into the 'D'. Newtonmore goalie Xavio Vastano darted off his line but Matheson forced the ball by him and into the net.

Despite the setback, Newtonmore settled into the match but Skye's Taylor Matheson got his second on 19 minutes when he gathered Ross Gordon's free-hit from deep inside his own half. Although Xavio Vastano got his legs to the ball, he couldn't keep it out.

The large crowd were being thoroughly entertained and Xavio Vastano made a good stop with his feet to thwart Archie MacDonald.

The action continued to flow after the re-start. Taylor Matheson juggled the ball through on goal but ran out of space whilst, at the other end, Ritchie Irvine was crowded out as he tried to shoot.

Xavio Vastano threw himself at Taylor Matheson's shot, parrying the ball for a corner from which Ross Gordon sent a 25-yarder wide.

Newtonmore head coach Graeme Irvine pushed defender Declan Brannan, who featured for the Newtonmore first team towards

the end of the season, forward and he almost steered a corner from the right on goal.

Skye head coach Davie Pringle resisted the temptation to respond by pulling one of his key players back into defence and his decision paid off when Taylor Matheson completed his hat-trick on 67 minutes. Taylor Matheson and Skye substitute Angus Gilpin both saw shots saved by keeper Vastano before Calumn MacKay played the ball back into the goal area where Taylor Matheson sent a low scorching shot past a helpless keeper from wide on the left.

Skye sealed the win on 71 minutes. Cameron Campbell won the ball from a Newtonmore goal-hit and fed Archie MacDonald who released Cameron MacKay and he ran at the Newtonmore defence before unleashing a glorious strike which beat keeper Xavio Vastano inside his right post.

Referee Calum Girvan brought a keenly contested but sporting encounter to an end and John Angus Gillies from sponsors Mowi was on hand to present the London Shield, donated by London Camanachd in 1989, to Skye skipper Murphy Henderson.

The Douglas Mackintosh Memorial Medal for man of the match went to Skye's Ross Gordon who was excellent throughout. Hat-trick hero Taylor Matheson, buckshee back Ross MacKinnon and William James Sutherland, who also plays for the Skye U14s, were also impressive for the islanders, whilst captain Struan Ross, Declan Brennan and Charlie Ferguson all shone for Newtonmore.

Stephen Sloss looks back on a first term as Oban Camanachd manager

It has been a long season for Oban Camanachd. It started with an emphatic 5-1 friendly win over Glasgow Mid Argyll at Mossfield



Skye Camanachd celebrate after winning the London Shield for the second year running. Photographs: Neil Paterson.

just before Valentine's Day and ended in late-November as Christmas shopping lists are being prepared and festive plans are firmed up.

It was a campaign which saw the side, under the new management of boss Stephen Sloss and assistant Kenny Wotherspoon, play every match possible. They reached all three cup finals, winning the Scottish Sea Farms Glasgow Celtic Society Cup and finishing runners up in the Artemis Macaulay Cup and the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup, whilst also finishing second in the Mowi Premiership.

The second friendly match of the pre-season sparked optimism as the Oban side beat Newtonmore 3-1. However there was a faltering start to Oban Camanachd's league programme as their first four games yielded just two points from draws with Lovat and Kinlochshiel before narrow defeats to Kingussie and Kyles Athletic.

Given Oban Camanachd finished the season just three points off top spot, these dropped six points proved costly. The slow start could be put down to the new management team introducing their new ideas and the squad adjusting accordingly. 'I hope that's what it was because it certainly was a new set up,' said

Stephen Sloss. 'I keep saying that it's these fine margins that make the difference but, because it was mine and Kenny's first year when we brought in a lot of new stuff, hopefully this year we are all now familiar with each other and we can kick even further ahead next year.'

'There were dropped points in these early games but the one that really killed us was the refereeing decisions which cost us against Kyles Athletic at Tighnabruach.'

Beating Oban Celtic in the Celtic Society sparked a 12-match winning run during which Oban Camanachd won the Celtic Society Cup, beating Kyles Athletic 2-0 in the final.

With the side battling in all competitions, a second league defeat to Kingussie followed soon after, one of three matches Stephen Sloss reckons cost the side a real season to remember. He said: 'Statistically, Oban Camanachd have probably had the best season we've had for a long time. But, ultimately, three games cost us an historic season. We lost to Kingussie in the league at Mossfield. If we had beaten them, it would have set us up for the end of the season.'

'Losing the Macaulay at Mossfield, again to Kingussie, and really not turning up in the Scottish were the other two disappointments.'

'However you need to remember we are quite a young team so these boys will be better again next season. This year was a big experience for them and it was all fresh so hopefully we can kick on and build on what we have achieved this year. Everyone knows the standards we are expecting here at the club and I believe we will keep going next season and get over that last line which is what's needed to bring big trophies home.'

Getting 'over the line' is the next level for the club. The Macaulay final against Kingussie was a close affair but Oban Camanachd didn't do themselves justice in the once-abandoned Camanachd Cup Final against Newtonmore.



The Douglas Mackintosh Memorial Medal was presented to Player of the Match Ross Gordon, Skye, by past Camanachd Association president John Mackenzie.



Skye Camanachd captain Murphy Henderson (right) receives the London Shield from Mowi's John Angus Gillies.



CAMANACHD ASSOCIATION
COMANN NA CAMANACHD

a close



Skye's Taylor Matheson, centre, opens the scoring in the first minute.

The only blemish in Oban Camanachd's final run of six matches following the Camanachd Cup Final was a 1-0 reverse at Lovat in a match Sloss's side did enough to win.

'We did plenty fitness work and were fit all year,' said Sloss who also asks a lot of himself as he added: 'I also learned a bit tactically on other teams this year and there are some mistakes I won't make again next season.'

Sloss and Wotherspoon wisely used the end of the season matches to give game time to some of their promising youngsters, helping increase the size of the first team pool for next season. The starting line-up already includes Scotland U21 caps Daniel Sloss, Daniel MacCuish and Daniel MacVicar with keeper Cameron Sutherland unfortunate not to make the cut for the match against the Irish. The last six matches of the season saw increased action for Craig Easton, who looks composed in defence, midfield powerhouse Blair MacFarlane, who will surely prove to be a shrewd acquisition from Taynuilt, and busy offensive players Lewis Buchanan and Ross Campbell.

Sloss acknowledges the rich vein of youthful talent at his disposal. 'We are very lucky to have some of the best young players in the country coming through and there is a lot of

work at the club that goes into that.

'It's difficult giving them game time over the season because we have such a strong squad but we need to get these boys in and playing and we've taken the opportunity over the last few matches to do that.

'Playing-wise, we have some boys sitting in their later years in a playing sense so we don't want to get to a point where they leave and there's nothing coming through. So we want to kick forward and be in a position that if a player leaves our squad, we have a young player who is up to standard and ready to come in to replace him.

'I think the young ones are only going to get better. We have a few on the fringes. It is also important to give them game time with Lochside rather than be a substitute with the first team and only get 15 to 20 minutes on the pitch.

'I think if we can keep these young boys coming through, Oban Camanachd could be quite a dominant side over the next five to six years.'

The overall position at Oban Camanachd is positive and the progress made is evident, something echoed by the manager who is very much up for the challenge next season. 'I think overall we have had a bit of a mental block in a couple of finals but I feel that after the experiences

Continued on page 52

new SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

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The two entries who got nearest the ball and each receive £25 are:
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Supporting role for Roberts after ankle injury

It was a tough day at the office for Oban Lorne RFC last weekend as they suffered a disappointing 26-17 defeat on the road to Waysiders Drumpellier.

With only 15 players available, it was always



Oban Lorne captain Iwan Roberts.

going to be a struggle but coaches described the game as a 'courageous display' and are confident things will improve for this week's home tie against Clydebank.

Sharing their confidence is Oban Lorne RFC captain Iwan Roberts who will now spend the rest of the season on the sidelines following a nasty ankle injury sustained against Dalziel the previous week.

Talking about his injury and the way forward for the club Roberts said: 'First and foremost, I am absolutely gutted.

'I knew as soon as I was tackled that it was more than a couple of weeks out, but when the doctor said it was a fracture, I was a bit shocked.

'I've been really enjoying playing this season and it's a shame I won't be on that team sheet for likely the rest of the season which will get very

interesting between the top four teams.

'On a personal level, this is the first serious injury I've sustained in 17 years of playing rugby, so it's not bad going.

'Working in Atlantis has its great perks, as I have access to the gym to keep in shape, but the challenge will be a psychological one. I'm not one to sit still.'

Looking ahead, Roberts added: 'We have great leaders in the squad so I'm not worried about that side of things.

'Vice captain Owen Macdonald will take over on the pitch, with the help of many experienced players in amongst the younger guys in the team who are finding their feet and voices.

'Luckily Ferg McCoss joined us last season and will relish the challenge of direct-

ing the team at fly-half and we will hopefully see Finlay Carmichael's return before long.

'My role for the rest of the season will be supporting the boys in any way I can, from some coaching to ensuring

there are hot showers and cold beers for afterwards.'

Elsewhere, Oban Lorne Ladies now have until February to regroup after their final game of the season against Annan RFC Ladies was cancelled due to the

RUGBY

opposition failing to raise a team through injury problems. The green army will be back on the park early in the new year for the shield competition.



Oban Lorne Rugby Football Club's mini rugby section is going from strength to strength with 18 P1/2/3s, 19 P4/5s and 33 P6/7 members. These magnificent numbers are down to the commitment, dedication and quality of the amazing volunteers at the club. All new players are welcome to go along and give rugby a try on a Wednesday evening from 6 until 7pm indoors at Oban High School. Photograph: Lucy Stewart, Oban Lorne RFC.

Continued from page 51

we have had this year, it will be different next season. I honestly believe we will win the next national final we are in.'

Few would bet against that assertion and exciting times could be just around the corner for the Oban Camanachd support.

Alan MacRae

Scotland U21 head coach Alan MacRae took a number of positives from his squad's recent meeting with their Irish counterparts in Dublin.

The talented Scots held a narrow lead following a pulsating first half before the hosts pulled away after the re-start.

Alan said: 'The main positive is the experience gained by the seven players who made their debuts at U21 level. It is nigh on impossible to explain to them the intensity and physicality of play against the hurlers. There is a huge step up from U17 level to U21 level where they played against top class, up-and-coming hurlers from first tier counties.

'All the players showed good determination and gave everything.

'They kept competing to the best of their ability, even during a difficult second half when their heads could easily have gone down.'

Scotland led 13-12 at half-time before a combination of the re-introduction of Ireland top-gun Mark Kehoe from Tipperary and a key tactical switch eventually saw the Irish run out convincing winners.

Alan explained: 'We scored some good goals and com-

peted well in the first half. However, we let the Irish off the hook as we didn't convert our two-point opportunities and, on a number of occasions, we shot for goal from distance rather than taking the point by sending the ball over the bar.

'In the second half, the Irish came out with renewed determination and they brought their star player, Mark Kehoe from All-Ireland winners Tipperary, back on. He proved in the second half to be too hot to handle for our defenders and he scored four goals.

'The Irish management also changed formation by dropping an extra defender into the centre of defence. He made a huge impact and we struggled to pin him down and stop him from intercepting our attacks and orchestrating their forward movement. The Irish fitness and quality was there for all to see and they took advantage during the second half as our boys continued to try hard but struggled to make an impact on their game flow.'

There remains a clear pathway on the shinty side for players to progress from U17 level to the U21s then onto the senior side.

Alan agreed: 'This experience is essential for the players who could potentially move into the senior ranks. Some of the players they faced are first tier hurlers who are already at the top of their game and who are playing in senior county competition.

'The Irish always take the U21 international extremely seriously, so this experience will stand our players in good stead for stepping up to com-

pete for places in the senior ranks in the future.'

The lessons from the recent encounter are clear and Alan added: 'I would like to think we, as a team, will have learnt that you cannot give the Irish an inch or they will take a mile. The importance of hitting the two-pointers and keeping the scoreboard ticking over and pushing your advantage when you have it is paramount and something that we need to be better prepared for next year.'

Some of the game's brightest young talent from Oban and Lochaber gave a great account of themselves, none more so than 17-year-old Oban Camanachd defender Daniel Sloss who collected his second U21 cap, having previously played twice for the U17s. 'We played Daniel at full back and he had a very good game,' said Alan. 'He had the experience from last year's game so was given extra responsibility because of that. Nothing fazes him and he reads the game well. He was very aware and never got caught with hurlers making runs behind him.'

Daniel's clubmates Daniel MacVicar and Daniel MacCuish also made their mark.

Alan said: 'Daniel MacVicar did a lot of good work from the half forward position. And not just in an attacking sense, where he scored a goal, as I recall at least one instance where he had to track all the way back to the half back position to prevent a goal-scoring opportunity.

Daniel MacCuish is another promising player and he came on at wing centre. It was a difficult shift for him against good opponents but

he gave everything for the cause.' Oban Celtic's Ross MacMillan made up an Oban quartet.

'Ross started at half back but he can play anywhere,' said Alan.

'The more experienced players started the match, and Ross came into that category, with the debutants mainly coming off the bench.

'Findlay MacDonald from Lochaber was selected for a second time.

'He's a worker. He got a goal last year but was kept busy in midfield this time. He's another who you can rely on to put in a good shift.'

Kilmallie's Innes Blackhall also claimed a second cap with MacRae saying: 'Innes played in the centre of the half forward line and we used him as a target man.

