

**BIG ENERGY SAVING WEEK...**  
**January 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> 2020**

See our feature on pages 26-29

**Sharon wins a trolley load of shopping**



**WIN WIN**  
 A voyage of luxury for two on Scotland's only floating hotel turn to page 13



# Brian backs clinical trial to fight motor neurone disease

by Kathie Griffiths  
 kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Oban's Brian MacDonald has signed up for the largest trial of drugs tackling motor neurone disease.

If selected, the retired firefighter, shocked by his diagnosis, could be joining the likes of rugby legend Doddie Weir whose namesake charity has already raised £5 million for research into the disease.

The former Scotland international star has called on every MND patient in Scotland to join him.

Brian registered his interest in taking part as soon as he heard about it and is determined to be chosen.

The 42-year-old, who last week officially retired from the fire service after 13 years of life-saving work in Glasgow, said he had big hopes for the trial – if not for himself, for others battling the condition.

'My MND nurse told me to watch the news for it but I registered my interest 13 minutes before it went out on TV.

'This trial is massive for myself and anyone else who has MND. I'm hoping there will be a cure one day. I'm hoping they find a drug that

would halt the progression for me just now and then look at finding something that could reverse it so I could be back fighting fit.

'Even if it helped me stay the way I am now and I didn't lose my voice, I could be happy with that. As long as I can still talk and have a laugh, MND can take my limbs away,' he said.

Just before Christmas, Brian moved out of the upstairs bedroom at his mother's Drummore Road home and into a one-level cottage

**'As long as I can still talk and have a laugh, MND can take my limbs away'**

run by Scottish charity Bield, helping people live the life they want.

Despite the move giving him back some independence, his condition is deteriorating. He has lost the use of his left-hand side and now the right side of his body is also becoming weaker – but he still has his voice and sense of humour.

'I'm taking each day as it comes,' said Brian, who has received financial support from well-wishers wanting to improve his quality



Glasgow watch commander Chris Casey was at Brian MacDonald's retirement ceremony along with Glasgow area commander Roddie Keith. 16\_T04\_BriamacDonald02

of life. More help is still needed. MND causes muscle wasting and loss of nerve cells that control movement, speech and breathing.

Hundreds of MND patients will be able to take part in the new MND-SMART clinical trial and the first participants will be seen in Edinburgh at the Anne Rowling Regenerative Neurology Clinic, with other clinics across the UK joining during this year.

The trial has been developed to find effective medicines more quickly, allowing more than one

treatment to be tested at the same time and meaning patients are more likely to receive an active drug. New drugs can be added and medicines that are not producing results can be dropped.

As well as trying out new drugs, medications already licensed for other conditions such as anxiety, depression or Alzheimer's will be tested.

The clinical trial is a collaboration between University College London, the University of Warwick and the Euan MacDonald Centre

for MND Research at the University of Edinburgh.

Funding for it has come from the Euan MacDonald Centre, MND Scotland and the My Name's Doddie Foundation.

Lawrence Cowan, chairman of MND Scotland, said: 'This is a historic moment in our fightback against motor neurone disease.'

Last week more than 100 people, including three buses bringing Brian's former fire service colleagues from Glasgow, turned out for his official farewell ceremony at Oban Fire Station.

Glasgow area commander Roddie Keith said it was 'a mark of the man' that so many people wanted to be there and praised him for 'showing his true colours' in the determined way he was facing his health challenges.

He added: 'Brian has played his part and more in the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, making the community of Glasgow a much safer place and attending some of the biggest incidents in the city's recent times. It's been a varied, lengthy and quite remarkable career. Retired or not, you [Brian] will always be part of our fire service family. We are here to support you.'



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OT

## Oban man found guilty of stealing £400

An Oban man has been found guilty of stealing £400 from his friend.

Jordan Andrew Kelso of 19 Colonsay Terrace, Oban, denied the offence when he appeared in Oban Sheriff Court on Monday January 13.

However, after a trial, Sheriff Patrick Hughes found the 22-year-old guilty.

The court heard that Kelso was drinking and playing pool at a friend's house with one other on September 15, 2018.

The friend showed them his savings of between £400 and £500, which he kept in his sock drawer in a travel wallet, but when he woke up the next day, the money was missing.

Procurator fiscal David Glancy argued that there would have been times throughout the night that Kelso was on his own in the house.

A witness also said they had seen Kelso in a public house holding more than £50 in notes, while in Kelso's police interview he indicated he only had '£20 to £30 on him'.

The court also heard that when confronted by the complainer and the other friend, Kelso denied taking the money but offered to pay it back in a bid to save the friendship.

Mr Glancy said considering all the evidence, it 'forms a compelling case against the accused'.

In Kelso's defence, his so-



licitor Jane McLaren argued that there was significant differences between the two main witnesses' evidence, such as the timing of when they left the room to go and play pool.

Mrs McLaren also stated that the witnesses did not see him take the wallet, or conceal anything when they walked to the venue.

She said there was not a special defence of incrimination, but the other friend went back to the bedroom at points and there were other occupants in the house.

She also said that her client offered to repay the money because he did not want to lose the friendship. She stated that when he was confronted, he was shocked and angry, but also did not want the trouble of the police coming to his house.

Sheriff Hughes said he found the witnesses to be credible and reliable, and found Kelso guilty.

He deferred sentencing until February 13 in order for the court to obtain background reports.

## Linkspan maintenance work begins at Oban harbour

Work is scheduled to start today (Thursday January 23) on linkspan number two at Oban Harbour, writes David McPhee.

The linkspan, which is a drawbridge used to move vehicles on and off a ferry, will be out of action for 10 days in order to replace the lifting cylinders.

During this time vessels will use the linkspan at berth number one, which was replaced earlier this year.

Minimal disruption to services is expected, however passengers should refer to CalMac's website for further information: [www.calmac.co.uk/service-status](http://www.calmac.co.uk/service-status)

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

Ramsay Muirhead, director of port infrastructure and

planning at CMAL, said: 'This project is part of our on-going programme of harbour upgrades and modifications across our network to provide safe and efficient lifeline ferry services to communities around Scotland.'

'We have worked closely with the contractor and CalMac to ensure there is as little disruption to services as possible.'

CalMac's director of operations Robert Morrison said:

'We are pleased to say that we have been able to amend the timetable so that there is no reduction in overall sailings while this work is carried out.'

'However, operating from one linkspan means that our turnaround for sailings is much tighter, so I would urge all passengers to pay particular attention to the vehicle and passenger check-in times for their sailing and to arrive in plenty of time.'



## Lee has bags of enthusiasm in bid to clear Oban of rubbish

Ever year Lee McKillop organises a number of litter picks in and around Oban to help raise money for charity, writes David McPhee.

Earlier this month, Lee and four of her friends filled 14 bags of rubbish, cleaning up around the Corran Halls and the lane that runs from Millpark to Aldi.

She has now raised more than £600 in total for the Sophie North Charitable Trust, which was set up in memory of Sophie who died in the Dunblane shootings in 1996.

Money goes to hospices, breast cancer and other worthwhile causes.

Posting on Facebook, the trust wrote: 'Another wonderful effort Lee. Thank you.'



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# Call for volunteers to train to be out-of-hours lifesavers

by Kathie Griffiths  
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An out-of-hours lifesaving service delivering essential blood and urgent medical supplies for the NHS is looking for Oban volunteers to help get it on the road.

Blood Bikes was first set up in the Inverness area by a group of enthusiastic bikers, but NHS Highland has now asked them to extend the service, which relies on donations to keep it up and running, to cover Oban and Fort William.

The idea is eventually to cover the whole of the Highlands and Islands with a network of bikers, call takers and fundraisers to keep the scheme, which saves the NHS money and resources, moving.

After a Facebook post on Information Oban, a few people have already been in touch to find out more, said the project's vice-chairman Graham Allan.

As well as bikers with advanced motorcycle certificates, Blood Bikes also needs car drivers in case of bad biking weather conditions and people willing to be 'controllers' and pick up the NHS calls.

'Bikers are just part of the big operational team we need to put together in Oban,' said Mr Allan.

Although whole blood can be transported by bikers in England and Wales, it is not happening in Scotland yet – although that will change at some point, added Mr Allan.



For the time being, the bikes are delivering blood samples to Raigmore Hospital in Inverness as well as other urgent samples needing to be taken to and from laboratories.

Blood Bikes is also on call to deliver equipment, for example a home delivery to a patient who needs a replacement part for a broken oxygen mask.

The health authority currently relies on taxis or couriers when hospital van drivers are not on duty.

A Blood Bikes pilot scheme is due to start up in the next few weeks covering 6pm to 6am Monday to Friday and right through the weekend.

Sponsorship is also needed to help fund the bikes and maintain them.

Recently the Inverness and

**Highlands and Islands Blood Bikes vice-chairman Graham Allan receives a cheque for £2,500 from the Maximus Foundation's Julie Bradbury.** Photograph: John Bird.

Highlands scheme took on a second-hand bike from the Dumfries and Galloway Blood Bikes scheme. It now has a fleet of two. A new bike costs around £12,000.

If enough bikers and drivers are recruited from Oban and Fort William, the idea would be to organise journeys in relays to help speed up deliveries and lessen travelling times. The plan would also be for the area to have its own bikes. For more information go to [haibloodbikes.co.uk](http://haibloodbikes.co.uk).

## POLICE FILES

### Offensive weapon

About 1.20am on Wednesday January 15, officers attended reports of a disturbance in the area of George Street in Oban. A man was later found, allegedly in the possession of a glass bottle. He was arrested and charged with possession of an offensive weapon, and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

### Drink driving

About 1.35pm on Thursday January 16, officers stopped a vehicle in Lochside Road, Oban. The male driver, 36, was allegedly driving while under the influence of alcohol. He was arrested and later released on an undertaking to appear at court on a later date.

### Abusive behaviour

About 10pm on Thursday January 16, a vehicle was seen driving erratically in Dunbeg. The vehicle was

stopped, and the female driver, 47, was allegedly found to be driving while under the influence of alcohol. The woman behaved in an abusive manner to officers and was arrested. She was detained in custody pending her appearance at court the following day.

### Drugs

About 1.30pm on Friday January 17, police attended an address in Alma Crescent, Oban, where controlled drugs were allegedly recovered from within. The male householder, aged 37, was later charged with allowing people to use the address for the consumption of drugs, and for the possession of Class A drugs. A report will be 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.

## Handbrake turn lands forester in court

### COURT

A forestry worker spotted speeding through Oban, drove straight over a mini roundabout then handbrake turned, spinning his car by 180 degrees.

Dairis Pilsetnieks, 25, appeared before the town's sheriff court last week admitting driving dangerously while disqualified with no insurance and having 31 micrograms of alcohol in

100 millilitres of breath – the legal limit being 22mcg.

Just after 9pm on January 14 this year, Pilsetnieks was followed by police, who saw him driving at speed down 30mph Glengallon Road then driving over the top of a mini-roundabout. He then did a 180-degree handbrake turn in George Street.

'Officers had seen enough, put their blue lights on and stopped him,' said Procurator Fiscal David

Glancy. Right from the start Pilsetnieks, whose address was given as the Balmoral Hotel, Oban, told police he was disqualified from driving and was therefore uninsured. He was also smelling of drink, the court was told.

Deferring sentencing for reports until February 12, Sheriff Patrick Hughes allowed bail but warned the matter was so serious that prison was likely.



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## Unpaid work for man who bombarded former partner with messages

### COURT

An Oban man was given a community payback order for causing fear or alarm to his former partner by 'bombarding' her with messages after they separated.

Steven Macleod, of 8 Hazeldean Crescent, Longsdale, admitted sending texts, social media messages, emails, and telephone calls between August 2017 and June 2019. He also pleaded guilty to uttering threats to another person.

The 34-year-old was sentenced at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday January 13.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes ordered Macleod to carry out 120 hours of unpaid work, be under social work supervision for 18 months, and to pay back £2,550 in compensation for a loan he took out, for which his ex-partner was the guarantor, and he failed to repay.

Sheriff Hughes also made him subject to a non-harassment order for a period of three years.

Procurator Fiscal David Glancy said: 'Most of the time he was under the influence of alcohol and she was the subject of a number of derogatory comments.'

Macleod's defence solicitor, Kevin McGinness, said: 'Alcohol has played a significant part in this matter. My client generally apologised after sending any messages. It is clear from the report that he regrets his behaviour.'

Sheriff Patrick Hughes labelled the behaviour as 'disturbing' and said, paired with his record, it met the threshold for a custodial sentence but in the end issued Macleod with the community payback order.

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# Prestigious Unicef award goes to Mull primaries

by David McPhee

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Two schools on Mull have been awarded the prestigious silver Rights Respecting Schools Award by Unicef UK. Lochdonhead and Ulva Primary Schools were presented with the award for their work in putting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child into practise within the school and beyond.

The award sees schools work alongside Unicef to create safe and inspiring places to learn, where children are respected, their talents are nurtured and they are able to thrive.

It embeds these values in



Lochdonhead Primary School pupils and staff are very proud of their achievement.

daily school life and gives children the best chance to lead happy, healthy lives and to be responsible, active citizens.

Joint headteacher of Lochdonhead and Ulva Primary Schools Susie Carmichael said: 'We are delighted to achieve our Rights Respecting Schools silver award at both schools.'

'The pupils have enjoyed learning about their rights and sharing their learning with the wider community.'

'The rights of the child underpin everything that we do at the schools and I would

like to thank the pupils, staff and parents for working together in achieving our silver award.'

Argyll and Bute Council's policy lead for education Councillor Yvonne McNeilly said: 'This is a great achievement.'

'The values embedded in the Rights Respecting Schools award helps to ensure that our children feel empowered and gives them a voice.'

'The staff and pupils at these schools have worked extremely hard to achieve this; they have shown great commitment throughout

and I am extremely proud of them.'

And there has been parliamentary praise for the two schools, with Highlands and Islands MSP Donald Cameron submitting a motion in the Scottish Parliament.

He said: 'I was delighted to learn about the success of Lochdonhead and Ulva primary schools.'

'It is wonderful that the efforts of the pupils and staff have won this recognition, and everyone concerned should feel very proud of their achievement.'



Ulva Primary School pupils and staff were also delighted to win the award.



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Project Trust ambassador Megan Evans from Oban with pupils from Bunessan Primary School on Mull.

# Megan inspires future global citizens

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Primary school pupils visited Oban High School last week to learn more about the wider world and how to be a positive force in it.

More than 90 youngsters from across Argyll and Bute were at The Project Trust Global Citizenship Event on Friday.

Former High School pupil Megan Evans, now an ambassador for the Coll-based trust, was there to tell the children about her time volunteering with the charity in South Africa.

Megan was joined by other ambassadors, aged 19 to 21, who have also volunteered with the trust around the world.

They were at the high school to tell the primary children about other cultures, global issues and human rights in the hope of inspiring the next generation of global citizens.

Megan, who is now studying psychology at university in Aberdeen and hopes to train as a teacher, said: 'We were really surprised at just how aware the children already were about some of the places where we've volunteered and about the poverty experienced.'

'They asked lots of interesting questions.'

Ingrid Emerson MBE, chief executive of Project Trust, said: 'The vision of Project Trust, as an international education charity, is to empower the next generation

of young people to become active global citizens. And what better place to do this than with the young people in our own community.

'Our ambassadors delivering the workshops on the day bring real-life perspective through first-hand experience of volunteering overseas with Project Trust in teaching, youth work, and social care roles.'

'With the support of Argyll and Bute Council's Supporting Communities Fund, we hope to develop the children's understanding of their rights and responsibilities in their communities, whilst also giving them an insight into other countries and cultures.'

## Megan said her experience with Project Trust was life changing.

Megan, who returned to Oban in 2019 after her 12-month overseas placement, said the experience was life-changing and inspired her to want to work with children who have disabilities.

'Working with disabled children wasn't a role I'd previously considered - and now, I can't see myself doing anything else. I found my confidence and self-belief.'

'The community in and around Oban was really supportive during my fundraising ahead of going overseas, so the Project Trust Global

Citizenship Event is an ideal opportunity for me to pass on that support and inspiration to others - by sharing some of my learning including about how different societies work.'

Argyll and Bute Council's policy lead for education Councillor Yvonne McNeilly said: 'Our driving force is wanting our young people to succeed in life and Megan, a former Oban High School pupil, is a prime example of someone who is well on her way to doing this as a result of the experience that volunteering overseas has given her.'

'Volunteering abroad not only helps to build confidence and independence, it enables young people to grow as individuals and to gain vital skills that will benefit them throughout their life.'

'This event was a wonderful opportunity for the young people of Argyll and Bute to hear about volunteering overseas at first hand and to find out what opportunities there are for them to pursue this in the future.'

Project Trust, one of the original international gap year charities for young people, delivered the event thanks to support from Argyll and Bute Council's Supporting Communities Fund.

Project Trust hopes to run similar events in the future in other local authority areas in Scotland and the UK.

To find out more go to [projecttrust.org.uk/global-citizenship](http://projecttrust.org.uk/global-citizenship)

# Bail refused for man who caused havoc in Tobermory

## COURT

A 23-year-old man will be sentenced next month after causing havoc in Tobermory.

Luke Gordon, of Flat 13, Old Bond Flats, Main Street, Tobermory, admitted refusing to leave a public house, uttering threats, striking a door, repeatedly striking a car with his fists and a traffic cone, and pushing someone on the body.

The incidents took place within a 50-minute window on December 15, 2019, on Main Street, Tobermory.

Procurator fiscal David Glancy told the court on Monday January 13 that the situation started around 5pm, when staff asked Gordon to leave after he became aggressive towards the people he was drinking with.

He refused and was eventually 'put' outside, before moving along Main Street and entering into an argument.

A witness in a parked car



Oban Sheriff Court.

watched the confrontation unfold. Gordon then approached the vehicle and struck it with his fists and threw a traffic cone at the rear of the car, causing almost £1,000 of damage, the procurator fiscal revealed.

He then moved further along the road and stood in front of a car and refused to get out of the way.

In the car was a lady in her

mid-30s and her husband.

'She got out to persuade him to step aside. For her trouble, she was pushed on the body by the accused,' Mr Glancy said.

She returned to her car and her partner drove off, inadvertently striking the accused on the leg.

Gordon then made his way into a shop on Main Street and was aggressive and abusive to staff.

They had to restrain him until police arrived.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes deferred sentencing in order for the court to obtain background reports until February 26, when the court will also hear his mitigation.

Gordon has been remanded in custody since December 16, where he will remain until sentencing, as his bail was refused on Monday.

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## OBAN SHERIFF COURT

### Hostile woman must wait for court decision

A woman who threatened a bar worker after being refused more alcohol, will have to wait until next month to be sentenced.

Samantha MacDonald, 35, of Pitch 1, Number 6, Ledaig Caravan Site, admitted threatening and abusive behaviour and will return to Oban Sheriff Court on February 13 this year for criminal justice and social work reports to be heard.

The court was told how pub staff refused to serve MacDonald with more drink because of her conduct but she tried to buy more despite repeatedly being refused and was removed from the premises.

Procurator fiscal David Glancy said being refused triggered her hostility and she threatened a member of staff.

'She was rude and constantly tried to return to the premises despite being repeatedly removed,' he said.

When outside she was banging on the pub windows, shouting and swearing until police arrested her.

A custodial sentence along with alternatives will be considered, said Sheriff Patrick Hughes.

### Oban man fined for challenging others to fight

A man has been fined a total of £200 for challenging others to a fight and breaching his restriction of liberty order.

Brendan Wilson of 7 Kerrera Lodge, Oban, admitted shouting and swearing, and acting in an aggressive manner on November 3 last year when he appeared in Oban Sheriff Court on Monday January 13.

The 24-year-old also admitted to breaching his bail conditions by being outside after his curfew.

Wilson's defence solicitor, Kevin McGinness, said he regretted his behaviour, stating alcohol was involved. Sheriff Patrick Hughes said:

'I am satisfied this is an aberration on your part and I do not expect it to be repeated.'

He fined Wilson £120 for acting in an aggressive manner and £80 for his breach of bail.

### Man fined £150 for aggressive behaviour

A man has been fined £150 for behaving in a threatening or abusive manner by shouting and swearing.

Steven Graham of 16 Lochnell Road, Dunbeg, admitted the offence when he appeared in Oban Sheriff Court on Monday January 13.

The court heard that police were called to a house in Oban in the early hours of September 23 and Graham, aged 22, started shouting and swearing.

After being warned on several occasions, he was arrested.

Defence solicitor Kevin McGinness said: 'Clearly alcohol had a very significant role to play.'

# Glasgow man admits having syringes and knife in Campbeltown

## COURT

A Glasgow man has been spared a jail sentence after failing to alert police to sharp objects in his rucksack, such as uncapped syringes and a knife.

Robert Peacock, of 53 Crossmill Avenue, Barrhead, admitted the offences when he appeared in Oban Sheriff Court on Monday January 13.

He pleaded guilty to exposing police to risk of injury and infection, as well as having a knife without reasonable excuse, and being in possession of drugs.

The incident itself occurred in Campbeltown on March 25 last year at round 11am after police received a call about a male near an ATM machine.