'He won a lot of ball in the game last year and he did the same again this time around, playing a lot of good balls forward.'

Debutant Lachie Shaw from Fort William also caught the manager's eye.

'Lachie's a cracking player and he puts himself about. Like Daniel Sloss, he was with the Scotland U17s in Ireland this summer and he came on in our forward line.

'He's clearly a good player. I'm looking forward to seeing him in the premiership next season'

'Nine or ten players from the squad can play again next year and the challenge for them is to push on and be key guys in 2020. There is also a chance for others to stake a claim.'

As to the future, Alan MacRae said: 'As a manager, I always enjoy the process and

working with the U21s, who are a great bunch of boys. Although we're disappointed with the result this year, I have really enjoyed the experience over the last few years, with last year's good win in Ireland the highlight.

'I am now going to enjoy a wee break over the close season but I'm looking forward to working with Jamie Matheson in our new co-managers' role with Lovat in the forthcoming domestic season.'

Camanachd Association AGM preview

Representatives from shinty clubs all over Scotland will gather at the Mutha West End Hotel, Fort William as the Camanachd Association's annual general meeting takes place on Friday November 29.

The much-respected John MacKenzie, a past Camanachd Association president and Newtonmore stalwart, is to take over from Jock Turner who steps down after 12 years as Camanachd Association Chieftain.

There will be a vote for the vice chieftain role with Fort William's Richard Gall and Caberfeidh's David MacMaster vying to take over from Alex Mcnaughton who has left his post.

Camanachd Association Youth Director Willie MacDonald from Fort William stands for re-election, whilst Oban's Roddie MacCuish, Glasgow's Burton Morrison and current Camanachd Association referee Ross Brown have all put

their names forward to take a place on the board.

Finance director Daniel Palombo has to stand down after six years as a board member but he will remain on the finance committee, whilst Wendy Chamberlain also leaves her position on the board.

A number of special resolutions will be put before members who will have the chance to vote on matters pertaining to consent regarding players aged under 16, procedures surrounding substitutes, the wearing of helmets, 'kicks' where the ball plays the player and clubs having to provide the name of a registered and qualified goal judge.

There is also expected to be discussion around setting up a working group to look at fixtures.

2020 Artemis Macaulay Cup draw

No sooner has the 2019 shinty season finished than it's time for one of the game's big events as the 2020 Artemis Macaulay Cup draw is 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.

Join Duncan and Jim and their guests from the Macaulay Association and elsewhere when the Sports Show programme starts at

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Oban Ladies court success through social media

Since launching in January Oban Ladies Squash Team have enjoyed meteoric success on the west of Scotland circuit.

Having won five from six matches played so far, they are gaining a reputation of being a 'must play' target nationally.

Success on the court is being matched in other areas.

A recent media campaign for a Bootcamp Weekend, sponsored by Neil McGougan Building contractor Ltd, which attracted 27 participants, earned the team recognition from Scottish Squash.

Bootcamp

The bootcamp took place during Women's Squash Week when clubs across the country were invited to hold and run an event to celebrate the sport.

Following successful public-

ity of the event via the team's social media platforms, managed by the team's press officer Charmaine Love, the sport's national body has awarded the team an exclusive coaching resource in acknowledgement of its commitment to promoting ladies squash.

Team coach Colin MacNiven told The Oban Times: 'This year's results have been phenomenal considering we only launched the team in January.'

'As a team and individually, the ladies have shown they can compete to an extremely high standard.'

'We were delighted to be recognised by Scottish Squash. It is testament to the commitment of the team on and off the court.'

Competing against teams

SHOOTING

from Dollar, Dunblane, Scotstoun and Helensburgh, Oban Ladies regularly field three teams of five players with highlights this year including winning the overall Central Championship at Bridge of Allan and winning two from three sections at an inter-club competition at Glasgow's Maryhill Club, Scotland's oldest squash club.

High standard

Such is the high standard within the Oban club, competition for places is fierce.

'Currently we have 22 ladies regularly training, which is a fantastic number for a small town, added Colin.'

'Selecting teams for matches can sometimes be a bit of a headache but it's a good problem to have and makes



Members of Oban Ladies Squash Team with coach Colin MacNiven.

everyone put in that extra bit effort in training.'

The team are now looking forward to their next competi-

itive match against Dunblane on December 8.



Kilmory Under 14s.

Kilmory win Under-14 Development Trophy

The Under-14 Shinty Development Trophy took place at Mossfield Stadium, Oban, on Sunday November 24.

It was guaranteed there would be a new name on the trophy this year as Kilmory and Ardnamurchan competed to see who would take home the silverware.

Referee Alec MacVicar got the game under way at 1pm.

Within five minutes, Euan Gilmour had netted for the Mid Argyll side and at that point it looked as though Kilmory may have had the firepower to take the game away from the Ardnamurchan team.

The Ardnamurchan team then started to find a foothold in the game and were awarded a penalty for a late swing in the box. Freddie Paterson

stood up but put the shot past the post. Freddie Paterson made amends for his earlier miss when he found the back of the net on 25 minutes.

The second half started where the first left off and Eilidh Cameron obliged with her customary goal a minute after starting, however Ardnamurchan replied 10 minutes later.

The game was in the balance but Eilidh Cameron got the decisive goal on 46 minutes.

Euan McMurdo, Regional Shinty Development Officer, expressed his thanks to the players, coaches and spectators for their hard work throughout the year, referee Alec MacVicar for his handling of the game and the ground staff at Mossfield for, as always, providing such a great surface to play on.

Norsemen gear up for competitive future

Oban's newest team sport held an open session last week when youngsters from primary five upwards displayed their American Football skills.

Oban Norsemen - formerly Vikings - formed a year ago for high school age players. But now training has been extended to include the younger age group while the older more experienced players are ready for competitive action.

Resplendent in their new kit, funded by Oban Common Good, the Norsemen were put through their paces by head coach William Humphries and assistant coach Peter Odoom, while trainee coach Emma Gemmell helped out with the younger players.

Head coach William Humphries said: 'It's amazing



Oban Norsemen High School players get in gear with their new kit while the primary school brigade get down to basics under the watchful eye of coaches Peter Odoom, far left, William Humphries and Emma Gemmell, right.

how quickly they have all picked it up. We are really impressed.

'We have a really strong core squad at the high school who turn out every week and it's good to see them progress.'

'American football is a strategic sport, a bit like chess. It consists of intense stop and start phases whereas rugby is a constant motion.'

'Everyone thinks that it will be a difficult sport to learn

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

but these guys have picked it up in two or three weeks. It's been great.

'It's a new sport and getting the kit donated to us will help raise awareness as well as allowing the older players to step onto the competitive stage.'

Oban Norsemen are now aiming to get into the British American Football Association (BAFA) leagues. Anyone interested in joining can go along at 4pm any Friday to find out more.

Last Friday's session was attended by parents, councillors, Live Argyll representatives and anyone else interested in learning more about the sport.

Oban Otters have poolside covered

Four young volunteers from Oban Otters Swimming Club recently trained with four trainee sports coaches from Atlantis Leisure to gain their Poolside Helper Certificate.

This is an eight-hour training course designed by Scottish Swimming and delivered by Coach Emma Darcy who explained: 'The course aims to provide knowledge, skills and understanding to assist poolside.'

All participants have found the training invaluable and have particularly enjoyed the contrast between Learn to Swim and Club Swimming.



Back row, from left: Edie Elliott, Callum MacInnes, Emma Darcy, Jessica Main and Andrew Boyle. Front: Katie MacCorquodale, Erin O'Rourke, Imogen Carney and Lucy Croarkin.

OT

CYCLING



Pictured from left: Caroline Booth, Nick Charlton, Matis Robertson and Shona MacLachlan.

Cyclists celebrate a successful season

North Argyll Cycle Club (NACC) put the brakes on their season with a celebratory 2019 AGM in a packed Oban Sailing Club clubhouse.

With membership heading towards 80 members, the club is growing steadily and the AGM was an opportunity to present awards for performances at the summer time trial races as well as recognising the most improved club cyclists.

Winning the male and female time trial series respectively were Nick Charlton and Shona MacLachlan, while Matis Robertson and Caroline Booth were both presented with trophies as the most improved cyclists at the club.

The event brought the 2019 season to a conclusion but with winter now upon them NACC would like to remind all cyclists to make sure they stay safe when out on their bikes; wear bright or reflective clothing and make sure your lights are in good working order.

Anyone wishing to join NACC can find details on their Facebook page.

OBAN SAINTS YOUTHS



Oban Saints Under-14s pictured after their recent 4-2 win against Cranhill in the GADYFL. The team would like to thank JM Boyd Plumbing and Heating Contractors for their continued support, sponsoring both sets of strips for the 2019/20 season.

Results and fixtures

Last Sunday's youth results: Regional Cup - Under 13s 2, Pollok 12; Cranhill v Under 14s, postponed; Under 15s 5 v Giffnock SC 2. Scoring for Saints were Lewis Campbell, Ross Mackay, Kyle Cooper, Andrew Nicoll and Cooper MacIntyre. Johnstone Burgh 9, Under 17s 0.

This Sunday's fixtures: Glasgow Boys v Under 13s; Under 14s v Clydebank; Under 15s no game; Drumchapel Ams v Under 17s.

GET INVOLVED
email us at editor@obantimes.co.uk

Saints make it ten out of ten

Oban Saints	2
Craigneuk	0
Central Scottish 1B	

Oban Saints warmed up for their impending Scottish Amateur Cup trip to Rothienorman with a less than convincing home win against Central Scottish Amateur Football League Division 1B basement boys Craigneuk, who battled hard throughout the 90 minutes at Glencruitten last Saturday afternoon.

Two early strikes from leading goalscorer Craig MacEwan were enough to clinch Saints 10th consecutive league victory, making it 10 out of 10, with a far from 10 out of 10 performance in a dour encounter which did little to excite the home support.

Now in sole charge due to management colleague Donald Campbell's work commitments in deepest, darkest Warwickshire, Willie Gemmell made five changes to the starting line-up from the previous week's trip to Clydebank. Graham Douglas and Scott Maitland were once

again available for selection while James Ford and teenagers Gavin Forgrieve and Aaron McKay were all promoted from the bench. Also making welcome returns to the squad after long absences were Kerr Newbigging and Fraser MacFarlane.

The visitors kicked off attacking the Mossfield end, but it was Saints who mounted the game's first meaningful attack through Aaron McKay on the left who was unfortunate to over-run the ball when poised for a cut-back for the waiting Craig MacEwan in the second minute.

The home side took the lead when Scott Maitland worked the ball forward on the left to Craig MacEwan who had the feet taken away from him on the corner of the box by Brian Totten.

Quick thinking

With everybody waiting for a cross to the far post, and prompted by Scott Buchanan on the sidelines, Matty Kelly's quick thinking picked out the near post run of Craig MacEwan who stabbed the ball past Graeme Divers to open the scoring.

James Ford's trickery on the



Craig MacEwan, Dene Cassells and Gavin Forgrieve waiting for a free kick to come into the box.

right after Myles McAuley had won the ball well in the centre circle took him almost to the byeline in the 21st minute. Ford's low cross along the six yard line was fractionally too heavy for Aaron McKay who couldn't adjust his feet for what would have been a tap-in at the back post.

Sixty seconds later goalkeeper Graeme Divers, one of six changes to the Craigneuk line-up from when the sides met at Dalziel Park on the opening day of the season, had a moment to forget when a Craig MacEwan shot from 25 yards bounced just in front of him and squirmed from his grasp and into the net for Saints second goal.

MacEwan should have made it three in the 25th minute when he somehow managed to plant his header from another good James Ford right wing cross inches wide of Graeme Divers' left hand post from four yards range.

Ford and MacEwan combined again to good effect with 10 minutes of the first half remaining when MacEwan did well to hook the ball back from the bye-

line to Ford who then tee'd up Gavin Forgrieve for a shot which flew across the face of goal and just wide of the far post.

James Ford continued to cause problems for the visiting defence and a swash-buckling 40th-minute run took him into the Craigneuk box where, surrounded by defenders, he slipped the ball to Craig MacEwan. The Saints leading marksman tried to walk the ball into the net but was denied by Graeme Divers who smothered the ball at MacEwan's feet.

After an excellent first half performance, the Saints faithful would be expecting some of the same in the second half, but unfortunately it just didn't materialise as the league leaders turned in a below par performance that didn't please manager Willie Gemmell with the big Scottish Amateur Cup fourth round tie away to Rothie Rovers coming up this weekend.

The home side started brightly enough with a Craig MacEwan effort being deflected for a corner.

Too slow

Saints huffed and puffed their way through the opening stages of the second half with everything being done at too slow a pace, unlike the first half where he passing was crisp and accurate.

On the hour mark the gaffer made his first changes of the match replacing youngsters Aaron McKay and Gavin Forgrieve with the more experienced Ross Maitland and David Beaton.

This almost paid dividends right away but Craig MacEwan sent a header just wide of target.

Credit to Craigneuk they



Head in hands moment for Craigneuk keeper Graeme Divers as he lets this Craig MacEwan shot slip under his body and into the net for Saints second goal.



Head in hands for Craig MacEwan and James Ford as MacEwan sends a header wide of target.



Craig MacEwan opens the scoring. Photographs: Derek Black. Match report Derek Black and David Dunlop

never gave up, but the Saints defence, well marshalled by skipper Dene Cassells were giving nothing away.