Peacock, 36, received a restriction of liberty order, meaning he will have to remain indoors from 7pm until 5am for nine months.

He was also given a commu-

nity payback order, consisting of 200 hours of unpaid work, and social work supervision to last two years.

Procurator fiscal David Glancy told the court that officers arrived and found Peacock sitting on the pavement.

### 'I am persuaded the court can impose an alternative to custody'

They asked the accused if there was anything in his possession that could cause injury, he said no, but when they searched him they found several uncapped syringes and a lock back knife.

Police also found drugs in his rucksack containing Methamphetamine, a class A drug, as well as a number of class C drugs, including Temazepam, Buprenorphine, and Etizolam.

In Peacock's defence, his solicitor said the report submitted to the court was indicative of a man who was moving away from a criminal youth.

She stated he was working in Campbeltown and had travelled to the area with his boss in the morning.

After a disagreement, he left the job and went to the bank machine, sat on the pavement and went into his backpack of tools, when a member of the public phoned the police.

She stated he had the syringes as he was taking 'speed and steroids' to keep up with the rigour of the job and the knives were part of his tool kit.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes said: 'These are extremely serious offences. By a narrow margin, I am persuaded that the court can impose an alternative to custody.'

The knives found in his rucksack were forfeited.

## Careless driver fined following crash on single track at Lerags

## COURT

Careless driving cost a man £500 after a crash on the Lerags road near Oban.

Alexander-Iulia Smigelschi pleaded guilty to the charge at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

The court heard how smoke was seen coming from the wheels of his black Mercedes-Benz as he braked on the narrow single track road on November 10 in 2018.

His vehicle and another met head-on, the driver of the other car said Smigelschi was travelling at excessive speed driving towards him.

Although that stretch of road is 60mph, it is a road that needs drivers to exercise

caution, the court was told by procurator fiscal David Glancy.

The Mercedes-Benz had been heading downhill into a left hand bend that its driver could not see through when it happened.

It collided with the Audi and both vehicles were extensively damaged, leaving serious skid marks on the road.

Police examined the scene and concluded 23-year-old Smigelschi was at fault.

Solicitor Kevin McGinness said his client, of 69 St Mary's Road, Doncaster, had been working in Oban at the time.

'He readily accepts he was at fault and very much regrets the consequences that

followed. My client was going too fast for the situation. This will be a salutary lesson for him,' added Mr McGinness.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes fined Smigelschi £500 and endorsed his licence with eight penalty points, saying: 'On roads of this kind, it's vital that drivers should be conscious of the need to drive at appropriate speed and to have awareness of the safety of other road users. This was a significant failure on your part.'

Taking Smigelschi's previous good character and good driving record into account, Sheriff Hughes said he was satisfied there was no need to disqualify him from the road.

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Kian and Logan Gibson reach their destination at Craignure.

# Boys put in huge effort for charity

by David McPhee  
dmcphee@obantimes.co.uk



While most people were tucking into turkey, two young boys from Mull cycled 22 miles on Christmas Day to help raise money for Parkinson's UK.

Logan and Kian Gibson, aged 11 and nine respectively, have raised more than £1,500 for the charity.

The youngsters wanted to raise the money, as well as awareness, for Parkinson's UK as their grandad had the disease. Unfortunately, he passed away last Friday.

The Tobermory boys' mum, Karen Fraser, said: 'They cycled 22 miles on Christmas day from their own home to the care home in Craignure,

where their grandfather had to stay. He had Parkinson's and dementia.'

Karen explained that, owing to his illness, he was unable to be at home for Christmas.

Speaking about her sons' accomplishment, she added: 'It is amazing. I don't think they realise it themselves how much people were supporting them. We are very proud.'

'Their grandfather and grandmother, Kenny and Anne Gibson, were super proud as well.'

Logan and Kian accomplished the feat in just one hour and 35 minutes.

'They are proud of themselves,' their mum added.

Brian Gibson, their dad, cycled with them, while mum Karen drove alongside.

Parkinson's UK is 'on a mission to change attitudes, support one another and find a cure'.

Jan Mattison, regional fundraiser for Parkinson's UK Scotland, said: 'This is a fabulous achievement by Logan and Kian and we are so proud of them and thank them for their efforts.'

'We're sorry to hear of the passing of their grandad, but know he would have been thrilled that they'd made such an effort to raise funds for the charity.'

'It's only through the wonderful support of people like Logan and Kian that Parkinson's UK Scotland can fund world-leading research towards better treatments and a cure.'

## Council appeals to islanders to save air service

Argyll and Bute Council is appealing to residents on Coll to save the island's air service by filling airport safety jobs.

The council advertised four posts each on Coll and Colonsay. These roles will enable flights to land and leave from the islands by ensuring their airports meet Civil Aviation Authority regulations.

The council received a

good level of response from Colonsay. More roles, however, need to be filled on Coll if the island's air service is to continue.

Councillor Robin Currie said: 'As a council, we are doing all we can to make an air service from Coll possible. Despite financial challenges, we have put funding in place to run a service.'

'We can't make this happen

on our own though and so are appealing for the help of islanders in delivering a service that works for them.'

'We will make training available, so that people have the chance to develop additional skills and the expertise that is needed by the island is kept on the island.'

Go to [www.myjobscotland.gov.uk](http://www.myjobscotland.gov.uk). Applications are requested by February 4.

## Add events to Oban Town Diary

Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

editor@obantimes.co.uk



### WHERE IS THIS?



What a long month January is. It's very strange as, on the one hand, it's flying by but, on the other, it seems to have been January forever.

I've been compiling an events list for the year and I'm not sure if that's helped or not as it all seems so far away but that could just be because of the dark days and nights just now.

It's encouraging that there is so much coming up during 2020 and, with this being the Year of Coasts and Waters, there are some different and exciting things coming up but I'm going to keep you in suspense for the moment until it's all confirmed. All I'll say is: get your singing voices tuned up.

Oban Town Diary will have everything on it as details become available. It is a really useful tool if you're planning events in the town but it's not being used to its full potential at the moment.

It can be used to check if

a date is free for an event you're planning as well as advertising that event but do try to get your information in as quickly as possible and, remember, help is here if you struggle with computers. Just hand a poster into the BID4Oban office on Stevenson Street and I'll happily add it to the town diary.

This weekend has quite a lot on.

Swan Lake is at the Corran Halls performed by Ballet

West; Dunollie Museum, Castle and Grounds is having a lunchtime Burns Supper; and the Dove Centre has bingo in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls. There are also all the town's music venues and Oban Phoenix Cinema has some great films at the moment, the choice is yours.

The photo last week is an old one of the Regent Hotel and this week is a very new photo, only taken on Tuesday.

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OT

## Oban man fined for threatening behaviour

A 29-year-old man from Oban has been given a community payback order for behaving in a threatening or abusive manner.

Steven Pattison of Solas, Albany Street, Oban, admitted engaging in a fight at Ellenabeich, Seil, on July 27 last year and shouting and swearing.

He also pleaded guilty to shouting and swearing and challenging others to a fight in Oban on November 3, 2019, as well as uttering offensive remarks and acting in a threatening and abusive manner in Dunbeg on November 22 last year.

He was sentenced at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday January 13 and Sheriff Patrick Hughes gave him a £120 fine and made him subject to a restriction of liberty order. He will also be subject to two years of social work supervision.

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# Man found guilty of drugs driving banned

## COURT

Off-duty police officers who swerved to avoid a car speeding towards them through single track roadworks, saw a cannabis joint in the driver's mouth and tipped off colleagues back at the station.

Tommy Mulholland of The Caravan at Arduaine Farm, Kilmelford, was found guilty of drug driving at Oban Sheriff Court last week. He was banned from driving for 12 months and fined £300.

The 28-year-old, who represented himself at court, was driving his father's car on the A816 just after midnight on August 29 last year when the incident happened close to Craobh Haven.

The off-duty officers said temporary traffic lights had just changed to green when they set off through the works but had to slam on the brakes



and pull over to avoid a collision as Mulholland came speeding towards them.

Mulholland also had to swerve into the verge through the cones and the two cars came up alongside each other at a crawling rate before continuing their journeys,

the court heard. The police officers described seeing the male driver with 'a long white joint in his mouth.' Because of that, and his erratic driving, they informed on-duty colleagues.

Before the car was stopped, other officers looking out for it saw it fluctuating in speed and swaying into the other side of the carriageway. They could smell the cannabis coming from it, even in the police car metres away.

Police who arrested him at the roadside called for a doctor to attend Lochgilphead police station to check him

over once they got back. However, the doctor who examined him about one and a half hours later, concluded she could not find any impairment.

Mulholland, who works as a hotel sous-chef, said he had pleaded not guilty to the charge of being unfit to drive through drugs because of legal advice from the Citizens Advice Bureau based on the doctor saying he was 'not in an unfit state'.

Procurator Fiscal David Glancy said cannabis was 'a lingering feature' of the case and the doctor's evidence was 'not fatal' to the Crown's submission. 'We've got evidence from officers, on separate accounts, the accused was driving under the influence of drugs,' he said.

The court heard from police evidence how Mulholland, smelling of cannabis, had been unsteady on his feet, his eyes were glazed and his speech was jumbled and slurred when police stopped him.

Mulholland told the court the traffic lights had been on amber when he drove through but said he was 'nowhere close' to being

inebriated on marijuana and would not have driven if he was.

Searching the car, police found a half-smoked joint in the driver's side pocket and a full ready-to-smoke joint on the dashboard behind the steering wheel. A tub containing 4.5 grams of cannabis was also found in Mulholland's trouser pocket.

'I did have a joint but once I'd tasted it, I didn't smoke it because it was too strong. I was in my dad's car and I did not want to stub it out and cause damage, that's why it was half-smoked. I didn't want to throw it out of the car either because of the monetary value it cost me,' he said.

Mulholland also told the court he had veered across white lines because he was trying to cut short his journey to Tarbert. The drive should normally take 35 minutes but in his dad's old Volvo it could take one hour and 45 minutes, he said.

Oban sheriff Patrick Hughes said: 'I'm satisfied your driving was impaired that night and the reason for that was drugs. The evidence from the doctor does not raise doubt in my mind.'



Oban Sheriff Court

## Oban woman fined £100 for punching man

A woman has been fined £100 for punching a man on the head.

Charlotte Smith of 2F Catalina Avenue Oban, pleaded guilty when she appeared in Oban Sheriff Court on Monday January 13.

The 21-year-old was seen by four police officers punching the man in the face after they were called to a home in

Oban. She was then arrested. Sheriff Patrick Hughes fined Smith £100 for her 'unprovoked crime of violence'.

## Careless Dalmally driver fined

A Dalmally man has picked up a £400 fine and received four penalty points for careless driving.

James Iain Gemmell, from Melbank Villa, Dalmally, admitted overtaking other road users when it was unsafe to do so by crossing solid white lines on approach to a blind

bend. The careless manoeuvre took place on March 30 last year on the A85 near to Pennyfuir Cemetery.

In the 19-year-old's defence, his solicitor Jane McLaren explained that his licence was essential, as he lived in Dalmally and worked in Oban. 'It was a stupid mistake and one that he deeply regrets,' she added.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes said: 'The road markings are there for a reason,' before issuing Gemmell with a £400 fine and four points on his licence.

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## Work to start on Uist project

Cnoc Soilleir Ltd and MacInnes Brothers Ltd have signed a contract that will see them build a new two-storey building in Daliburgh South Uist for both Ceòlas and Lews Castle College UHI (LCC UHI), which have come together to form the joint venture partnership that is Cnoc Soilleir.

This is a major milestone and fantastic outcome for Uist, with more than 20 years of development work between the community and the college.

Mairi MacInnes, chairwoman of Ceòlas, said: 'Cnoc Soilleir will take Ceòlas to another level as a key organisation for supporting Gaelic development in Uist and far beyond.'

The new building, designed by John Renshaw Architects, is being built to PassivHaus energy efficient standards, a first for the Western Isles, and will provide a new home for LCC UHI's award winning Applied Music courses, and for Ceòlas and its music, Gaelic and cultural heritage activities.

# Mull's white-tailed eagles wing it onto small screen

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Mull and its eagles are on TV today as part of a new series called Wild Animal Rescue.

The Channel 5 show, which began earlier this month, is being aired every day, Monday to Thursday, and is being shown twice each day at 11.15am and 7pm.

Today's January 23 programme features Mull's sea eagles and RSPB Scotland officer Dave Sexton.

Viewers will be able to see Mr Sexton monitoring a Mull Eagle Watch chick at Craignure Golf Course.

The film crew from Daisybeck Studios in Leeds, Yorkshire, had only one day to film on the island so the pressure was on.

Mr Sexton said: 'The crew wanted nice weather, some



action and a story, and above all else, white-tailed eagles - so not too much to ask. The plan was to check the nest to see if the chick was okay and if there was no sign of it, to go searching for it.

'I know from past expe-

rience that things can go badly wrong with eaglets, even when they seem fit and healthy. That first flight is fraught with danger and we sometimes have no idea what we might find. Sadly, in the past, I've found eaglets dead

The photograph shows a Mull chick at ringing time

in June 2019. Photograph by Justin Grant

at the bottom of the nest tree where they have fallen out.

'So it was with a heavy heart that we entered the nest wood as we hadn't seen the chick for some days.'

To find out what happened next and how Dave and the team got on, tune in tonight.

The series sees the return of Bill Oddie, now 78, to wildlife TV. The familiar face last presented a nature show in 2008 when he helped to front the BBC's Springwatch. Wild Animal Rescue's other presenters are Steve Backshall, Lindsey Chapman and Miranda Krestovnikoff.

Meanwhile, back on Mull,

Mull Eagle Watch has funds available to help support other projects in the community. The funds are raised from charges and donations at its eagle viewing hide.

Mull Sea Eagle project is a partnership between Nature Scot, Forestry and Land Scotland, RSPB Scotland, Police Scotland and Mull and Iona Community Trust and they all agreed that some of the funds made in 2019 should be used to bring more social and economic benefits to islanders.

Grants of between £100 and £500 can be applied for and the money will be distributed in March - the deadline for bids is end of February.

To find out more contact Jan Dunlop on 01680 300640 or email [jdunlop@mict](mailto:jdunlop@mict) for an application form.

## Calendar binman shares out bumper funds to good causes

Mull binman Colin Morrison, whose island snapshots became an online hit, has made more than £10,000 for charity, writes Kathie Griffiths.

All the money made from his 2020 calendar featuring the best of his photographs has now been paid out and shared between 10 good causes.

Some of the images have also been transferred to canvas to go up in the island's hospital and at Bowmore Court in Craignure.

The 48-year-old from Tobermory, who has been working the world's most scenic rubbish round for more than a decade, originally ordered just 500 copies of the calendars starring stunning Mull, but they sold out in just one day. Due to popular demand, including far flung requests from New Zealand and America, he had to order 1,500 more.

'All this wouldn't have been possible without all the help I received,' he said.

Alasdair James MacLeod and his sister Mel from



Photographs taken by Mull and Iona binman Colin Morrison went viral and he now has thousands of followers on Facebook.

Tobermory Stores got a special mention as did artist Aaron de la Hayé who auctioned off a painting, the calendar's sponsors, all the shops which sold it and even the 'fantastic press', including The Oban Times, which helped to spread the word.

'So thank you all, and last but not least, thank you for buying the calendars and helping island causes. I'd also like to thank Argyll and Bute Council for its support throughout my photo taking.'

Mull Army Cadets got £1,500, Bowman Court received £1,000, another £1,000 went to Mull and Iona community hospital, Dervaig School's playground appeal got £1,000 and £1,000 each also went to Tobermory Christmas Lights and Fireworks Display. Feis Mhuile was given £500, children's Gaelic choir Coisir Og Mhuile received £1,000 and so did Tobermory School Pipe Band and Mull and Iona Pipe Band.

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OT

## Change of venue for Oban photographers

Oban Photographic Club (OPC) is enjoying a change of setting and is urging like-minded camera comrades to join members in their new venue.

For many years the club has met weekly from October to March at the Regent Hotel. Due to the premises closing its shutters in the short term, OPC will be meeting in the Community Hut at the Rockfield Centre each Monday evening at 7.30pm until the end of its season.

OPC is a long-established society, having been in operation for almost 60 years. With a programme of illustrated talks, competitions, outings and tutorials, this friendly group welcomes everyone with an interest in photography, whether beginners or those with long experience, whether users of the latest DSLRs, compacts or camera phones.

Anyone who takes photographs will be welcomed by members.

For more information, visit [www.obanpc.co.uk/](http://www.obanpc.co.uk/) or find it on Facebook.



Trolley dash winner Sharon Summers and Tesco lead fresh manager Kenny MacCallum.

16\_T04-trolleydash01

## Sharon wins a trolley load of shopping

Lucky mum Sharon Summers filled her shopping trolley for nothing after collecting tokens from her favourite weekly read.

Sharon, from Dunollie, won the Tesco trolley dash worth £200 after entering a competition in The Oban Times.

All Sharon had to do was

collect four tokens over four weeks from December 12 and get her entry in by January 9 to be in with a chance to win, and her entry was picked at random.

Treats for twin sons Ryan and Josh, four, featured strongly in her shopping haul, as did clothing and es-

entials for the family home. Sharon said: 'It just goes to show it's well worth entering competitions.'

'It was more of a leisurely stroll down the aisles rather than a dash.

'I got plenty of treats for the twins, donuts and smoothies were their special requests.'

## Caroline Cherry is new HSCP head of service

Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) has announced that Caroline Cherry has been appointed head of service for older adults and community hospitals.

Caroline trained first as a community worker in a third sector alcohol rehabilitation service in England before returning to Easterhouse in Glasgow to develop community alcohol services. She then worked to improve the support, services and recovery for women and children affected by problematic substance misuse and dependence.

Caroline joined the NHS in 2003 working in the alcohol policy field before moving to establish integrated community alcohol and drug support/recovery services in East Dunbartonshire. She went on to complete her social work degree and spent three years as a locality manager in Stirling developing services for older adults, including community-based responses for people with dementia.



Caroline Cherry.

Caroline said: 'I feel really welcomed into Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership. I am very keen to listen to feedback and work with our staff, service users and communities to see how we can further develop our high-quality health and social care services.'

'I recognise the strong community assets we have locally and the importance of working with a wide range of partners to ensure our services are delivered in the most effective way.'

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## MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

[angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk)



In a couple of days, both in Scotland and across many far-flung corners of the world, the life of Robert Burns will be celebrated with traditional suppers held in his honour.

The coming celebrations reminded me of having had the honour of being asked to deliver the Toast to the Lassies for the very fine Oban Burns Club at its annual Burns Supper of 2018.

Just for novelty, I wrote the speech in verse form and in meter common to some of the works of Burns.

Here are a few of the introductory verses and I may conclude the tale next week.

*Throughout the life o' Rabbie Burns*

*With the fairer sex, he'd many turns  
And trials that made his heart a-churn  
But often smile,  
From Highland Hill to Lowland Burn  
And in Argyll.*

*A complex man of many parts  
A rake who'd riven countless hearts.*

*Both took and wielded Cupid's darts*

*With heedless aim,  
But seeds of many finest arts  
That joy and pain.  
His sins today are widely known  
But him without, cast first the stone.  
Then and now he's not alone  
In ways uncouth  
And stole his chance to e'r atone  
By death in youth.*

*So now to bring a lighter note  
To the words of love this genius wrote  
And ponder on his sowing of oat  
In present day.  
How would he be through time's great moat  
With roguish way.*

*Highland Mary of Argyll  
Her beauty did his heart beguile.  
Their passion flamed for just a while  
But not for long.  
And by his word and honoured style  
She lives in song.  
But think of Rabbie and his ways  
If to Argyll he ventured nowadays.  
Quite some questions it may*

*raise  
And might, a frown,  
If the bonnie lassies caught his gaze  
In Oban Town.  
So join me on this voyage where  
We follow Rabbie on the tear  
From Corran Halls to Station Square  
And much between.  
And see just how he'd maybe fare  
In 2018...*

*He swaggered down Bealach an Righ  
And spied some maidens one, two, three.  
He knew his charm would be the key  
So he did say,  
"Deep in heart young tears I'll pledge thee."  
They said, "Go away!"*

*"Just Ae Fond Kiss and then we'll sever."  
"Get out of our way, you dirty begger!"  
"But ah'm Rabbie Burns and a' sae clever."  
"Sod off, you pest!  
And go away, don't bother us! Ever!  
We're Ballet West!"*

...To be continued.

# Islanders' safety fears over street light wires

## Argyll's unique challenges raised with Scottish minister

Argyll and Bute's council leader Aileen Morton and chief executive Pippa Milne met with minister for public finance Kate Forbes MSP on Friday (January 17) to discuss the challenges that set Argyll and Bute apart from other areas.

Councillor Morton said: 'Argyll and Bute is a fantastic place with huge potential for economic growth. But this is an area that faces a unique combination of challenges – we have the second largest mainland area and the highest number of inhabited islands. Our population is declining and ageing. We must invest significantly in regeneration that will attract people and jobs to the area.'

'Argyll and Bute Council, however, has had the third highest reduction of its Scottish Government funding. It is crucial therefore that we raise understanding, at all levels. Our meeting with Ms Forbes was a positive step in developing focus on Argyll and Bute at ministerial level.'