James Ford, who had a good game for Saints, threaded a great pass through for David Beaton who managed to get a shot on target which keeper Graeme Divers did well to push for a corner. From the resultant kick MacEwan sent a header crashing off the bar but with the ball bouncing around in the box there were no Saints players on hand to capitalise on the rebound and the ball was booted clear.

The manager wanted to give his bench some valuable game time with Kerr Newbigging replacing Matty Kelly in the 73rd minute. Matty had played for the Central Scottish AFL Select team on the Tuesday night so he was due a rest.

Craigneuk came more into the game as the half wore on, but they never really threatened Graeme Douglas in the Saints goal.

With the clock ticking away

Ruaridh Horne and Beaton and reasonable chances to put a better reflection on the scoreline but these were missed with the final score ending in a 2-0 win for Saints.

Co-manager Gemmell said: 'I was delighted with the first half performance, but the second half was disappointing. We didn't keep up the intensity we had in the first half and our passing was poor.'

'However, in saying that, the boys have been tremendous this season, they've worked really hard and done everything we've asked of them so perhaps I'm being a bit too critical, but they know we can't afford to have that second half performance against Rothie Rovers on Saturday or we'll be out the cup.'

With nearest title rivals Blantyre RGM being held to a 2-2 draw by fellow promotion chasers Lesmahagow, Saints 10th consecutive win sees them stretch their lead at the top of Central Scottish

Amateur Football League Division 1B to 13 points.

Saints players Lewis Cameron and Scott Maitland trained with the Scottish international squad at the Falkirk Stadium on Sunday before Tuesday night's friend-

FOOTBALL

ly match against Camelon Juniors.

Oban Saints GG team return to action on Saturday with a home game against Kilbarchan Thistle.

Rothie revisited

Oban Saints face a gruelling 410-mile round trip this Saturday when they travel to the Aberdeenshire village of Rothienorman to face Rothie Rovers in the fourth round of the Kelme Scottish Amateur Cup.

The two sides met at the fifth round stage of last season's competition when Saints required a last-minute Lewis Cameron equaliser from the penalty spot to salvage a draw and force a replay in Oban.

That excitement, however, would pale into insignificance compared to the high drama which would unfold at Glencruitten seven days later.

After a goal a piece in the 90 minutes followed by the same again in extra-time it was Rothie goalkeeper Lewis Milne who emerged the hero bby saving two Saints penalties to give his side a 9-8 shoot-out victory and clinch a place in the last 16.

Saturday's clash between two well-matched sides kicks off at 1.45pm and if it's anything like as exciting as last season's two encounters, the good people of Rothienorman will be in for an entertaining afternoon.

Colin draws attention at bowling dinner

Oban Bowling Club held their 2019 presentation dinner at the Soroba House Hotel on Friday night with more than 60 members in attendance, writes Fiona Scott.

Rounding off its 150th anniversary year, the club celebrated the many successes on the Dalriach Road green throughout the season.

Celebrating more than most was Colin Carmichael who scooped an unprecedented amount of trophies throughout the 2019 season.

A regular member at the club, Colin has enjoyed his most successful season to date, taking seven of the club titles on offer on Friday night and another four outwith the club.

'It has been a fantastic season for me and I have thoroughly enjoyed it,' he said.

'I think the main difference has been that I've stopped firing as much, I am thinking more about my bowls and drawing the shots whenever I can rather than driving at the head.'



Colin Carmichael with his trophy haul at the Oban Bowling Club 2019 presentation dinner.

'I feel a total difference and looking forward to improving my game even more next season.'

Club president Iain Boyd welcomed all in attendance at Friday night's gathering and thanked everyone who had contributed during the 150th season.

Special mention went to Andrew Forbes, for winning the gents championship for the third consecutive year,

and to ladies champion Elizabeth McGillivray for returning to the club after a year off and winning the trio of titles.

Oban Bowling Club trophy winners for season 2019 were: Caledonia - M. Scott/C. Carmichael; Dalriada - J. Strettle/S. Carr; George Barnett - R. Miller/P. Mulligan/I. Miller; MacCalman - S. Barrie/P. Mulligan/J. Kidd; Millenium - P. Freytag/M. Carr/A. Stewart; Iona - R. MacLeod/J. Fraser/H. MacLean; MacNab - A. Stewart/P. MacKinnon/C. MacLean/H. MacLean; Innisfree - C.

BOWLS

Carmichael/G. Mullen/G. Angus/George Main - M. Nicolson/J. McLaren/C. Carmichael; Open Pairs - M. Scott/P. MacKinnon; Boyd Fours - I. Boyd/H. MacLean/J. McLaren/G. Angus; Ladies Triples - H. MacLean/M. MacAlpine/D. I. MacLean; Ewen Cambell Triples - D. Crawford/S. Gargan/J. Crawford; Duncan Campbell Pairs - P. Freytag/J. Strettle; Friday Night Triples - C. Carmichael/J. McLaren/A. B. Carmichael/L. Carmichael; Ardsheil - E. MacGillivray; MacLean Senior Singles - E. MacGillivray; Morag Skinner - H. MacLean; Cummings - F. Scott; Senior Handicap Singles - P. McGuire; Junior Singles - E. MacDougall; Mixed Pairs - A. MacDougall/N. MacDougall; Nominated Pairs - D. MacAlpine/C. Carmichael; Balloted Pairs - D. MacAlpine/P. Mulligan; Senior Balloted Pairs - R. Baldwin/J. Kidd; Nominated Triples - C. Carmichael/S. Barrie/P. Mulligan; Balloted Triples - S. Barrie/M. Scott/R. MacLeod. Ladies Championship - E. MacGillivray; Gents Championship - A. Forbes.



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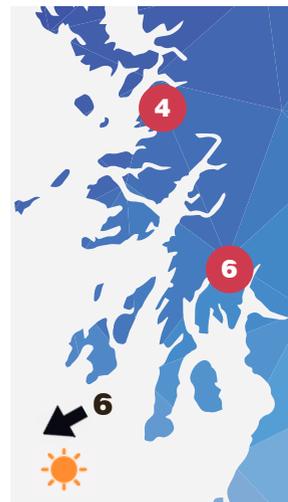


WEATHER

Thursday
Sunny intervals and a moderate breeze
Temperatures
1°C to 8°C.

Friday
Sunny and a gentle breeze
Temperatures
0°C to 6°C.

Weekend Outlook
Saturday
Sunny and a gentle breeze
Sunday
Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze
Temperatures
2°C to 5°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)

	00.28	0.8	06.21	4.1
Thur	12.49	0.8	18.33	4.0
Fri	01.07	0.9	06.59	4.1
	13.32	1.0	19.09	3.8
Sat	01.47	1.1	07.37	3.9
	14.14	1.3	19.46	3.6
Sun	02.28	1.3	08.17	3.8
	14.58	1.5	20.24	3.4
Mon	03.14	1.5	09.01	3.5
	15.46	1.8	21.07	3.1
Tues	04.04	1.7	09.54	3.3
	16.41	2.0	22.00	3.0
Wed	05.00	1.8	11.05	3.2
	17.45	2.1	23.21	2.8

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

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Cyclists
celebrate a
successful season

Colin draws
attention at
bowling dinner

Bob is crowned Rookie of the Year

Congratulations Bob – Oban is proud of you

Oban is bursting with pride after Robert 'Bob' Macintyre was crowned the 2019 European Tour Rookie of the Year as well as the Challenge Tour Graduate of the Year, writes David McPhee.

The Glencruitten golfer battled his way into the top 15 in the last event of the season, the DP World Tour Championship in Dubai, to clinch these accolades.

Bob became the first Scot to claim the Sir Henry Cotton Rookie of the Year Award since 2006, joining the likes of Bernard Gallacher, Sam Torrance, Sandy Lyle and Colin Montgomerie in putting his name on the giant salver.

In his first season on the European Tour, Bob has played 30 events, making 25 cuts, with seven top 10 finishes.

He is currently sitting in 66th place in the golf world rankings and 11th in the Race to Dubai.

Bob has heaped praise on the team behind his European Tour Rookie of the Year and Challenge Tour Graduate of the Year triumphs.

'I couldn't do it without the support of everyone from mum, dad, my manager Iain Stoddart, caddy Greg Milne and the swing guru himself, David Burns.

'He's changed my game,

night and day. When I went to see David, two-and-a-half to three years ago, I couldn't hit a driver on the planet.

'After every round, we sit down and reflect on what's gone on, and we learn from it each week and each day. I can't thank everyone enough.'

By finishing joint-sixth on his major debut at Royal Portrush in the summer, Bob had already secured a spot in next year's Open Championship at Royal St George's.

Through his Race to Dubai efforts, he's also now in the US PGA Championship at Harding Park in California and has a Masters debut in his sights before then.

'I've been shooting at the top 50 in the world for the last four or five weeks. We've fallen just short, but the season's opened up doors for me,' he said. 'It's opened up WGC events and, though I was going to be playing another few events this year if I was in the position that I've actually found myself in, I'm calling it a day this year. I've played enough golf.'

Speaking on Sky Sports after winning Rookie of the Year, he said: 'It feels great now that it is finally done and dusted. It is going to mean a lot to my family – more than anyone. I am absolutely delighted to finally get over the line.



Bob Macintyre pictured with the Challenge Tour Graduate of the Year and European Tour Rookie of the Year trophies.

Photograph: Bounce Sports

'I did not expect a season like this for my first season. I've seen friends come on here and struggle a little bit and I did not think this would happen, but I knew my golf game was good enough, I just did not know if it was going to turn up.'

Asked about his ambitions now, the Glencruitten man said: 'Top 50 in the world by

April. That is the only goal now. With a good finish this year, I have opened doors for the early start of next year, which is huge.

'We are going to keep shooting for the stars and see where we go.'

When asked if he had any plans to spend this year's tournament earnings, the 23-year-old said he had been

looking at a house, but added with a smile: 'I don't know. I have plenty years ahead of me before I have to start living on my own, and I love my mum doing my washing.'

If you want to know more about Bob, you can listen to The Oban Times' BOBcast – a podcast covering all things Robert Macintyre. To listen, visit www.obantimes.co.uk

GOLF

co.uk/2019/11/14/bobcast-an-oban-times-podcast-episode-1/



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EIS claims pupils suffer in ASN cuts

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Pupils who require support in schools in Lochaber and elsewhere across the Highlands are suffering frustration, anxiety and stress following the reduction in Additional Support Needs (ASN) provision since last session, according to a survey conducted by EIS Highland Local Association, part of Scotland's largest teachers' union.

The union says the key findings of this survey clearly demonstrate a 'negative impact' on all pupils, on teaching and learning, and on teacher workload and wellbeing.

When asked to comment on the impact on pupils, teachers identified two aspects: effects on pupils who require support and effects on those who do not. The most common observation was that the emotional needs of pupils requiring

support were not being met. Teachers reported an increase in frustration, anxiety and stress levels; more frequent disengagement from tasks, pupils opting for 'safe', less challenging activities such as building with blocks; and an increased incidence of actions of self-harm.

ASN staffing

Teachers also reported having to spend increased time during lessons with pupils who require support, due to reduced ASN staffing. Consequently, there had been a reduction in the time available for other pupils in the class, which had had a negative impact on their learning.

Fifty-eight per cent of respondents had witnessed an increase in low-level disruption, with 27 per cent reporting an increase in incidents of violence and aggression.

Ninety-one per cent of staff noticed an increase in their

workload – an area of national concern and one of the reasons for the provision of additional in-service days this session – with 94 per cent having to undertake additional preparation and correction, and 67 per cent citing an increase in meetings with management.

Alistair Bell, EIS Highland secretary, said: "These responses confirm our grave concerns regarding effects upon both pupils and staff that were communicated to councillors and officials of Highland Council when the exact impact of the budgetary decision unfolded."

Mr Bell added that teachers were being tasked with closing the attainment gap. However, their fear is that while the gap will close, it may be due to a reduction in the attainment of the highest achievers rather than by raising the attainment of those requiring support.

Councillor Andrew Baxter said: "These concerns from

Ballachulish Bibles give up secrets



A century's worth of secret messages, records of births, deaths and other fascinating aspects of local history, all scribbled in long-forgotten Gaelic Bibles in Ballachulish, have seen the light of day thanks to local volunteers, including Andy and Marjorie Thornton. Turn to page five for the full story. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

our school staff must be taken seriously by the council.

"While there is a strong case for reforming the provision of ASN in the Highlands, this has to be from the bottom up – listening to teachers and parents to design a system that works for the benefit of all our children, while remaining affordable.

"The council rushed into

reform to solve a budget problem, whereas this issue requires a long-term solution."

Asked to comment, Highland Council vice-convenor Councillor Allan Henderson told the Lochaber Times councillors had not seen the survey the teachers and ASNs responded to and could only take the final report at face value.

"What I do know is the council

is carrying out its own consultation with all the school ASGs [associated school groups] parent forums to get first-hand knowledge of perceptions of the revitalised service. I believe Highland Council is still one of the greatest financial contributors, of all local authorities, to ASN while targeting resources to where they are needed most."



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Ex-Fort Land Rover Matilda visits 100 countries in eight-year journey

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

It was while inspecting the Caledonian Canal near Fort William in 2002 as part of his job that New York City native Christopher Many stumbled across a near 30-year-old dilapidated ex-British Army Land Rover that a local farmer was using to transport sheep.

Eight years later and thousands of miles covered across 100 countries on five continents – and more adventures than you could count – and the result is a first book by Christopher, now in his late 40s, entitled *Left Beyond the Horizon*.

'It was love at first sight. I opened the door, brushed the cobwebs off the steering wheel, and immediately knew I must buy it,' Christopher told the Lochaber Times this week from his current location in France.

'Battered by the elements for three decades, this wonder of British engineering did not seem to be the ideal vehicle for a trip around the world. But I didn't care. I located the owner and asked if he'd sell it.'

'He agreed, so I gave him £700, and he gave me the keys. A few weeks later, I quit my job with British Waterways and left the UK – with my dream car.'

'I named the vehicle Matilda, and it suffered dearly on five continents, where I abused it to within an inch



Christopher takes a break on the bonnet of Matilda in Africa and, right, faces some daunting conditions in South America.



of its life on many occasions. But it still drives, despite enduring temperatures of minus 55 degrees in Siberia and plus 50 in the Mojave Desert in the USA ... a very different life from hauling sheep between paddocks at a Highland croft.'

But despite being the least reliable vehicle Christopher has owned, breaking down 1,667 times during his eight-year odyssey around the globe, he still has a soft spot for the Series III Land Rover and says the pair's adventures are not finished yet.

'She broke down 1,667 times in 3,000 days. That's right, on average every second day. I bled her brakes on 52 occasions, replaced 86 brake shoes and 59 suspension bushes, re-

newed 40 spark plugs, 18 condensers, four coils, 12 contact-breaker plates and four distributor caps.

'She'll never be sold. Forty years from now we'll still be in search of adventure'

'Then there were the 20 suspension leaves, eight universal joints, two prop shafts, 65 flat tyres and three gearbox rebuilds.'

'The steering unit seized on a steep mountain pass in Chile, the gears disintegrated on Bolivia's 'Death Road' and she rolled over twice in Namibia with me trapped inside.'

'Yet, here we are today, some 200,000 kilometres later, still alive to enjoy each other's company – she got me safely home. I doubt a single bolt remains I have not unscrewed at some point in the past.'

'She'll never be sold. Forty years from now, with both of us well into our 80s, we might still be seen pattering along in search of adventure and spare parts.'

Matilda is currently enjoying a long and well-deserved break as, in 2012, Christopher set off on his third round-the-world journey – only this time with girlfriend Laura Pattara and two motorbikes.

That lasted four years and then last year's acquisition of an old Mercedes 308D post office truck is

letting the couple vagabond around Europe in the bright yellow vehicle.

'My Land Rover found a retirement home in a classic car museum called Landy Point in Beuron-Neidingen, in southern Germany,' said Christopher.

'There she can wait until we return, swapping tall tales with other vintage vehicles about off-road adventures, and all the other stuff cars chat about when the museum's lights go out and visitors leave.'

Next week we will have more of Christopher's adventures with Matilda and for those interested, readers can follow him at his Facebook page (which has details of the books) at www.facebook.com/Hinter.dem.Horizont.links.



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Young twinkle toes at Dance Platform

We had so many fantastic images to choose from our photographer John Paul Peebles of Abrightside Photography from last week's Dance Platform event that we are publishing more this week. So here's a few more shots of some of the amazing dance talent on show at the event at Lochaber Higher School in Fort William. Top are dancers from Banavie; above right are Caol Primary children; right, younger dancers from the Nevis School of Highland Dancing Minis; and, far right, Cerys Denholme from Lochaber gymnastics.



Fort singer helps launch Live Lounge

by Andy Lambert
fort@obantimes.co.uk

Local singer songwriter Keir Gibson was excited to be the first act to play live on air as Nevis Radio launched its new MOWI Live Lounge on Tuesday.

Keir played a selection of his tracks, including his new single, Hollow, which received its UK premiere on Nevis Radio last week.

Representatives from MOWI, Liberty, Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, the Buzz Project and members of the community were welcomed into the Nevis Radio studios to celebrate the inaugural live broadcast from the MOWI Live Lounge at around 11am.

In a short presentation, Nevis Radio chairman John Weller and sustainability and development manager Simon



Sponsors and staff of Nevis Radio in the new studio. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Abberley described how in the spring they approached MOWI to help fund a dream – to be able to broadcast, record and engineer high quality live music in their studios and out on location.

The Live Lounge Project took shape over the next few months, with MOWI agreeing a four-year sponsorship.

Jayne MacKay, of MOWI, said the company was delighted to support the project and

added that it is 'great' news for Fort William and Lochaber.

All of the work to construct the studio, hang the sound-proof material, and rewire the studios was conducted in-house by the Nevis Radio team. And if you were listening at home, you would have had no clue that there were a few nerves in the building as Mr Weller opened the fader to put the 'live' in the Live Lounge for the first time.

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LT

'Rip-off' delivery charges a 'scandal'

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

People in Lochaber, Skye and Badenoch are paying more than £6m extra a year in what have been slammed as 'scandalous' delivery charges.

Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Kate Forbes hit out after new figures revealed her constituents were paying massive surcharges compared to those living elsewhere in the UK.

According to the new research from the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe), those living in Ms Forbes's constituency pay an estimated £6.2m more.

The Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch figure makes up 16 per cent of the total cost to Scotland (£40.1m), while the figure for the entire Highlands and Islands is just over £28m.

The Office for National Statistics internet access survey for 2019 shows 82 per cent of all adults have bought goods or service online over the past 12 months.

Ms Forbes has continually called for action over 'rip-off charges' for Highlanders.

'The scandal of retailers charging more than £6 million to customers in Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch has never looked like such a rip-off,' she said.

'That means customers who purchase goods online this Christmas have paid over the odds and lined the pockets of retailers and delivery firms who think nothing of over-charging Highland consumers. It is, and always has been, an absolute disgrace and it is long overdue for the UK Government to act.'

'If the Scottish Government had the powers to do some-



Kate Forbes has slammed the figures as a scandal.

thing about surcharges, they would have long ago and it's about time the UK Government lifted a finger about this.

'More than £6 million across Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch could have been spent in the

local economy and made an enormous difference.'

Previous SPICe research from 2017 estimated the total for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch was £3.8m, however GIS mapping software was not used for that report.

WHAT'S ON

■ St Bride's Primary School Christmas fair is on Thursday November 28, from 7-9pm at the school. Usual stalls including raffle, homebaking and crafts.

■ Songs of Praise in Kilmallie Free Church, 7pm, tomorrow, 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 the end of Farrow Drive. All volunteers 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.

■ Fort William Board Mania table top games club will be running on Sunday December 1, 8 and 15 from its new venue of Fort William FC clubhouse in Claggan. The club runs from 2-4pm and is £2 for the first child with £1 each additional sibling - adults are free but must stay to accompany their children. For further info www.facebook.com/groups/fwboardmania

■ There will be a Highland Hospice Light up the Highlands Christmas carol service on Monday December 2, at the Faith Mission Hall, Fort

William, at 6.30pm. Everyone welcome and refreshments will be served.

■ Lochaber Ladies have an event at the Montrose Centre, Inverloch, on December 2 at 7.15pm. Demonstration by Liz MacMaster using Christmas leftovers.

■ The Music Shed Community Choir Christmas carol concert will be at St Andrew's Church Hall in Fort William on Tuesday December 3 at 7.30pm. Entry free.

■ Fort William Accordion and Fiddle Club's next night is on Tuesday December 3, in The Railway Club, Inverloch. The guest artists are the Ross MacPherson Trio. Admission is £5 and it starts at 7.30pm. The January club night is on Tuesday January 6 and the guest artists are the Hector MacFadyen Trio.

■ On Monday December 9, Lochaber Sensory Care will have outreach clinic sessions visiting Acharacle Medical Practice from 10.30-11.45am, followed by Dail Mhor Care Home from 1-2.30pm.

The Nevis Centre in Fort William will host a blood donor session on Wednesday December 18, from 1.30-4pm and 5.30-7.40pm. To book your appointment call 0345 90 90 999 Mon to Thurs, 9am-7pm/Fri 9am-5pm.



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Meggie Soe-Paing and Dexter Ladyman press the plunger to illuminate the lights.

Kilmallie welcomes in the festive season

Kilmallie got the festive season under way on Friday night when its Christmas tree lights burst into life as two local youngsters performed the honours and pushed the special 'plunger'.

A large crowd, including parents and children, had gathered to watch Dexter Ladyman, a primary four pupil from Banavie school, and Meggie Soe-Paing, a primary seven pupil from Lochaber Gaelic school, turn the lights on.

Prior to the lighting ceremony, the crowd of more than 100 was entertained by the Music Shed Choir which performed seasonal songs, led by Clare Hageman and Valerie Rose.

Paul Brian, chairman of the Kilmallie Christmas Lights Fund, thanked Robert Skinner of Thistle Access for his help in erecting the pole lights, Linda and Duncan Carmichael from the Tradewinds for organising a fundraising

race night in October, Loch Arkaig Woodland Trust for the donation of two Christmas trees for Corpach and Banavie, and Robbie Milne of Highland Council Lighting Department for technical advice and safety checks.

After the switch-on, everyone adjourned to Kilmallie Community Centre for tea, coffee and wonderful homebaking provided by local charity STAR for Harris.

Old Ballachulish Bibles reveal secret messages after decades

by Kirsteen Bell
fort@obantimes.co.uk

A hand-written record of the lives of Ballachulish residents – births, deaths, secret meetings and shinty scores spanning 100 years – was discovered when a group of local volunteers opened St John's Scottish Episcopal Church to visitors this summer.

Stored safely away in the upper gallery of the historic building was a box of Gaelic Bibles, inside the covers of which were found dozens of notes by parishioners, dating from the mid-1800s until the end of the Second World War.

The notes include births, deaths, weddings and weather reports, some scribbled in pencil, some blue-inked and written in precise copperplate: 'Mary McColl, Died on the 18th of May 1847, Aged 27 years', 'Hughie Christie, Willie MacIntyre and Ian MacColl visited the Gallery on 2nd



Andy and Marjorie Thornton with the Gaelic Bibles that include a wealth of local information. Photograph: Iain Ferguson

June 1935. Evening Service. Warm morning, very hot – but bracing.'

Among the sombre are silly poems, drawings of animals and cowboys, secret messages – 'Darling, I will meet you tonight at the Arches' – and notes of reassurance from returning soldiers from both world wars: 'Archie MacInnes, 55 years, OK Christmas Day 1918' and 'Stewart MacInnes, 204th Anti

Tank Battery 51st Highland Division, On leave 1939-40, New Year'.

The notes are a physical link from the families of Ballachulish's past to those who live in the village today.

Andy Thornton, from Ballachulish, was one of the volunteers who found the Bibles. He said the most noticeable thread running through all the pages is the shinty.

From scores and commentary – '1931 Ballachulish 3-Inveraray 5, first time the skunks ever beat Ballachulish' – to banter and diagrams, with a drawing of a shinty pitch and a goalkeeper surrounded by eight black dots subtitled, 'Do you remember this Teddy? 8 goals let in'.

Mr Thornton said: 'I showed the notes to one of the shinty team who immediately recognised a name as one of his ancestors. Shinty is still really important in the village – it forms a part of its history.'

The Bibles were discovered by Mr Thornton's wife Marjorie, who took photographs to record them. However, both agreed that what they contained was very special and more could be done to share them.

Mr Thornton, a member of the Lochaber Writers' Group, has begun working on a play that shares the notes as a dialogue between priest and parishioners, entitled *The Boys in the Gallery*.



The 90th anniversary of the construction of Lochaber's smelter will be marked next month.

Appeal for retired staff to help celebrate anniversary

Liberty Aluminium is appealing to retired employees of the Lochaber smelter, power station and estates to get in touch ahead of its 90th anniversary celebrations, which take place on Tuesday December 10.

The celebration, which is being held between 11am and 3pm, aims to bring together current and retired employees to share their memories of working at the historic and iconic smelter.

'We would love to share this historic occasion with as many of our former employees as we can,' general man-

ager Tom Uppington said. 'As much as we have tried to write to all former employees personally, we do lose touch with people, so I would urge anyone who has previously worked at the smelter to contact us about attending.'

Guests will be able to view an exhibition showcasing pictures and memorabilia from the past 90 years, while current employees will be presented with commemorative whisky from the Ben Nevis Distillery. Contact Heather Ross on 01397 902228 or heather.ross@lochabersmelter.com

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VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER

Back to normal for
Lochaber Chamber

Well, Lochaber Ideas Week may be over for another year but the team at Lochaber Chamber of Commerce is still hard at work putting on events for the benefit of our local business community.

This coming week sees our regular Chamber networking lunch at Ben Nevis Distillery today (Thursday November 28), where members have the opportunity to meet fellow business folk and find out all the latest from the Chamber team.

Joining

If you're a member and you haven't been along for a while, or you're interested in joining, please sign up and come along from 1-2pm.

On Monday December 2, we're delighted to be able to bring specialist training for business managers on how to deal with drug and alcohol issues in the workplace.

At our members' request,



we can now offer a specialist half-day training for managers from the expert team at Healthy Working Lives Scotland.

We all know that drug and alcohol problems can affect people in every profession and at any age. Knowing how best to help employees deal with these issues, as well as know the HR rules around drugs and alcohol, is valuable information for every business.

This event is free and open to all – see www.lochaber-chamber.co.uk for how to book.

We round off next week with our popular employment law seminar at Garrison West on Thursday December 5.



Fraser Copeland, CEO of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, left, with guest speakers Mike Stevenson, centre, and Riddell Graham of VisitScotland at the gala dinner on Friday evening, which rounded off this year's Lochaber Ideas Week. For our special three-page round up of the week of events, turn to page eight. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Kirk Tudhope, from member business Ledingham Chalmers Solicitors, is an expert in employment law and also has a fantastic way of making the seminar interesting, relevant and entertaining for his audience.