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Island residents were left in the dark and their safety in jeopardy after a junction box was left hanging off a pole with wires exposed, according to an island councillor.

In December, people living in Harbour Street, Port Ellen, lost power to their street lighting. Residents raised concerns and power was eventually restored, but a junction box was left dangling in midair.

When complaints were made to Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks and Argyll and Bute Council's street lighting departments, neither side took responsibility for the 'bodge job' said Councillor Alastair Redman and neither was willing to carry out a proper repair, he said. 'Clearly it shouldn't have been left like that.'



The cable improvements have now been made.

'It was a bodge job. It was dodgy but no one took responsibility for it,' said Councillor Redman.

Councillor Redman said that after contacting Argyll and Bute Council he received official confirmation the council had not carried out the work.

He was told: 'We will not be instructing our staff to fix this.' Instead the council advised people should call SSE to report the fault.

After the issue was passed on to Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks it sent out an engineer to check it for safety but reported back it was streetlighting cables, making it the council's responsibility.

The SSE worker had taped it up and had strapped it onto the pole to stop it flapping about.

However, after The Oban

Times made contact, a spokesperson from Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) said: 'As the local electricity distributor we are responsible for the cables and wires which feed the electricity to the local streetlighting infrastructure; the lighting is under the jurisdiction of Argyll and Bute Council.'

'Safety is our number one priority and in conjunction with the council, we are currently working together to ensure that this matter is resolved as safely and as promptly as possible.'

An Argyll and Bute spokesperson updated the situation on Monday and said the improvement to the cabling had now been made.

Councillor Redman said: 'Everyone was relieved to get the streetlights back on but they should not have been left in danger.'



Jeanette Sheldrick and Morvern Finlayson at Oban Salvation Army receiving donated presents for the Christmas appeal last year.

## A big thank you to Santa's helpers

More than 300 children and adults in Lorn and Mid Argyll benefited from last year's Salvation Army Christmas Present appeal, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Gifts were distributed to more than 250 children and about 100 elderly or vulnerable adults thanks to support and donations.

An appeal had gone out in The Oban Times for help.

Morvern Finlayson, who first got involved in the appeal 11 years ago, said this week: 'Many thanks to

the people of Lorn and Mid Argyll for their very generous donations, Nationwide in Oban, the Post Office at Taynuilt, Kilchairn Church and The Bank of Scotland in Lochgilphead for being collection points, the Rockfield Centre for the gifts from Santa's Grotto, and the staff at Mountain Warehouse, who were the first to give shoeboxes filled with gifts.'

'Also thanks to Sheena for wrapping lots of boxes, for financial donations from individuals and Scottish

Sea Farms, the council and agency staff, who provided lists and distributed, as well as people who delivered gifts and finally the support and co-operation of Hope Kitchen.

'It has been a great privilege to work together on this. This is a bittersweet job to do as we would prefer there was no need for this to be done, but it has been a delight to see how the Argyll communities respond to bring more joy at Christmas to those who really need it.'

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OT

# ConCom customers are given solution following concerns

Customers unable to use an alternative broadband or 4G provider in the Outer Hebrides will get a solution via satellite.

The Connected Communities (Hebnet) broadband system is due to be shut down in March but there are still around 500 customers using the service and some have no other option. Since the roll-out of superfast broadband across the Western Isles in 2015, homes and businesses had been flocking to it but the high fixed cost of ConCom has made it no longer viable for Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) to continue.

While fibre or 4G services are available for some, others would be left without any broadband after March.

A new satellite internet service, Hebsat, is hoping to provide that service for those left without any other option in the HS1 to HS9 postcodes.

The service is being offered



MSP Alasdair Allan was 'disappointed' in HIE.

by Voove, the Hebridean partner of rural broadband provider, BigBlu Internet.

The company is also looking to offer a cyber security apprenticeship at its Uist and Stornoway offices along with some other exciting opportunities for people in the Hebrides.

A spokesman for Voove said: 'With the purchase of the old Uist laundry building and surrounding land, we will be converting this 800sqm building into a technology hub to provide hands-on access and training for all generations, whether this is to teach the parents; learn the

basics; more advanced tasks, or those wishing to start a podcast or streaming video channel.

'Being able to provide the studio space, the equipment as well as the training to everyone, we hope to help as many people as possible understand not only the risks, but also the benefits technology has to offer.'

The constituency MSP for the Western Isles, Alasdair Allan, recently raised concerns that while 80 per cent of households in the area had access to superfast broadband, some did not even have decent 4G reception.

He was disappointed that HIE did not give customers more notice and wrote to the Scottish Government minister for connectivity, Paul Wheelhouse, saying that those customers affected by the switch off should be 'at the front of the queue' for the next stage of fibre broadband.

# Argyll HSCP appoints new head of service

Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) is pleased to announce that Julie Lusk has been appointed head of mental health, learning disability, addictions and lifelong conditions services.

Julie is a qualified social worker with more than 20 years' experience as a senior manager and head of service across social work, voluntary and the private sector including working closely with the Ministry of Defence (MOD) mental health services. She has a broad range of knowledge working across all areas of social work including out-of-hours emergency social care services, criminal justice and children and families teams.

Julie said: 'I am really pleased to be appointed as head of service for mental health, learning disability, addictions and lifelong conditions and look forward to meeting HSCP colleagues, partners, organisations, community groups and volunteers delivering health and



Julie Lusk.

social care services in Argyll and Bute.

'I am looking forward to further developing our health and social care services in order to continue to provide the best services possible for people living in Argyll and Bute.'

Julie is currently vice-chairwoman of the adult social care committee for Social Work Scotland and works in conjunction with the Scottish Government, CoSLA and other Health and Social Care Partnerships.

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# £10m deal to upgrade island pier

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

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has awarded a £10.1m contract to marine, civil engineering and building contractor L&M Keating Ltd to carry out upgrade works at Lochmaddy Pier in North Uist.

Keating will be responsible for completing all civil engineering works for the harbour upgrade project, including pier strengthening and extension, upgraded fendering, land reclamation and seabed dredging.

The work was due to commence this month and is expected to be completed in spring of next year.

CalMac will continue to operate ferry services during the works.

The infrastructure upgrade

work at Lochmaddy is part of the Skye Triangle Infrastructure Project, which involves significant harbour upgrades at the three ports at Tarbert, Lochmaddy and Uig.

The work is designed to improve and modernise harbour facilities and prepare the way for new vessels.

Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands Paul Wheelhouse said he was very pleased to see the pier upgrade moving forward, following the recent award of another contract for construction works at Tarbert on Harris.

'Work can now begin on the construction phase of the project, which will deliver an improved experience for the passengers who use these important services,' said Mr Wheelhouse.

'Transport Scotland continues to work with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, the Highland Council and CMAL in the delivery of our ambitious plans for the facilities at the three ports of Tarbert, Lochmaddy and Uig through the Skye Triangle Infrastructure Project,' he added.

'I look forward to seeing this project help to further improve connectivity from and to the Western Isles, with subsequent benefits for the local economy.'

Councillor Uisdean Robertson, chairman of the comhairle's transportation and infrastructure committee, said: 'We are very pleased to have reached this very important milestone in the delivery of infrastructure improvements for the wider Skye triangle route.'

# Below the surface at SAMS

## Climate change report card

A report on how the UK's seas are responding to climate change had input from seven SAMS scientists, giving one of the largest representations of any institute.

The Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership (MCCIP) Report Card 2020 includes evidence on 26 topics relating to the seas around the UK and had input from 150 scientists at 50 research organisations.

SAMS scientists contributed to topics as diverse as fisheries, coastal habitats, Atlantic heat exchange, harmful species, sea ice and aquaculture.

There is clear evidence that warming seas, reduced oxygen, ocean acidification and sea-level rise are already affecting UK coasts and seas.

Increasingly, these changes are having an impact on food webs, with effects seen in species on the seabed, as well



as plankton, fish, birds and mammals.

The upper range for the latest UK sea-level rise projections is higher than previous estimates, implying increased coastal flood risk.

The likelihood of compound effects from tidal flooding and extreme rainfall is increasing, which can greatly exacerbate flood impacts.

Oxygen concentrations

in UK seas are projected to decline more than the global average, especially in the North Sea and fisheries productivity in some UK waters has been negatively impacted by ocean warming and historical overexploitation.

## Part of a global community

Director Professor Nicholas Owens today (Thursday) re-



Left, Prof Michael Burrows was one of seven SAMS authors on the MCCIP climate change report on UK sea; and, above, SAMS Director Prof Nicholas Owens.

turns from Qingdao, China, where he was chairing the annual meeting of the Partnership for Observation of the Global Ocean (POGO), an international group of influential marine science leaders.

Meanwhile, SAMS scientist Dr Leslie Mabon spoke last Friday at the United Nations University (UNU) in Tokyo, Japan on the oceans and climate change adaptation.

The social scientist was speaking at the Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability and used the trip to build on SAMS's status as an associate institute of the UNU.

## The Challenger challenge

This year SAMS has been tasked with organising the UK's biennial marine science gathering, The Challenger Society Conference, which is expected to bring hundreds of scientists to Oban.

It will be held from September 7-11 and there are plans to show delegates the best of what Oban and Lorn has to offer.

It should be a lively conference, coming just months before Glasgow hosts a crucial world climate change conference, COP26.

SAMS is due to host another UK marine science conference, the Porcupine Marine Natural History Society Conference, in March.

## Let us know your plans for Year of Coasts and Waters

Scotland's coasts and waters will be celebrated this year with a programme of activities across Scotland designed to inspire everyone to explore and experience our unrivalled shores.

To help us plan and cover as many local events as possible, The Oban Times is asking groups, organisations and individuals to let us know if they are doing something to mark the occasion.

Scotland's coastline can be a dangerous and unforgiving place; when treated with respect, however, it is also a place of outstanding beauty and majestic magnificence.

With its 800 islands the coastline is 11,000 miles long and the west coast in particular is heavily indented - its long promontories separated by fjordlike sea lochs give us plenty to celebrate and we want to help spread the word.

To let us know about your event by emailing us at [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk) or call 01631 568000 and ask to speak to a reporter.

# OFFERS & competitions

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To enter, send separate entries (in the same envelope) with your name, address, telephone number and email address to **Scottish Field Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL** or enter at [www.scottishfield.co.uk](http://www.scottishfield.co.uk). Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is 29 February 2020. **Winners drawn from all competitions also enter a prize to win a bottle of Whitetail Gin.**

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

# SCOTTISH FIELD

## February issue



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OT

# 2019: a year of discovery for Dunbeg's scientists

by Euan Paterson  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

In a year when Greta Thunberg shot to prominence by highlighting the plight of the planet from changing climate, SAMS scientists at Dunbeg were working to find out how the environment – particularly the oceans – are affected.