If you employ people, it's a really valuable session that

makes sure you're prepared and up to date with current rules around how you deal with employees.

At Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, we try our best to provide a range of training, seminars and networking events that bring valuable benefits to our members, no

matter what their industry.

Find out how joining your local Chamber of Commerce could help you by calling us on 01397 705 765. If you're in business, you need to be in the Chamber.

See www.lochaberchamber.co.uk for event details and how to join the Chamber.

Fort William
community
council is
back in action

Fort William has a new 12-member community council, which will hold its first meeting on December 10 at An Drochaid.

Chairman Alex Farquhar says the members are a 'complete mix' of members of the community, with some being previous community council members, plus those from Torlundy and Inverlochly.

'So far we have only had an initial "set up" meeting,' explained Councillor Farquhar this week.

'We are also in the process of sorting out a website and possible Facebook page. To have a full complement of members is great as it means no one has to double or treble up on committees and people can have a single role to concentrate on.'

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Cafe has the
right recipe
for success

by Nic Goddard
fort@obantimes.co.uk

A fortnightly community cafe which started earlier this year offering soup, sandwiches and homebaking in Strontian village hall is continuing to thrive.

The events, which run every other Friday from 12.30pm to 2pm, have proved popular with people of all ages – attracting attendees ranging from toddlers to octogenarians.

While it is mostly people from the Strontian area, there have been lunchers from across Ardgour as everyone is welcome.

The cafes began as one of several initiatives resulting from a community consultation across Sunart, Morvern, Ardgour, Acharacle and West Ardnamurchan regarding

health and social care across the area. The consultation aimed to understand the health and social care needs and services locally.

Kilchoan and Acharacle already have established lunch clubs and there was a need identified for something similar in Strontian.

The cafe, which is supported by the kitchen facilities at Dail Mhor House, is volunteer-led, with a team using the kitchen to prepare food and drinks.

Priced at an affordable £4 per person for soup, sandwiches, homebaking and hot drinks, with the option to select just part of what is on offer and pay accordingly.

The aim of the community cafe is to get people from all backgrounds and ages together. As project officer Lara Van de Peer explained, it has

been going really well so far. She said: 'At our first lunch, we had 12 people coming along and have had as many as 16 attendees.'

'We find that while people may come in and sit with friends at first, by the end of lunch they are all mixing and mingling together and chatting with everyone.'

Rural communities can be very scattered across large geographical areas and, because of poor public transport links, social isolation can pose a very real problem, with young parents and elderly people particularly suffering from lack of contact with others.

Ms Van de Peer explained that the community cafes can also offer community transport for anyone who would like to come along but would struggle to get there.

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All set for festive fun this weekend

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Lochaber Rotary Club's 12th annual Designer Craft and Food Fair opens its doors at 9.30am in the Nevis Centre in Fort William this Saturday, November 30, and promises to be a sparkling festive event, with 70 stalls displaying local exhibitors' craft work and food produce.

The Cairngorm Reindeer Parade, with Santa and his helpers, arrives at Cameron Square at 10.30am, with the parade itself starting at 11am and travelling along the High Street, led by the Lochaber Pipe Band and the Ben Nevis All Stars cheerleaders, to reach the Nevis Centre at midday and open Santa's grotto.

In addition, the popular Buskers' Corner in the foyer will deliver non-stop musical entertainment with a range of



Thousands of people are expected to flock to the Christmas fair as they did last year.

versatile performers, and the bouncy castle and the Light Garden Café will both be open all day.

This year the grand raffle offers five spectacular prizes, including a special collection of six aged classic malts, a £70 meal voucher for the Crannog Restaurant, a two-night all-inclusive hotel break, and festive hampers from both

Marks and Spencer and the Nevisbridge Woollen Mill.

Club president Clive Talbot commented: 'This is now established as Lochaber's premier annual event. It is aimed at locals as well as visitors, and attracts nearly 3,000 people, many of whom use it as their main Christmas shopping venue.

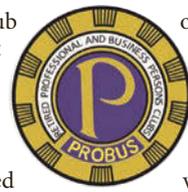
'Why have all the stress of

travelling to Inverness or Glasgow when you can enjoy this on your own doorstep?'

The Lochaber Times is delighted to sponsor the Santa's Little Elves competition and looks forward to welcoming the winners - Phoebe MacDonald, aged seven, from Mallaig Primary and Poppy Geddes, eight, from Lady Lovat Primary - on the day.

First meeting for new Lochaber Probus Club

Lochaber Probus Club will hold its first open meeting at the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William, on Thursday January 9 at 12.30pm followed



by lunch at 1pm. Everyone interested in joining this new group is welcome to attend.

The Lochaber club is being formed by two retired Fort William businessmen: David Anderson, who spent his career as an optometrist in Fort William, and David Robertson, who worked in the insurance sector, mainly with Prudential. Both also served Lochaber for many years as enthusiastic Rotarians.

The Probus Club is an association of retired and semi-retired professional and business people and exists to provide regular opportunities for members to meet others in similar circumstances, with similar levels of interest, make new friends, and maintain and expand their interests. It is not a fundraising organisation.

The name is an amalgam

of the abbreviation of the words professional and business. Probus is also a Latin word meaning honest or virtuous, from which the English word 'probity' is derived.

The Probus Club movement was formed in the United Kingdom in 1965 and now has 56 clubs in Scotland alone.

Mr Anderson, as acting secretary, told us: 'We plan to meet twice a month for lunch with hopefully a guest speaker once a month. David Robertson and I are looking forward to developing this new exciting venture.

'We have been very encouraged by the responses that we have already received from those who feel that Probus has a unique place to support this sector of the retired population which is often overlooked.'

Contact with the club can be made through their Facebook page 'Lochaber Probus Club' or via the Alexandra Hotel.

Youngsters needed to help Santa switch on Fort lights

Fort William Town Team is looking for children to join its 'Santa Mob' to help him find his way to Cameron Square at the High Street Christmas Gathering tomorrow (Friday November 29).

Come along to the Town Team Hub in the Parade at 5.45pm and collect a Christmas Santa hat for the first 300 children. Enjoy carol singing around the Christmas tree in the Parade when you arrive and then greet Santa just before 6pm with the help of Lochaber Yacht Club.

Lots of shops will remain open, with some hosting special events for the children, including face painters, balloon modelling workshops, street entertainers and Santa's grotto in Costa Coffee.

Nevis Radio will be broadcasting from Cameron Square and there will be some amazing raffle prizes, which have been donated by local businesses. There will even be a gift-wrapping service in the Town Team Hub for all those presents you can buy on the High Street.

It's going to be a fantastic evening of fun and laughter so come along, enjoy a com-



Last year's event saw onlookers treated to the sight of Santa abseiling down the Marshall and Pearson building in the High Street to switch on the festive lights.

munity evening out and help your local shops too.

If you would like more details email secretary@

fortwilliamtownteam.co.uk or check out and like the Fort William Christmas Gathering Facebook page.



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Alan REID



LT

Ideas Week zeroes in on reducing carbon emissions

by Andy Lambert
fort@obantimes.co.uk

Lochaber is at the vanguard as Scotland moves towards net-zero carbon emissions by 2020.

A packed audience heard from a range of speakers at the Net Zero Business workshop on Tuesday afternoon. Representatives from the private and public sectors shared research, ideas, case studies, inspiration and a little frustration as they challenged each other to do more, faster.

However, the mood could, perhaps, best be described as cautiously optimistic.

Event sponsor BAM Nuttall spoke about how it uses meticulous logistical planning and exacting materials selection to meet its aggressive targets.

'You can't just pop to the builders merchant when

you're building a project in Antarctica,' said Edwin Lowe, environmental adviser for BAM Nuttall.

Also speaking were Stuart Reid, of pioneering Lochaber firm HW Energy. Kate Willis of Lochaber Environmental Group (LEG) advocated for active travel and the LEG ebike loan programme.

Other speakers included Susan Carstairs, who has worked on the Lochaber Carbon Footprint Study that highlighted the need to address transport emissions from cars in Lochaber.

Women in Business lunch

Sarah Heward's story had a packed room of Lochaber businesswomen, and men, in the palm of her hand on Wednesday during the first Women in Business network-



Sarah Heward enthralled her audience.

borrowing money from her parents to keep the business going, caring for her ailing father until his death, the discovery the business had been a victim of six-figure embezzlement, renewed passion and energy for the business, finding a new business partner to whom she proposed to on February 29 2016 to thinking about expanding the business.

In her spare time, Ms Heward is an age group competitive triathlete training for a podium finish in the Lanzarote Ironman in February. She is also 'passionate about toilets', working with Toilet Twinning and Changing Places to advocate for accessible bathrooms, a passion ignited when she was caring for her father.

ing lunch during Ideas Week at The Moorings Hotel. Ms Heward's story is one of passion, adventure, risk, tragic loss, grit, resilience and love.

In 2004, she saw an ad vert for the vacant Little Chef

in Tyndrum and in April 2005, after leaving behind a successful career in London to pursue her dream, she and her husband opened the Real Food Cafe serving home-made, locally-sourced

fast food favourites. Roadside food, just better.

During her riveting presentation, Ms Heward shared her story from April 2005 to today. This included the devastating loss of her husband,



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by Richard Mason
rmason@obantimes.co.uk

Hailed as the best Question Time Ideas Week has had, there was a wide range of opinions shared at a lively debate in The Moorings Hotel over a bright future for Lochaber.

The panel was missing Highland Council's chief executive Donna Manson as she did not want to comment on politics due to her role as returning officer for the General Election. In her place was vice convener and Lochaber councillor Allan Henderson.

There was little discussion about politics and barely a mention of Brexit with panel and audience determined to focus on Lochaber.

The first question asked panelists what they would tell young people to inspire them to become entrepreneurs, posed initially to entrepreneur and businessman Angus MacDonald.

He said: 'Scotland has one of the lowest entrepreneurship rates of any country. One of the big problems we have in the West Highlands particularly is that a lot of people who are very dynamic will go to university down south and don't come back.'

Some audience members voiced frustration at the lack of tools to support new and developing businesses, but Mr Henderson pointed out Highland Council offers apprenticeships which give people



Panellists, left to right, Angus MacDonald, Councillor Allan Henderson, host Laurence Young, Ross MacKenzie and John Hutchison. Photograph: Richard Mason

Question Time highlights Lochaber's bright future

tools to create their own business. Archie MacDonald, director of The Highland Soap Co., pointed out businesses such as The Wildcat in Fort William are thriving, but High Street buildings are not being kept in good condition.

'Landlords and tenants need to look after these beautiful buildings,' said Mr MacDonald. 'If they are going to be attractive

to businesses, they need to be maintained.'

Panellist and chairman of West Highland College UHI John Hutchison suggested young people could learn from successful business people and they should do presentations for schools.

The panel was then asked about what was being done to create a low-carbon economy, with Ross

MacKenzie, area manager for NHS Highland, first to speak.

He said: 'As one of the big employers, we pay a levy on our carbon emissions. There has been a great deal of investment in bio-mass schemes and LED lighting. We have tried to get involved in electric cars, but there is suspicion among staff as to how well they will run. A lot of our buildings are old

as well and, in designing new ones, energy efficiency is a priority.'

Mr Hutchison said they have video conferencing to avoid lengthy car journeys and Mr Henderson added the council has a dedicated team working towards lower emissions.

Mr MacDonald called current planning rules 'a load of tosh' as in construction of his cinema he had to truck out 20 lorry loads of stone from the site to be replaced with similar ones from down the road.

The polarising topic of short-term lets came up, with audience members in support of the idea as it gives home-owners and seasonal workers a chance to make extra income, but others were opposed because of the lack of affordable housing.

Mr MacKenzie said the lack of homes for new NHS staff is a 'significant problem' for attracting people and the NHS has to lease homes for recruits before they find somewhere permanent.

The final point of discussion concerned Fort William's High Street and a suggestion to have a glass cover for the street, so people could use it whatever the weather, was met with applause. The feeling overall was that the High Street is improving and Lochaber is not just a one-trick pony with tourism but has much more to offer people who want to live and work in the Outdoor Capital of the UK.

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COASTS
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LT

Lord Steel: Kennedy was our 'most successful'

by Mark Entwistle
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Former Liberal Democrat leader David Steel, now Lord Steel of Aikwood, says he regrets not following the example of the late Charles Kennedy and voting against their party entering the coalition with the Conservatives after the 2010 General Election.

Lord Steel made the remarks while delivering the fifth annual Charles Kennedy Lecture to a standing-room only audience at the Ben Nevis Hotel during Lochaber Chamber of Commerce's Ideas Week last Wednesday evening.

Lord Steel's remarks focused on tackling the need to reform the House of Lords and on raising the quality of discourse and debate in the Commons.

He also laid out his case for a written constitution.

But for the first part of the lecture, he spoke about his friendship with the late Ross, Skye and Lochaber MP Mr Kennedy, a former Lib Dem leader like himself, who had been a valued parliamentary colleague and a dear friend. 'To visit him on the family croft was a great experience, but we went back a long way,' said Lord Steel.



Sponsor Alasdair Ferguson, left, with Lord Steel and Frazer Coupland of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce and, above, the late MP Charles Kennedy.

Photograph, Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

He recounted how he had first met the young Charles when he [Steel] was a guest judge at an inter-university debating competition at Bristol University.

'We had not only to choose the winning team but the best individual speaker and we chose Charles Kennedy, who was then a member of the student Labour Party,' explained Lord Steel.

'At the dinner afterwards, I was sitting next to him and recall saying that having listened to his speech

he ought to re-think his political allegiance. The rest is history. But what a history. He was pilloried, but right to oppose the war in Iraq. He was the first SDP MP to back a merger with the Liberals.

'I had supper with him in the Commons cafeteria on the eve of the 2015 election when I confessed I had abstained on the issue of the Con-Lib coalition and wished in retrospect that, like him, I had opposed it.

'The catalogue of subsequent

coalition errors justified his stance. The about turn on the student fees pledge lost us trust, followed by the wasteful Alternative Vote referendum, the failed attempts to improve the NHS bill, the abandoned House of Lords reform and the general adoption of the austerity programme which all led to the catastrophic debacle of the 2015 election when the Lib Dems plunged from 57 to eight seats.

'Looking at post-war politics I, of course, relish as leader the record

25 per cent vote obtained for a third party in the 1983 General Election, but it meant little influence in seats in the Commons, whereas Charles winning 63 seats marks him out as without question the most successful of all our party leaders.'

Lord Steel then turned to the state of British politics today and began by referring to what he called the 'reduction in standards' in both parliaments.

'I refer in particular to Prime Minister's Question Time. It is no longer Prime Minister's Question Time. It has become Prime Minister's Insult Time with the two protagonists exchanging well-rehearsed soundbites.'

Lord Steel said the 'rot set in' when the chamber became televised and

Prime Minister's Questions became the subject of weekly electoral entertainment rather than genuine scrutiny of government.

He said it was sadly the case the same adverse trend in the Commons chamber has also set in at the Scottish Parliament at Holyrood, of which he was the first presiding officer, with 'belligerence and stridency' being the order of the day.

Lord Steel also attacked the in-

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ul' leader

creasing role of spin doctors, saying the trend was to be deplored.

But his main theme of the evening was the need for a written constitution which would set out the major institutions of the British state, establish principles of governance and enumerate fundamental rights.

He went on to say reform of the House of Lords to a second chamber should comprise 500 'democratically chosen' representatives.

Following his lecture, Lord Steel relaxed in a leather armchair as host Ian Peter MacDonald and an engaged audience asked him a wide ranging series of questions.

When asked about the current climate of hostility in the Westminster parliament, he was optimistic the new Speaker of the House would take the initiative and rein in the current 'vituperativeness'.

As the evening concluded, Lord Steel shared one final thought with the audience: 'You have to listen to people's views, even if you don't agree with them.'

Past speakers at the Charles Kennedy Lecture have included Alastair Campbell, Baron Jim Wallace, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and Lord John Thurso.

John Muir Trust signs Lewis estate agreement

The John Muir Trust has signed a new five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn (Galson Estate Trust).

The community landowner manages 56,000 acres of coastline, agricultural land and moorland in north-west Lewis, which is home to a population of nearly 2,000 people in 22 crofting townships.

The deal is the third MoU agreed between the John Muir Trust and major community land trusts on Lewis and Harris.

In July, an agreement was renewed between the Pitlochry-based land charity and the West Harris Trust, with a further MoU approved with the north Harris in August.

The Galson Estate passed into community ownership in 2007. The new MoU underscores both parties' intent to work together on collaborative projects and signals a renewed focus following previous joint work.

The MoU will allow the John Muir Trust to support Galson Estate Trust with land management and conservation work.

The community landowner will,



Lisa Maclean and Richard Williams sign the memorandum.

in turn, draw upon its expertise of community-led conservation management to help the environmental charity sharpen its policy and management practices. The two organisations have also joined forces to put together a transition programme of events and activities for primary seven pupils across two community-owned estates next year.

The pupils will work towards achieving their John Muir Discovery Awards in the outdoors, while getting to know pupils from other primary schools before they

start secondary school together in Stornoway next autumn. The programme has been made possible with funding from Scottish Natural Heritage and Galson will work in partnership with Urras Oighreachd Chàrlabhaigh (Carloway Estate Trust) to deliver this project across both estates.

The John Muir Trust has also secured funding for a new, full-time ranger post to work with community land trusts on the Western Isles. Funded by the ALA Green Trust, the ranger will support land man-

agement, education and community participation in outdoors activities.

The trust's land operations manager Richard Williams said: 'The John Muir Trust is strongly supportive of community land-ownership and we are eager to strengthen our links and partnerships with the communities who live and work in the unique landscapes of the Outer Hebrides.'

'Renewing this Memorandum of Understanding with the Galson Estate demonstrates our shared desire to work more closely and collaborate in areas of mutual interest. The provision of a Western Isles ranger post is a clear sign of that intent. I look forward to building upon this and on the other positive relationships we have on Lewis and Harris.'

Lisa Maclean, manager of Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn, added: 'We are pleased to be working with the John Muir Trust more closely as the relationship was once very strong and from it we carried out some great work. We look forward to the year ahead to get some of the planned activities up and running and we welcome the ranger post.'

COSY UP WITH CRACKING CRIME FICTION

THIS CHRISTMAS

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LETTERS

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New community council is great news for Fort William

It is pleasing this week to be able to report that Fort William once again has a community council, complete with 12 members.

The new organisation plans to hold its inaugural meeting on Tuesday December 10 at An Drochaid. It deserves to attract support from across the community.

Community councils play an important part in Scotland's system of local government, being the most local tier of statutory representation in Scotland. They bridge the gap between local authorities and communities, and help to make public bodies aware of the opinions and needs of the communities they represent.

Chairman Alex Farquhar says the members are a 'complete mix' of members of the community with some being previous community council members, plus those from Torlundy and Inverloch.

This is good news for Fort William.

New Probus Club deserves support

We report this week the establishment of a new Lochaber Probus Club, which plans to hold its first open meeting at the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William, on Thursday January 9.

Probus clubs trace their genesis back to 1965, with 56 clubs across Scotland now.

The movement is unlike Rotary or Lions clubs in as far as it is not a charitable fundraising organisation. Instead, it is a club for retired or semi-retired professional and business people, and exists to provide regular opportunities for members to meet others in similar circumstances, with similar levels of interest, make new friends, and maintain and expand their interests.

It deserves support.

Open letter from Lochaber High School climate strikers

Since January, Lochaber High School pupils have been striking for the climate every Friday in solidarity with youth around the world.

We are doing this to demand action over the biggest crisis humanity has ever faced - climate and ecological breakdown.

The school strike movement was started by 16-year-old Greta Thunberg in August last year. Since then it has spread through countries and across continents to become one of the biggest environmental movements in human history. On September 20 and 27, more than seven and a half million people went on strike from work and school.

This has been a year of environmental disasters. The Amazon rainforest is burning at rates not seen in several years. The 2019 State of Nature report states 11 per cent of Scottish species are at risk of extinction and almost half have declined in abundance. Parts of Australia are fighting their biggest ever wildfires and in August, the Bahamas were struck by Hurricane Dorian, the strongest recorded hurricane in that area.

It is clear we are in a climate crisis and in the midst of the sixth mass extinction. We have run out of time for nice words. Now we need radical and unprecedented action to tackle it.

So, once again, the youth are organising a global school climate strike tomorrow (Friday November 29). We ask for you, the citizens of Lochaber, to join us.

The Fort William climate strike will be starting at 9am tomorrow outside Lochaber High School. At 10am, we will march to Cameron Square in Fort William High Street to continue the strike until 1pm. Please join us, whether it be for 10 minutes or four hours. Everyone welcome.

Holly Gillibrand, 14, Lily Bloom, 14, Josef Kocjan-Briggs, 14, and Josie Bloom, 15.

We all have a duty of care to others on the roads

John Gosling, The Oban Times letters, November 14, makes a number of assertions regarding people who choose to cycle on public roads.

Despite acknowledging they have a 'right to use the carriageway', he feels 'where [cycle tracks] provide a viable alternative ... their use should be mandatory and legally enforced'.

YOUR PICTURES



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

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

Well-designed segregated cycling infrastructure would be welcomed by many cyclists. Unfortunately, the disjointed and meandering Oban to Fort William route leaves a lot to be desired. He also believes there should be a legal requirement for cyclists to wear hi-vis garments and use lights at all times. I presume, for safety's sake, he would want to extend this to pedestrians as well, of which 470 were killed on British roads in 2017 (Source: brake.org.uk), compared to 101 cyclists.

Pedestrians and cyclists are defined by the government as vulnerable road users but

there is certainly no 'legal presumption of innocence on the part of cyclists'. Perhaps Mr Gosling has wrongly assumed the UK has a policy of 'presumed liability' where, in collisions involving vulnerable road users, the more 'powerful' road user is liable unless it can be proven the other party was at fault. The UK does not have such a policy.

I compliment Mr Gosling on his powers of recollection of the weather conditions on a bus journey one day last year and being able to describe in detail a cyclist who was 'effectively camouflaged and pretty well invisible from



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High Street, Fort William. This week's photograph was sent in by Janette MacDonald. It shows St Columba's Cathedral, Oban, on Christmas day 2014.

any distance'. I'm also glad the bus driver was apparently able to see him and waited before overtaking.

The roads belong to everyone. Showing a little more consideration towards all road users would surely make them a lot safer.

Mark Higgins, Combie Street, Oban.

Thanks to kind-hearted people for help after fall

I would like to say thank you to the van driver who stopped at the top of George Street in

Oban on November 12 and the owner or assistant of the mobile phone shop who came to the aid of my husband who had fallen. Both were extremely helpful and caring and their kindness is much appreciated.

Liz Graham, Helensburgh.

Car parking as important as roads infrastructure

I am surely not alone in seeing car parking is a problem that is not unique to Oban.

The UK government and local authorities spend approaching £10bn each year – with an extra £5bn per annum for each of the next five years set aside by the last Chancellor – on building and maintaining roads. The purpose of roads? To enable us to get efficiently from A to B.

When we arrive at B, however, it's a different story: 'How dare you arrive in a car? What do you mean, you want to park it? It's going to cost you. And, if you over-stay the time you've paid for, we'll hit you with a hefty fine. And you've come in a dirty petrol or diesel-driven car? You should have bought an electric car by now. We're going to hit you hard for polluting our air. What do you mean, you can't afford an electric car? And what do you mean, there's nowhere to charge the battery even if you could afford one?'

And towns and cities bemoan the fact spending on the high street is down.

The reality is car parking should be as much a part of our national transport infrastructure as roads but that's not how the UK works. It's called 'management by abdication'. And there will be no change until we demand that change.

Donald Booth,
Creag Mhor, Kintallen, Tayvallich.

Seeking election fans to watch television with

On December 11 my son, Reuben, 20, and I hope to arrive in Oban having left our home in Kangaroo Valley, Australia, to visit my brother James who lives in Oban.

It turns out James and his friends lack enthusiasm for the election, whereas I love nothing better than a vigorous election. I was wondering if, through your columns, we could find kindred company with whom to spend the evening. I like Boris, but think Brexit is a madness and should be abandoned.

John S Bacon, kvrural@gmail.com.

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

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'S fheàrr a bhith a dhith a' chinn na dhith an fhasain! Nach tric a chualas sin gu h-àraid nuair a bha sinn òg agus a' feuchainn ri nòsan ùra èididh agus fuil a leantainn, ach tha fasain eile a' faotainn buaidh mar a tha ùine a' dol seachad nach eil 's dòcha cho follaiseach dhuinn.

Tha fasain a thaobh de tha "p c", neo air ùr mheas modhail, a' nochdadh bho àm gu àm airson deagh adhbharan ach thig cuid a mhodhan ùra cuideachd a tha car beag faoin. Ach 's coma faoin neo ciallach iad 's e an fheadhainn againn as sinne a tha nas buailtiche ar glacadh ag ràdh neo a' dèanamh rudeigin nach eil a-nise air a mheas iomchaidh.

Nuair a smaoinicheas an fheadhainn againn a tha sean gu leòr air ais can caogad bliadhna, bha mar eisimpleir proifeiseantaich a bha ri àbhachdas bitheanta a' bruidhinn air boireannaich agus air daoine dubha.

Bha dithis air an robh mi fhìn glè mheasail, Les Dawson agus Dave Allen, gu math dàna nan cuid sgeulachdan agus cha fhreagradh tòrr de na bh' aca san latha

'n-diugh. Cha b' e gur e droch dhaoine a bh' annta, bha iad dìreach nan sgàthan air modhan an ama san robh iad ag obair. An d' rachainn a choimhead cuid de na seann phrògraman telebhisean san robh iad? Tha mi smaoinichadh gun d' rachadh, ged a tha mi a' tuigsinn agus a' gabhail gu tur ris na modhan ùra a thaobh spèis dha boireannaich agus dha mion-choimhearsnachdan sam bith.

Ann an saoghal sam bheil sinn uile cho eòlach air a bhith a' faicinn phrògraman telebhisean agus filmichean gan ath-chraoladh bitheanta chan e iongnadh sam bith a th' ann gum bheil a' bhuidheann Disney cuideachd a' foillseachadh an t-seann stuth aige. Ach chaidh mòran den sin a dhealbh agus a chlàradh aig àm far nach robh casg sam bith air mar a bha leithid dhaoine dubha air an nochdadh, neo mar a bha dochann a' tachairt eadar an cat 's an luch Tom agus Jerry!