It was also a year when SAMS (the Scottish Association for Marine Science) awarded the University of the Highlands and Islands' first PhD – and it received an unexpected visit from a large marine mammal.

Work by former Oban High School pupil Dr Neil Fraser, published in an international journal in early January, revealed how the Greenland ice sheet is losing more ice than previously thought.

Greenland is currently losing ice seven times faster than it was in the 1990s but this is not only caused by warmer sum-



mers. Dr Fraser's work found that subsea waves up to 140 metres high are pushing warm water into the Greenland fjords, melting the ice from below – even in winter.

Dr Natalie Hicks's work on ocean floor sediment (mud) contributed to a five-year study on the contribution of UK waters to carbon storage, published in February.

The survey showed how shelf seas – regions of shallow water,

less than 200 metres in depth, between the shoreline and open ocean – are estimated to store between six billion and 19 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>.

This is significantly larger than the amount taken up in the seawater (up to 2.8 billion tonnes).

At the end of February, students at SAMS UHI had a real-life conservation lecture when a young humpback whale was stranded on the



Far left: the first two PhD graduates Dr Winnie Courtene-Jones and Dr Andrea Garvetto are congratulated by Prof Nicholas Owens and Prof Neil Simco; left: SAMS's newest Professors Finlo Cottier and Michele Stanley, centre, with Dr Claire Gachon, who has been awarded the title of Reader; and, below, there was an inspiring graduation ceremony.

shore outside the institute.

Marine ecologists at SAMS were concerned for the welfare of the juvenile, which managed to free itself on the incoming tide and return to the open sea.

In May, a SAMS team led by Professor Elizabeth Cottier-Cook advised governments from around the world on how to manage the expanding global seaweed industry.

The seaweed industry is worth almost \$9 billion globally and seaweed is used in a number of products, such as food, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics.

Prof Cottier-Cook told the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), part of the United Nations, that the global industry needed better biosecurity measures to prevent the spread of disease.

Last year also marked the beginning of a new university exchange programme with Coastal Carolina University (CCU), South Carolina.

Since 2017, the American university has sent a group of students on a training course in Argyll, where they learn various aspects of oceanography and take in aspects of the area's history and culture.

This autumn, for the first time, an official student exchange programme began between CCU and the University of the Highlands and Islands, further strengthening the transatlantic link.

Two new professors were gained from within SAMS's ranks, as Finlo Cottier and Michele Stanley were promot-

ed, while Dr Claire Gachon was awarded the title of Reader.

SAMS hosted thousands of visitors throughout the year, including international delegates at conferences.

Visitors in 2019 included the then Minister for the Cabinet Office and de facto Deputy Prime Minister David Lidington MP (July), Scottish Migration Minister Ben Macpherson MSP (August) and Prof Sir Mark Walport, the chief executive of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), the organisation responsible for £7

## Student of the year Eleanor Lawrie gained an honours degree

billions of UK public funding of research and innovation.

An inspiring graduation ceremony in September saw the awarding of the University of the Highlands and Islands' first PhD to Dr Winnie Courtene-Jones.

The marine microplastics researcher, from Cardigan in Wales, received her award alongside 24 other graduates at the ceremony in Oban's Argyllshire Gathering Halls.

Among the prize-winners was the SAMS UHI student of the year, Eleanor Lawrie, who gained an honours degree after pausing her studies to care for her ill mother.

In the same week as graduation, SAMS welcomed a record intake of 39 students to its BSc Marine Science and

23 Erasmus Mundus from 18 different countries on its aquaculture Masters programme, ACES+.

Investigations into the changing oceans continued throughout the year and in November Prof Michael Burrows of SAMS in Oban headed an international group of scientists who compiled the most comprehensive assessment of how ocean warming is affecting the mix of species in global oceans – and explained how some marine species manage to keep their cool.

Reviewing data from 1985-2014, the team led by Prof Burrows 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.

This year also marked a decade of discovery by SAMS's robotics gliders, autonomous underwater robots that continuously patrol the seas to gather data for scientists.

Since SAMS launched its first glider, named Talisker, on October 12, 2009, the SAMS glider fleet has completed 38 missions, clocking up a total of 68,238 kilometres – the circumference of the globe is 40,075 kilometres.

During this time, gliders have allowed oceanographers to make estimates relating to the transport of water along the North Atlantic current and observe its exchanges with the Arctic Ocean.



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# New anger over HIAL 'remote towers' air traffic control plan

by Martin Laing  
mlaing@obantimes.co.uk



Politicians across the Highlands and Islands have voiced renewed concern over possible changes to air traffic control.

Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd proposes to centralise air traffic control services in Inverness by using 'remote towers'.

Highlands and Islands MSP Donald Cameron is supporting calls for a debate in the Scottish Parliament on the plans to centralise air traffic control in the region, which would lead to air traffic controllers being removed from island airports.

Mr Cameron has supported a motion by Shetland MSP Beatrice Wishart, which aims to hold a Member's Business debate on the changes which are being proposed by Highlands and Islands



Airport Limited (HIAL).

The Scottish Conservative MSP, a regular user of HIAL services in the region, said: 'Airports like Barra, Benbecula and Stornoway in the Western Isles, and Campbeltown, Islay and Tiree in Argyll and Bute, are crucial parts of our transport infrastructure.

'As HIAL is wholly owned by the Scottish Government, I wish to hear a justification directly from the minister for these proposals which have caused so much concern, not least from HIAL employees.

'It is vitally important that changes of this nature are subject to thorough scrutiny. The focus should be on providing

a better service rather than just saving money.

'The Scottish Government's track record on our ferry service has left much to be desired and I wish to ensure that it doesn't make a hash of our air links as well.'

Western Isles MP Angus MacNeil said: 'HIAL has named this high risk and

Donald Cameron MSP at Stornoway Airport.

costly option as "remote towers" when in actual fact it is the centralisation of air traffic control, meaning high-value island jobs going to Inverness.

'The Scottish Government and the Scottish Parliament committees, particularly the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee, should be scrutinising this proposal line-by-line because it has huge implications, not only for transport but for the community in the Western Isles. We know that air traffic control has a difficulty with recruitment and retention, but this is not the case in the island areas - when they recruit locally, they do retain locally.

'There is a huge risk that if air traffic control is centralised in Inverness that all air traffic controllers could be

lost from Inverness as they are in demand globally and we would find ourselves without air traffic control anywhere in the HIAL network. This is an ill-conceived proposal which HIAL has somehow taken regardless of the warning voices from everyone else.'

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell said: 'HIAL has kept elected members up to speed on the plans as they have developed and been willing to answer questions.

'None the less, it would be important that the public are fully informed and confident about what is being proposed so I would support further engagement by HIAL on a wide basis and a public discussion about whether such a change is what people want and expect in areas that rely heavily on air traffic and in which high quality employment is a vital bulwark against depopulation.'



CalMac's Robert Morrison, left, and Mark Stagg, of City of Glasgow College, right, presented successful apprentices with their certificates. Photograph: Martin Shields

## Next generation of seafarers joins ferries operator CalMac

Sixteen modern apprentices will soon be welcomed aboard by west coast ferry and harbour operator CalMac after successfully completing their training.

The Deck, Engine and Maritime Hospitality MAs will now all take up full-time positions with the company.

CalMac works in partnership with City of Glasgow College to deliver industry-tailored apprenticeships with classroom-based training

combined with practical on-board experience.

CalMac recruited its 100th MA this year and the company's commitment to training the next generation of seafarers has seen the number of apprentices recruited annually more than double since 2016.

Certificates were presented by Mark Stagg, Dean of Nautical Science and STEM Faculty at City of Glasgow College and CalMac's director of operations Robert

Morrison. 'Our training programmes are an important source of skilled labour for us. Having a pipeline of recruits ensures we are able to continue to seamlessly deliver a consistently high standard of service for customers,' said Robert.

'It also gives us the opportunity to provide well-paid, high-value jobs that help support the often fragile economies of the communities we support.'

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# BUSINESS NEWS

## Application is in for new distillery planned for Islay

Another distillery could be on its way to Islay under plans being considered by Argyll and Bute Council's major applications team.

Speciality Drinks Ltd, represented by Blyth and Blyth Consulting Engineers, wants to build a new distillery on land south and east of Farkin Cottage in Port Ellen.

The planned distillery would also comprise a restaurant, shop and meeting facilities, as well as a new junction with access roads and car park.

According to the council website, a decision from planning officers should be expected by Friday April 17.

In a design and access statement, the project's consulting engineers said: 'Our client has always had a passion to create his own whisky.'

'As the place is so important to whisky making, he felt the only place to site the distillery had to be on Islay.'

'After a long search and site purchase negotiations, the site between Port Ellen and Laphroaig was secured.'

'The vision is to establish a completely new contemporary distillery which will incorporate the best of both traditional and new distilling methods to create a whole family of spirits.'

'The new distillery will incorporate a new floor maltings and high-quality visitor experience.'

'The new distillery will also incorporate an experimental pilot plant for other types of whisky and will include facilities for growing botanics.'

'It is envisaged that working at full capacity the malt whisky distillery element will produce up to approximately 1.2 million litres of alcohol (mla) per annum plus a further 0.3 mla of other spirits in a pilot plant.'

'The aim is to commence production in 2021. Scotch whisky distilling is all about the coming together of pure ingredients which seem to encapsulate the character of the place.'

# Business Gateway support helps firms

Scotland's entrepreneurial spirit is booming in the face of economic and political challenges, with more than 365,500 private sector businesses currently operating in the country – the highest level since 2000 – 99.3 per cent of which are SMEs.

As Scotland's national business advice service, Business Gateway helps thousands of customers to meet their business goals every year.

From July to September 2019, Business Gateway provided crucial support that helped 7,990 SMEs to scale up their growing operations and more than 2,350 new businesses successfully start up, with more than half of these new start-ups being female-led.

Business Gateway's network of 53 offices, managed and delivered by local authorities

## In 2019, Argyll and Bute's Business Gateway helped 130 new businesses to start

as part of its wider business support, play a crucial role in driving growth, skills, regeneration and employment across Scotland.

In 2019, Argyll and Bute Council's Business Gateway helped 130 new businesses to start, with a projected combined turnover of £4.2 million, as well as assisting more than 140 existing businesses.

Councillor Jim Anderson, Argyll and Bute Council's deputy policy lead for economic growth, said: 'Our advisers provide valuable support for businesses of all sizes, including one-to-one support sessions, extensive online resources and signposting expert help on topics including innovation, exporting, finance and new markets.'

'Last year our advisers completed more than 400 advice sessions with Argyll and Bute businesses. All our support is provided free and in confidence.'



The Argyll and Bute Business Gateway team.

'We work in close collaboration with wide variety of partners, including Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Scottish Enterprise, to help identify growth opportunities and provide the best advice and support to local businesses.'

'Central to helping our customers succeed is our ability to listen to what businesses need, find the pieces they are missing, deliver the right support and make the right connections.'

Business Gateway local offices also provide a comprehensive programme of free events and workshops about starting, managing and growing a business.

This year, 2020, sees the introduction of webinars for Argyll and Bute Business Gateway, in addition to workshops.

The first webinar topic is SEO and Improving Google Ranking. This one-hour

webinar will take place from 11am on January 30 and explain the concepts of Search Engine Optimisation (SEO) – how to get a business higher up the Google rankings, and driving more people to a website.

Upcoming Business Gateway workshops include the one-and-a-half-day Business Start-Up workshop in Dunoon on January 29 and 30 and Lochgilphead on February 4 and 5; Build Your Own Business Website in Rothesay on January 29; the marketing workshop Know Your Customer in Oban on January 31; Creating Killer Graphics with Canva on February 6 in Lochgilphead; and Book-keeping in Helensburgh on February 6.

To find out how Business Gateway can help any business, or to book a workshop or webinar, contact the Argyll and Bute office on 01546 808363 or visit [www.bgateway.com](http://www.bgateway.com).



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## Trainee shortlisted for Lantra Scotland's awards

John MacPherson, a 23-year-old aquaculture trainee from Portree on the Isle of Skye, has been shortlisted for Lantra Scotland's much-anticipated ALBAS (Awards for Land-based and Aquaculture Skills).

John has been doing a modern apprenticeship in aquaculture with Grieg Seafood Shetland Ltd through Inverness College UHI.

He said: 'I find myself learning something new every day, which is one of the things that makes working in this industry so rewarding. My modern apprenticeship in aquaculture gave me the knowledge and guidance to get me to where I am today, and the extra effort I put into the apprenticeship undoubtedly helped with my promotion.'

Lantra Scotland is the sector skills council for land-based aquaculture and environmental conservation industries, and the awards play a vital role in promoting careers within the rural sector, celebrating the



John Macpherson from Portree on the Isle of Skye.

achievements of learners and highlighting the importance to employers of investing in skills.

There are categories for the agriculture, aquaculture, equine, horticulture, game and wildlife, trees and timber, land-based engineering and environmental conservation industries, as well as higher education, rural schools, Modern Apprentice

of the Year, CARAS (Council for Awards of Agricultural Societies) and a new Partnership Working Award.

The highlight of the evening will be the announcement of the Learner of the Year overall winner. This goes to an outstanding trainee who has demonstrated exceptional ability, hard work and a passion for their industry.

The finalists for the 2020 ALBAS were chosen by an independent judging panel chaired by agriculture and rural affairs journalist Erika Hay.

Liz Barron-Majerik, director of Lantra Scotland, said: 'I'm delighted to announce the finalists for our 2020 Awards for Land-based and Aquaculture Skills.'

'As well as playing a key role in promoting the importance of gaining qualifications and developing skills, for trainees and employers, the ALBAS showcase the achievements of new entrants and career changers in our sector. All those nominated, whether finalists or not, should be extremely proud of this recognition, and we look forward to celebrating their success at our ceremony.'

The awards take place at the Doubletree by Hilton Dunblane Hydro Hotel on Thursday March 5. Tickets are available from Lantra on 01738 310164 or [scotland@lantra.co.uk](mailto:scotland@lantra.co.uk).

## Enter now for food and drink awards

Food and drink producers hoping to be recognised at Scotland's most prestigious celebration of the industry have just weeks left to enter as entries close on February 14.

The Scotland Food and Drink Excellence Awards not only recognise the highest quality produce Scotland has to offer, but also commends the people, companies and suppliers that contribute to one of the country's most important and valuable industries.

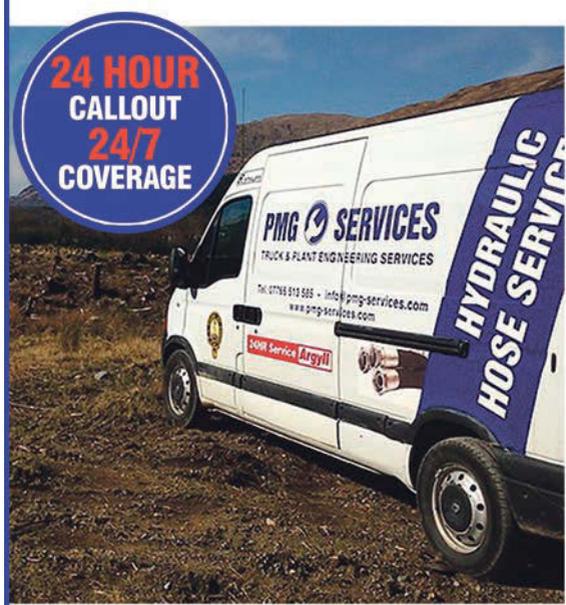
All Scottish food and drink companies whose products are wholly or mainly produced, processed and packaged in Scotland are encouraged to enter, regardless of size.

Products submitted for the Scotland Food and Drink Excellence Awards will be judged by experts and buyers from food service and retailers.

Entrants will be whittled down to a shortlist, to be announced in April, before the ultimate winners are announced at a gala dinner and awards ceremony on May 21.

To enter the Scotland Food and Drink Excellence Awards, please visit: <http://excellenceawards.foodanddrink.scot>

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## Project aims to bring Uist's dig sites back to life

Lewis Castle College UHI and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar have been awarded a grant of £271,000 from Scottish Natural Heritage's (SNH) Natural and Cultural Heritage Fund.

The winning Uibhist Virtual Archaeology project is part of a new £5 million Scottish programme of projects to invest in the Highlands and Islands to provide more high-quality opportunities for visitors to enjoy natural and cultural heritage assets.

The Natural and Cultural Heritage Fund led by SNH is part funded through the European Development Fund (ERDF).

The project has also received a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant of £85,000. Comhairle nan Eilean Siar will provide match funding of £17,220 for the project and undertake financial management and monitoring.

Supported by SNH, the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the comhairle, the project will create a new series of virtual reality digital reconstructions of seven archaeological sites located on the Hebridean Way walking route in Uist and Benbecula. The reconstructions will be accessed via an application for mobile devices with complementary mixed-media exhibitions established at museums.

The project will be led by Dr Rebecca Rennell and Dr Emily Gal, both archaeological experts based at Lewis Castle College UHI, in collaboration with the comhairle's heritage service and community stakeholders.

Dr Gal said: 'Community stakeholders have been involved with the project since its inception, and this will continue. Ensuring schools and community interest groups are involved in shaping the digital products is essential to the project.'

The first site to be designed will be the Bronze Age roundhouses and mummified remains at Cladh Hallan, South Uist, which date to around 1500BC.

Professor Mike Parker Pearson said: 'The discovery of Cladh Hallan's Bronze Age mummies is of international interest. It is great that this fascinating prehistoric settlement will feature in this innovative project.'

# The magnificent Hig

## Morvern Lines

IAIN THORNER

ian.thorner@btinternet.com



Looking back through old, and not so old records, there is no denying the fact that many of our wild birds and animals are heading towards extinction.

Those which were numerous in Argyll and West Inverness-shire 40 to 50 years ago, have either disappeared altogether or are dwindling at an alarming rate.

Hedgehogs, curlews, blackbirds and golden plover are only a few examples. Red deer, which are being slaughtered on an unprecedented scale to make way for even more trees, or rather because of the ease in which planting grants can be acquired, are now becoming a rarity.

The latest outburst by the John Muir Trust, the National Trust for Scotland, the RSPB, the Scottish Wildlife Trust and other New Age conservation groups suggesting that culls of red deer should be led by the public rather than professional stalkers, is neither helpful nor sensible. On the Morvern peninsula alone so many deer, sheep and cattle have been removed that thousands of acres of once rich grassland are so under grazed that an ecological disaster is now imminent.

Where in all this madness is Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) the government's agency, which has a duty of care for the landscape? Why encouraging larger culls, of course, on the grounds that the removal of the deer will somehow or other help tackle climate change and make Scottish roads safer.

None of the wild animals which still survive has given rise to so many words in poetry and verse than the economically useless fox which, despite its inroads on the crofters' poultry and the shepherds' lambs, shows no sign of disappearing. Most of the stories written about and around Reynard have the hunt as a background, and the remainder, including, for instance, Aesop's Fables and some old Gaelic songs, are concerned with its cleverness. As a result many people are inclined to think of the fox as either an animal to be hunted and killed, or as a semi-traditional symbol of survival and intelligence.

Known to scientists by the name *Vulpes vulpes*, the fox, one of Britain's top carnivores, is a predatory mammal related to dogs and wolves, and resembling them in appearance,



though differing from them in habit. The fox is a solitary animal, living alone except during the mating season. They hunt their prey by careful stalking, not by chasing them in packs like the wolf.

Most people are familiar with the main features of the fox, having read or heard of them even if they have never seen one in its natural surroundings except as a road kill. Its coat is covered with reddish brown fur, paling to a yellowish-white on the belly, the black tips of its prick ears and on the foreparts of its 'pads' or feet, its long bushy tail tipped with white, and the narrow, almond-shape eyes with their elliptical pupils and its strong, pungent smell.

The fox is not an easy animal to watch in the wild but once seen is never forgotten, especially in the snow or on a high mountain shoulder

when it is no more than a fast moving red streak as it runs across the scree. Cunning and skill are as necessary to outwit the huntsman and hounds following in full cry as they are to capture prey. One of the most exhilarating sights I have had of a fox is watching one on the 'nose' of Beinn Iadain in Morvern being attacked by a golden eagle. As the eagle dived-bombed, the fox would rear up on its hind legs snapping at its out-stretched talons which were always just beyond reach. Both could only have been play-acting but it lasted fully 10 minutes and was an unforgettable sight.

Later I watched a fox, probably the same animal, moving carefully on its belly towards a hind and calf lying in the grass, inch by inch, until the hind heard it, barked and sped off with its young coming behind. The

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# Highland red fox



A young hill fox in pursuit of a hare in the Forest of Atholl. Photograph Iain Thornber

in agony or a human being murdered. In some instances people, unaware of this characteristic of the vixen, have actually organised search parties to look for the victim of some fall or other tragedy which they imagined must have occurred.

Three months after mating, the cubs appear. The young 'whelps,' born in April, numbering from three to six, are blind for the first 10 days of their life. But after about a month the vixen takes them out for exercise. They are then taught to hunt, and to learn the art of catching their prey which continues throughout the summer. At the onset of winter they leave their parents and go off into the wild and care for themselves. They will, however, not be fully grown until another year has passed.