Chan eil leithid de dheilbh air am meas iomchaidh an-diugh agus a rèir coltais tha Disney a-nise a' toirt rabhadh aig toiseach nan

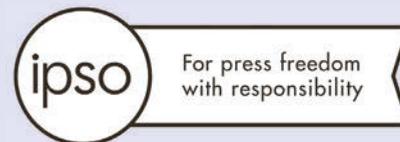
seann dealbh gun deach an cruthachadh aig àm san robh modhan eadar-dhealaichte. Tha iad a' dèanamh sin seach a bhith a' call luach iomadach film agus dealbh èibhinn, ach saoil am bheil an rabhadh sin a' gabhail an leiseil airson a bhith a' dol an aghaidh modh iomchaidh an latha 'n-diugh.

Chan eil clann òga gu bhith mothachail air an rabhadh sin is iad a' faicinn iomhaigh dhaoine dubha air a chur ann an suarachas, neo ma tha iad a' faicinn sabaid bhorb eadar Tom agus Jerry!

Where protocol and politically acceptable behaviour is constantly changing, is it enough for the Disney Corporation to post a warning on old favourites like Tom and Jerry advising viewers that these films were made at a time when rules were different?

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



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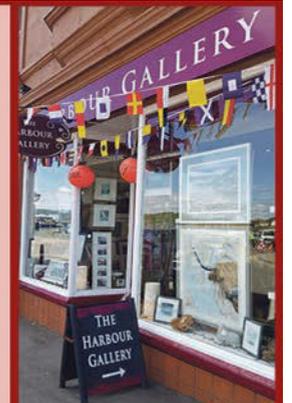
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DISTRICT NEWS

PLOCKTON AND KYLE

A large crowd attended the annual bonfire and fireworks display at Plockton on November 5 on a lovely calm evening. A bucket collection raised £1,157.17 and the profit on food sales was £740.

The first official Cafe Bridge event in Scotland was held recently in Plockton in five different venues. Ninety players from all over Scotland took part. Winners were Allan Downie and Lorna Matheson from Dingwall. A total of £1,104 was raised and donated to Rag, Tag, Textile in Balmacara, which supports mental health in the community. The event was organised by Miriam Drysdale, Plockton.

The annual general meeting AGM of Lochalsh Arts Society (Lochan) was held in Dornie Hall on October 29 when 14 members attended. This was the 25th anniversary of the society. A new committee was elected: chairwoman, Rona Burstow; treasurer, Madeline Mcleish and secretary, Fiona Begg. Committee: Elfine George, Mary MacBeth, Amy Matheson and Maggie MacKenzie.

The delayed AGM of Plockton Small Boat Sailing Club was held in the boatshed on November 16 with 20 members present. The treasurer submitted a satisfactory report. The following were elected: commodore, Fiona K MacKenzie; secretary, Neil MacRae; treasurer, Martin Clark; sailing secretary, Michael Hay; timekeeper, Sarah Bruce; principal instructor, Tristan Southal; auditor, Bob Anderson and welfare officer, Daisy Reeves-Womble. General committee: Ian Hay; Alexander, Mackenzie; Alaisdair Mackenzie; Morag Amos and Malcolm Reid. The meeting agreed to reduce the quorum from 20 to 11 and not have a fixed date for the AGM. The meeting failed to appoint a vice commodore, a social convener and were three short for the general committee.

Recent deaths of those with Plockton and Kyle connections include David Balfe, Inverness; Mary MacRae, Inverinate, and Farquhar



Rotary Club of Lochaber members helped school pupils prepare for the world of work by staging mock job interviews last week. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

MacKenzie, Dornie. Sympathy is expressed to sorrowing relatives.

The ladies of Plockton and Kyle Free Church held their annual sale for church missions at the Open Door cafe in the Lighthouse Centre, Kyle, on November 15 when more than £1,300 was raised.

WESTERN ISLES

There are just two weeks to go until the CalMac Community Fund closes, but there is still plenty of scope to help youth groups up and down the west coast.

Closing on December 13, CalMac is accepting applications for a project or activity that will benefit people aged 26 and under.

Organisations based in a mainland port or island the company serves can apply for £500 to £2,000. So far the fund has supported 39 projects from women's football in the Outer

Hebrides, to Campbeltown Sea Cadets and a Gaelic youth club on Skye.

CalMac's director of community and stakeholder engagement Brian Fulton said: "This is the last chance for groups to tap into the support we are offering. Many hundreds of young people have benefited from the fund so far and we are still in position where we can help even more."

Organisations which have applied unsuccessfully are welcome to submit a new application, but successful applicants cannot apply again.

Application forms and full terms and conditions can be found at calmac.co.uk/community-fund.

SKYE AND RAASAY

The deadline for communities across Skye and Raasay to get their entries in for the Eilean a' Cheò

All nominees must be resident on the isles of Skye or Raasay and be able to demonstrate their actions or activities have resulted in a significant benefit and deserve recognition.

Councillors will consider all applications received and awards will be presented at a ceremony in Portree on January 31 2020.

Nomination forms are available on The Highland Council's website https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/16831/civic_award_application_and_guidance

Completed nomination forms should be returned to ward manager Willie MacKinnon by December 20, 2019, willie.mackinnon@highland.gov.uk

LEWIS

At the recent Scottish Gaelic Awards in the Marriott Hotel, Glasgow, Sgoil an Rubha's Iolaire play 'An Oidhche Mus Do Sheoil I' won the Community, Heritage and Tourism Award.

The play was performed by pupils of Sgoil An Rubha as part of their project to highlight the impact the Iolaire disaster had on Point, Isle of Lewis.

The play was written by Councillor Alasdair Macleod and produced and directed by Marisa MacDonald, with huge input from members of the Point community.

Fifty servicemen from Point were on the Iolaire that fateful night and only 11 survived.

The 50 servicemen were played by 50 pupils from Sgoil An Rubha. Each was assigned the name of a serviceman as they came on stage in the opening scene.

The story of the Iolaire was performed by the pupils from the time the ship left Kyle of Lochalsh until it ran aground on the Beasts of Holm on New Year's morning in 1919.

Thirty-nine pupils left the stage dressed in black T-shirts and 11 were in white T-shirts to depict those who perished and those who survived. The pupils left the stage to the singing of Psalm 23 in Gaelic.

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Retro Roamer

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More Roamerisms from the early 1990s

■ Something seems out of kilter with regard to the siting of the open market stalls in Fort William High Street. If you've had a dander along our main thoroughfare you'll have noticed the granite setts and cobbles of pedestrianisation are laid out in a sloping, bevelled design. So, will the market stalls need to be like the West Highland haggis which Ewen faithfully points out to the visitors aboard MV Souter's Lass on the Seal Island trip? As Ewen explains: 'The only way the haggis family are able to balance themselves and look at you from the hillside is because they have two legs shorter than the other two.'

■ Novel at the weekend were the town's 'twin watersplashes' thanks to faulty guttering above premises at the corner of Monzie Square and on the roof of the building at the corner of Cameron Square. These were quite spectacular, in fact, and were temporarily dubbed as the Mill Falls and the Wine Falls, respectively. No Wine Falls in Gordon Square, however, to celebrate the opening of the Fort's new, integrated Job Centre and accommodation block. Just soft drinks and coffee. Quite appropriate though as the building is on the site of the former Waverley Temperance Hotel.

■ Mallaig sportsman Kenny MacKenzie gave the spectators a vintage display when Lochaber Badminton Club hosted the fifth annual Lochaber Open Championships at Marco's. In the men's singles competition for the Clydesdale Bank Cup, Kenny waltzed through to the final without losing a game. He took the title after eclipsing John MacLennan, Lochside.

■ At one time, in the far off days of Fort William Senior Secondary School, the only known Lochaber

supporter of Raith Rovers was Davie 'Pop' Allan, from The Village. But now I hear that, in the hallowed halls of Lochaber high, there's another Raith fan. None other than teacher Bill Henderson, who is to the school's youth team what Jimmy Nicoll is to the Rovers. If, as reported, 'they were dancing in the streets of Raith' last weekend then, up here in Fort William, Bill was 'walking on air' along the corridors on Monday morning.

■ Spare a thought for Susan, who, on Tuesday, laid her black purse on the roof of her VW while she packed various items she had bought in town into the car. Susan then drove off, leaving the purse, which contained a lot of money, to slide down onto the road. Any chance someone has found it?

■ Trapped like Rapunzel was one of our primary school teachers. She was yelling from the top window after being locked in by the school cleaners.

'I've left my keys in the car,' she eventually managed to shout down to a lady who lives close to the school and was passing at the time. The relief of the damsel in distress came only after an hour and a half of unpaid overtime which had been spent watching for someone to pass by and help her out of her predicament - and the school.

■ There was Mary Ann on Radio Highland on Monday morning telling us about the 'nuclear dumpling' at Dounreay. I wonder who that might be. At the same time, Sky TV were telling us of the exploits of 'Lock Harbour Mountain Rescue Team'!

■ You may have heard about stray dog Bouncer being given a reprieve and being boarded out to Morar. This will probably be much to the relief of LDC's dog warden Fiona

Docherty who met up with Bouncer a couple of weeks back. As Fiona set about putting a collar on the frisky Labrador pup, Bouncer nosed into a shopping bag belonging to a lady who was just about to get into a taxi. Bouncer then emerged with a bar of chocolate. Fiona, of course, was given laldy by the lady who thought Bouncer belonged to her.

■ 'By hook or by crook I'll be last in this book!' I wonder how many times Nigel Chisholm wrote that popular phrase in the autograph books of his schooldays. Well, Nigel, veteran of more than a score of Ben Nevis races, now has the distinction of being 'last' in Hugh Dan's forthcoming book about the Ben Race. Hugh Dan states: 'The challenge of the Ben Race and what it means to the entrants cannot be summed up better than in the words of bank clerk Nigel Chisholm, who ran the Ben again in 1994: 'Exhausted, wet but still smiling.'

■ Meanwhile, life went on much as usual at Lochaber District Council's final special meeting of 1994. Except there now seems to be a heightened awareness in the Chamber of declarations of interest.

On a couple of occasions, on that account, some of the elected members had to excuse themselves from the debate, commenting that ejection seats round the table would be a 'good guy'.

■ Shades of 'old Fort William'. The other day I noted two elderly housewives from 'up the hill', both with their message bags and having a chat as they reached halfway up Kilgour's Brae.

No bus or taxi for them. Just a regular walk up the hill which they and their contemporaries were doing nigh on half a century ago when the Fort was a lot smaller and they were a lot younger.



Megan (top left) with young film-makers in training from Mallaig High School. Photograph: Laura Sturrock (Electrify)

Mallaig's Megan returns for FilmG masterclass

Mallaig High School pupils enjoyed a brilliant learning experience last week as part of the Gaelic Short Film Competition.

They were joined by former pupil Megan MacLellan and film-maker Alasdair MacLean as they made their FilmG entry.

Megan is a FilmG success story, having won Best Performance when she was in high school. She went onto study at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and was face of Dè-a-Nis?! and CBBC Alba.

Alasdair is a freelance film-maker working on a variety of productions including the newest series of BBC The Social star Calum MacLean's Dhan Uisge.

The workshop was one of 35 being delivered by FilmG across Scotland, giving children the opportunity to make a five-minute 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 entries last year.

The bulk of these entries come through FilmG's innovative workshops.

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 environment.'

Mallaig's entry follows a boy who is excluded from a party and shows how upsetting this can be for a young person, particularly in this social media age.

Pupils look forward to sharing their work with those at home when films go live in December. The main youth category prize is £1,000 for Best Film. Independent

Chang Winter Festival was held at the Oribel Centre, Oban, on 15th and 16th December. The festival featured a variety of activities including a

Ben Nevis Group Film, open to all members of the club. The event was held at the Oribel Centre, Oban, on 15th and 16th December. The festival featured a variety of activities including a

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LT

ATHLETICS



Finlay Wild leads Sunday's Lochaber Athletic Club race. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Finlay Wild sets new record

A total of 64 runners took part in the weekend's Drumfada Chase with local GP Finlay Wild first home in a time of 46:29, setting a new course record in the process.

First back for the ladies was Ailsa Lopez in 1:01:08. Big thanks to all marshals, time keepers and cake bakers who made the race possible.



Competitors seem in good spirits during the Drumfada Chase.

COACHING

Kirsty receives her coaching award at shinty dinner



Fort William's Kirsty Delaney, left, was named joint winner of the Young Coach of the Year at the 2019 Highland Coaching, Officiating and Volunteering Awards. She received her certificate from Bridget Thomas of Highlife Highland at the recent Lochaber Shinty Club awards dinner.

LOTTERY NUMBERS

Lochaber club lotteries

Ballachulish Shinty Lottery: The numbers for the draw for the 24/11 were 5, 11 and 19. There was one winner - Iain Mac Millan from Ballachulish. The pot was £600. Next week's draw goes back to £200.

Caol Community Centre Bingo Club: Lotto numbers for 24/11/2019 were 2, 5 and 13. No winners so £700 next week.

Fort William Golf Club: Lotto numbers drawn 21/11 were 6, 11 and 15. No winner and £200 available for draw on 28/11.

Lochaber have no antidote to pacey Glasgow Uni Medics side

Glasgow Uni Medics	75
Lochaber	5

West Region Division 3

Lochaber travelled away to Glasgow University Medics on Saturday, in what promised to be the Banavie club's sternest test of the season and so it proved.

Lochaber had their injury woes, being without strong-running centre Callum Boyd who had been taken to hospital after the previous week's loss to Loch Lomond, where a scan showed he had sustained a broken leg.

In the front row things were a bit better with hookers Rory MacKay and Christopher Morrison returning to the team, but a lack of props saw MacKay having to make his first ever start in the position.

The game, however, started well for the visitors who got the first try of the game. Taking the ball deep inside his own half, Conor Taylor first shrugged off the attentions of two defenders trying to tackle him, before facing another two players attempting to halt him and failing.

The Lochaber player then put in a text book hand-off on the home side's fullback that sent the No 15 flying.



Lochaber struggled to make much impression against the strong running Glasgow side.

The sixth defender to have a crack at Taylor almost got him five metres out but fell off the tackle as well, leaving Taylor to touch down for a great score to make it 0-5 with the conversion just wide.

Unfortunately that was pretty much the end of Lochaber's good fortunes as the Medics speed and organisation started to come to the fore; the home side ran in five tries in the next 20 minutes, finding lots of space after trying in Lochaber's defence.

Lochaber then suffered another blow when Koni Johnson went to make a tackle five metres out, and as he was attempting to wrap his arms around the Medics player, their player passed

the ball which bounced off Johnson's arm.

The referee deemed this to have been a deliberate knock on and produced the yellow card, leaving Lochaber with 14 men for the next 10 minutes.

From the restart the Medics scored their sixth try after quickly spreading the ball across the pitch. Taylor almost got a second try just a few minutes later but lost control of the ball in the tackle just a few metres out.

Lochaber had a good five-minute spell before the end of the half where they were looking like they might score again but the Medics turned the ball over and a missed tackle in their own 22 allowed

RUGBY

them to run the length of the pitch to score for the last play of the half.

The second half didn't get much better for the visitors with the Medics running in another six tries and Lochaber coming up just short on a couple of occasions.

The game finished 75-5 to the Medics. The two teams meet again on December 7 at Banavie in the West Bowl Final.

Before that, however, Lochaber travel to Moffat this Saturday where they will be looking for a much better result. Kick-off 2pm.

Alleycats still purring along at top of 10 pin league

After week three of the Lochaber Building Supplies 10-pin bowling leagues at the Nevis Centre in Fort William Alleycats still lead the scratch division and are the only team with the maximum of 15 points.

Team With A Bowling Problem are in second spot with 11 points with British Legion Fort William in third place with 10 points.

In the handicap division Team With A Bowling Problem continue to lead with 11 points followed by British Legion Fort William on 10

points and Alleycats on eight points.

Individually the best scratch game in week three was by Steve Day (Team With A Bowling Problem) with a personal best and season high game of 215 which contained four strikes in a row. Also this week Colin Pinkett and Gus Fraser (both Council) each had a 180 and Brian Johnstone (Alleycats) had a 173.

Day also had the top handicap game and season high of 263 and the top two game scratch series of 344.

TEN-PIN BOWLING

Pinkett had the top two game handicap series of 486 - also the season high.

Council swept the board with the best team scores of the week with the top scratch game of 632, the top two game scratch series of 1219, the top handicap game of 916 and the top two game handicap series of 1787 - the latter two both being season highs.

Steve Day who had a personal best and league season high game.



Nevis Range invests £1M in new snow sports infrastructure

Nevis Range Mountain Experience, just outside Fort William, has invested at least £1 million in its infrastructure for their ski and snowboard offering to snow sport enthusiasts ahead of the 2019/20 winter season.

The investment, which includes a bespoke snow making plant, an expanded beginners' ski area serviced by a new traveller conveyor lift and improved snow fencing over the whole mountain, will guarantee both season long ski and snowboard facilities for beginners' lessons and excellent snow conditions for families from December 2019, and for years to come.

The Nevis Range snow making plant was specially designed by Recom Ice Systems, a Dutch manufacturer of flake ice plants for the fishing industry; and manufactured in China. It is capable of producing up to 155 tons of flake ice in a 24-hour period and enough snow to cover an area of 150m by 50m to a depth of 300cm in 14 days.

The snow-making farm will combine with two snow canons to push the snow out to the dedicated beginners' area that has doubled in size to approximately 100 square



The new 80m traveller 'magic carpet' style conveyor lift.

metres and conveniently situated less than 15 metres from the Gondola Top Station. The beginner area has also seen new snow fences erected to help catch any natural snow and keep the newly farmed snow in place.

Chris O'Brien, CEO at Nevis Range, commented: 'We have invested heavily into snow sports at Nevis Range in order to guarantee excellent conditions for skiers and snowboarders in our beginners' area all season long.'

'With no road access to the Top Gondola Station I'm immensely proud of how hard the team have worked, in

order to get our snow making plant and new beginners area completed in time, not just for this season but also to secure incredible winter sports facilities for years to come,' he said.

'It's an incredibly exciting time at Nevis Range and we are looking forward to welcoming our snow sports enthusiasts in December. Watch this space for more exciting news to announce very soon.'

Enhancing and developing the uplift infrastructure and access to the slopes for all snow sport visitors has been another major project un-

SKIING

dertaken by the Nevis Range engineering team.

The new 80-metre long traveller 'magic carpet' style conveyor lift, serving the beginners' area, has been installed, adding to the significant improvements to the beginner experience on the mountain whilst providing easier access to some of the lower mountain lifts for the more experienced skiers and snowboarders.

New larch 'ranch style' snow fencing has replaced tired chestnut paling on many of the mountain slopes. The new fences are bigger, higher and stronger, not only providing fuller and more reliable runs for skiers and snowboarders, but also improving access for piste machines and catching more snow for them to distribute on to the ski slopes.

This year the resort has also made massive investments into current lift infrastructure above and beyond normal maintenance procedures. This has included an overhaul of the Goose T-Bar return bull wheel. The summit button tow has also been shortened and a new brake system added.

Fort youngsters 'growing in confidence' with every game

Fort manager Russell MacMorran says his young side is growing in confidence and learning with every game and this will stand his players in good stead when they go into action away to Inverurie Locos on Saturday.

'We are looking forward to get back into action again, as our fixtures have been a bit disjointed due to cup competitions and call offs, which can't be helped and it seem like a long time since we've had a run of games,' MacMorran told the Lochaber Times this week.

'We make the trip to Harlan park to play Inverurie locos on Saturday, which will no doubt prove to be a good game. Locos currently sit joint top of the league and we are sitting

at the foot of the table due to the lack of competitive games. We find ourselves six games in hand against locos which is a unique position to be while at the foot of the table.

'As disappointing as our result against Fraserburgh was, we took a lot of positives from the game, which we will take into our game on Saturday.'

'With all cup distractions out the way now we will be looking to progress in the league and make the most of our games in hand.'

'My young side is growing in confidence and learning with every game. We will give Locos the respect their position in the league requires, but again we will not be the same side that they faced at the beginning of the season.'



As of Saturday, Fort William FC's top scorers (for all competitions) are:

Ross Gunn: six goals
Jack Brown: four goals
Roddy Kennedy: four goals
Aidan Taylor: three goals
Gabriel Hastings: two goals
Jordan Andrew: two goals
Harry Nicolson: two goals
Daryl Taylor: one goal
Robert Nevison: one goal
Donald Morrison: one goal
There was no match for Fort at the weekend and next up is a 270-mile round trip to face second placed side Inverurie Locos in the Highland League this Saturday. Kick-off is 2pm.

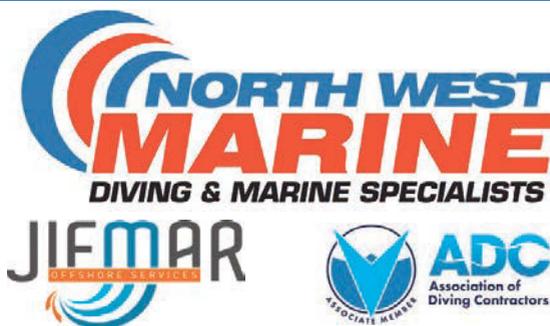


Bob MacIntyre pictured with the Challenge Tour Graduate of the Year and European Tour Rookie of the Year trophies.

Rookie of the Year

Oban is bursting with pride after Robert 'Bob' Macintyre was crowned the 2019 European Tour Rookie of the Year as well as the Challenge Tour Graduate of the Year

The Glencruitten golfer battled his way into the top 15 in the last event of the season, the DP World Tour Championship in Dubai, to clinch these accolades.



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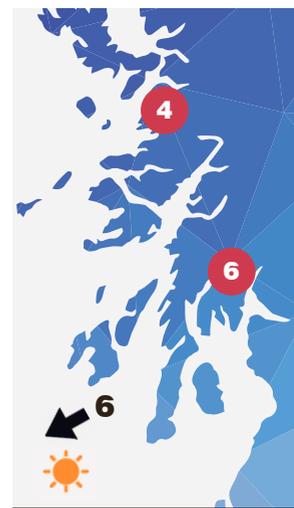


WEATHER

Thursday
Sunny intervals and a moderate breeze
Temperatures
1°C to 8°C.

Friday
Sunny and a gentle breeze
Temperatures
0°C to 6°C.

Weekend Outlook
Saturday
Sunny and a gentle breeze
Sunday
Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze
Temperatures
2°C to 5°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)

	00.28	0.8	06.21	4.1
Thur	12.49	0.8	18.33	4.0
Fri	01.07	0.9	06.59	4.1
	13.32	1.0	19.09	3.8
Sat	01.47	1.1	07.37	3.9
	14.14	1.3	19.46	3.6
Sun	02.28	1.3	08.17	3.8
	14.58	1.5	20.24	3.4
Mon	03.14	1.5	09.01	3.5
	15.46	1.8	21.07	3.1
Tues	04.04	1.7	09.54	3.3
	16.41	2.0	22.00	3.0
Wed	05.00	1.8	11.05	3.2
	17.45	2.1	23.21	2.8

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

Chain, shackles and buoys all available to purchase.

Nevis Range invests
£1M in new snow
sports infrastructure

Finlay Wild
sets new
record

SLT makes it five wins from five

Munro nets his 100th goal for the club

Calderglen 1
South Lochaber Thistle 2
GGPL Division One

South Lochaber Thistle made it five wins out of five with a hard won victory away to Calderglen AFC.

The Jags made the trek to Lochwinnoch with solid league form since October, but having been bested by the

established Greater Glasgow Premier Division side in the cup last season, knew the battle would be tough.

On a heavy, waterlogged grass park, it was the visitors who made the early running. Both teams were finding it hard to gain control in the conditions but Thistle were denied what looked like a clear penalty when captain Martin Munro appeared to



Martin Munro of scored his 100th goal for the team in their away win against Calderglen at the weekend. Photographs: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

be hauled to the floor as he squared himself to pull the trigger in front of goal. This proved to be one of a number of questionable decisions from the referee on the day.

However, Munro was not to be denied for long and soon slotted home his 99th goal for the club. The Calderglen keeper spilt the ball into his path, he rounded the prone stopper and made no mistake with the finish.

The home side were nothing if not dogged and used the inconsistent referee and the soggy park to frustrate the free flowing Kinlochleven outfit. Their equaliser coming early in the second half as the Calderglen striker was afforded too much time in the box to turn and shoot.

Yellow cards were a-fluttering as first Andrew Martin, then Michael Rodger, John

Ferguson and Kieron Lopez went into the referee's book as the man in charge failed to get a hold of a nasty attritional contest.

The score remained deadlocked as the clock ticked down only for Munro to notch a century of finishes in a little over three seasons at the club.

A long ball forward was gathered in traditional impish fashion by Sean Noble who's powerful drive rebounded off the luckless keeper and Munro made no mistake with the follow up.

Man of the match was awarded to debutant Cameron Bolton who battled and fought in the centre of midfield alongside veteran Danny Mackintosh to keep the Calderglen opponents feeding only on scraps.

Player/manager Alan Gray

FOOTBALL

said: 'This was an excellent battling performance against a hard working opponent. Although the weather, the pitch and the referee were all challenges today, the boys put in a top notch shift and can be very proud of their commitment and effort.'

'I'm especially pleased for Cameron Bolton who made his debut and to our skipper Marty Munro. To become the first SLT player to 100 goals is an incredible achievement and we continue to be proud and grateful that he is a Jaggie.'

The win against Calderglen sees SLT occupy fourth place in Division One. The team travel to East Kilbride this Saturday when they take on Dynamo East Kilbride at the John Wright's Sports Centre.

Juniors tackle first winter league race

ATHLETICS

The first race of Lochaber Athletic Club junior winter league was held on the weekend of November 16/17 with races starting from the Braveheart Car Park.

Conditions were ideal for the runners, and for several of the under-11s this was their first race. The level of noise and excitement reflected the enthusiasm of these young athletes.

All junior athletes performed well with first home in each group: under-11 girls Maddison MacMillan; under-11 boys Angus Davies; under-13 boys Duncan MacDonald; under-15 girls Mya Carmichael and under-15 boys Fraser Anderson who also came third overall in the senior Park Run at Nevis Range on the Saturday with a PB of 21 minutes.

The next race in the four race series is the Melantee Mash starting from Claggan Park in early January.

Further races will include a trail race at Nevis Range and a mini hill race. Youngsters from nine to 15 years are welcome for training at the junior athletic club on Thursday evenings from 6-7pm, meeting at Claggan Park. Coaches are qualified and registered through Scottish Athletics.



Albie Robertson, coach, with captain Martin Munro celebrating 100 goals, alongside Man of the Match Cameron Bolton and player/manager Alan Gray.

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