When the Highland lairds parted with the land of their ancestors and the Lowland and Anglo-Saxon shepherds moved in replacing men with sheep, chaos reigned. Duncan Ban MacIntyre (1724-1812) one of the most renowned Scottish Gaelic poets, registers his disgust in a composition he wrote in praise of the foxes called Oran nam Balgairan – a song to the foxes:

'My blessing be upon the foxes, because that they hunt the sheep. The sheep with the brocket faces that have made confusion in all the world, turning our country into a desert and putting up the rents of our land. Now there is no place left for the farmer – his livelihood is gone and necessity drives him to forsake the home of his fathers. The townships and the shielings, where once hospitality dwelt, they are now nought but ruins, and there is no cultivation in the fields.

'There is no filly, nor mare with foal by her side. Gone too are the heifers that suckled their calves. No need is there for dairymaids, for every fold is broken and scattered. No lad can earn a wage save only the shepherd of the sheep. The good useful goats, they too are gone.

'Deeply do I hate the man who abuses the foxes, setting a dog to hunt them, shooting at them with small shot. The cubs, if they had what I wish them, short lives were not their care. Good luck to them say I, and may they never die but of old age.'

fox followed and tried to separate them but the tussocks and the long grass favoured the long-legged deer, left their bold assailant far behind.

The diet of the fox varies depending on what is available, for though rabbits, hares and unsuspecting birds make up its principal food, during hard weather he will adapt himself to whatever comes the way, eating grubs and beetles and in coastal areas, even crabs.

In one den 20 brace of grouse, a couple of lambs and several rabbits and hares were discovered. If there is a choice, the fox is very particular choosing the best and fattest hens. In January the dog fox looks for a mate. During this period the screams of the vixen can be heard. It is a noise not easily forgotten, sounding as though a horse has been trapped

## DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



We go back into our archives from 1993 this week and two school photographs related to Comic Relief. Above are Oban High pupils Margaret Harrison, Ann MacLean and Elaine Cameron, who were presented with their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Awards by teachers John Porter and Mark McShane before the teachers were gunged for Red Nose Day. Below are Caol Primary pupils in fancy dress for the charity fundraiser.





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## LETTERS

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

## Wishing firefighter Brian all the best in medical struggle

There was a splendid turnout in Oban last week of more than 100 people for the official ceremony to mark the end of Brian MacDonald's career with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service as a result of ill health.

Brian, as regular readers of The Oban Times will know, has returned to his home town after 13 years as a firefighter in Glasgow, to continue his battle against the devastating diagnosis of motor neurone disease.

Despite his deteriorating condition – he has lost the use of his left-hand side and now the right side of his body is also becoming weaker – Brian maintains a remarkably upbeat mindset and has retained his sense of humour.

As we report this week, Brian has signed up for the largest trial of drugs tackling motor neurone disease. We wish him all the very best.

## Family of Mull boys are quite right to be proud

It is no mean feat for anyone to cycle 22 miles across the island of Mull but for youngsters Logan and Kian Gibson, it represented a brilliant effort.

Logan and Kian, aged just 11 and nine respectively, cycled from their home in Tobermory to Craignure, where their grandfather Kenny Gibson had lived in a care home, owing to him suffering from Parkinson's Disease and dementia.

The brothers pedalled their way down the island to raise money for the charity Parkinson's UK and managed to collect a magnificent £1,500.

Mum Karen and dad Brian told The Oban Times that they and the boys' grandmother Anne, were 'super proud'. They are quite right to be.

## Young Robert delighted many of us 'oldies'

I am sure many of us 'oldies' must have been absolutely delighted with Robert Robertson's old-style Hogmanay on New Year's Eve.

Robert writes your weekly Glasgow letter and I would deem it appropriate if I can offer thanks to him (and I'm sure I speak for many others) for giving us echoes of what it 'used to be like'.

Calum Kennedy, Alistair Gillies, Anne Lorne Gillies, a youngish Jimmy Shand, Bobby MacLeod and the Rev I M Jolly (Rikki Fulton) at his hilarious best, were all delivered gently, without any pomp whatsoever, by Robert, a distinguished Mòd medallist and band leader.

Robert visited our accordion and fiddle club when Skipinnish were our guest artists and was reluctant to do a solo for us because he is really a shy, gentle young man but he did sing Eilidh to our delight and then disappeared without an encore.

Thank you, Robert, and I actually found the Motherwell ceilidh to follow (also on BBC Alba) pretty good too. There were good artists including the Glenfinnan Ceilidh Band, Art Cormack winning his medal some years back and then bang up to date.

Good for BBC Alba and Robert Robertson in particular.

Niall Iain MacLean, Inveraray.

## Welcome debate on future of Dail Mhor care home

I was so pleased to see a response to my letter of December 26, 2019, from Joanne Matheson of the Joint Community Councils Working Group concerning the provision of permanent residential beds at Dail Mhor.

The reason I welcome the response is that I strongly believe that there needs to be open public debate on this vital matter and to that end I would appreciate the opportunity to respond further to the points made.

Ms Matheson avers that I am well aware that the 'working group' is fully committed to reinstating full-time residential care facilities. Well, she has now stated that to be the case but in the absence of any mention of full-time residential facilities in any of their press releases or any published minutes, members of the community might be forgiven for having no knowledge of this 'commitment'.

It is also claimed that I am aware of statutory

changes which make it currently impossible for Dail Mhor to deliver this service. I am not aware of any such changes but it would be very disappointing if the working group is permitting NHS to hide behind such a claim.

Local people are not interested in the details of the challenges faced by NHS in meeting their statutory obligations, only that they do what's necessary to overcome the challenges and provide the vital service. I think the aspect of Ms Matheson's letter which will give local people most concern, however, is the statement that the working group continues to work towards a viable way to provide full-time residential care, but follows that with the statement that 'small-scale, dedicated residential care facilities are no longer viable'. Which is it?

By virtue of our geographical situation and demographics everything in this remote area is going to be 'small-scale', but that doesn't mean essential services should not be provided or should have to pass some arbitrary test of viability. All our facilities (schools, fire service, police, ambulance and medical care) are 'small-scale' but the provision is judged on need not viability.

It is widely perceived in the community that the interests of NHS would be best served by ignoring the need for permanent residential beds at Dail Mhor on the basis of viability. Ms Matheson states that the working group 'would not like that (permanent beds) to come at the expense of these other services', but almost without exception, members of the community regard the provision of permanent residential beds as by far the most important service that Dail Mhor should provide and if they had to choose, I'm certain they would choose permanent beds. If the working group is unable to persuade NHS of this then it should be changing tack from persuasion to campaigning. It's that important.

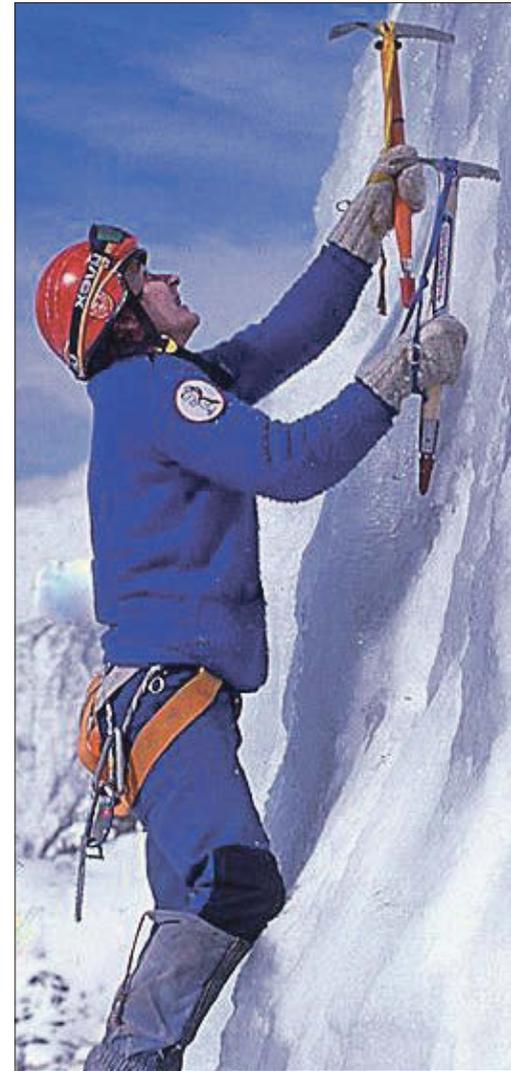
Alan Thomson, Strontian

## Referendum should only be after Holyrood election

I had a dream after the general election that there may be a more co-operative way forward between the SNP and Unionist viewpoints. Some dream!

In order to avoid the endless grievance and victimhood taking root any further, I believe the UK government needs to adopt a slightly different approach. An independence referendum absolutely should be refused until the

## YOUR PICTURE



next Holyrood election is over.

Despite the fact that some 55 per cent of Scottish residents voted for Unionist parties, it must be addressed that the SNP has dominated in the number of MPs. I suggest that if a similar result occurs in the Holyrood election, the UK government should agree to a referendum.

As someone with a Scottish mum and

  
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# PICTURES



We know our readers love to take photographs so we are happy to showcase these each week. If you have a photograph you would like to see published here, send it to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk), post it to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB. Alternatively, hand it in to our offices in Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, or to our office in High Street, Fort William. This week's photograph was taken by Neil Lea from Kirn who says it is 'a friend on a frozen waterfall on the east face of Aonach Dubh, Glencoe'.

English dad, we always regarded ourselves as British, so to express this sentiment breaks my heart.

However, despite views that someone voting SNP at the general election did not necessarily favour independence, is there any SNP voter about who does not know the primary objective of the party? And that a vote for the SNP inevitably led to the current impasse?

Should this be the direction Scotland wishes to take, so be it. Perhaps only a referendum will focus minds on the scale of the matter, instead of what is in a minority (and I stress a minority) of cases of anti-English sentiment.

Perhaps a co-operative way forward is just a dream.

**Iain Johnson, Stirling.**

## Grateful thanks for help following road accident

I was involved in a car accident on December 20 and I would like to thank all those who stopped to free me from my vehicle, and to the young man from MacLeod's who gave me his jacket, water and supported me until the ambulance arrived.

I would also like to thank the police, firefighters and ambulance service for all assistance rendered, and the care and attention from the staff at Lochgilphead hospital.

In these somewhat jaded and cynical times, it is heartwarming to receive the kindness of strangers. thank you

**Carla Banham, by email.**

## Tenants in rented properties should be able to keep pets

As the UK's largest dog welfare charity, Dogs Trust believes that the benefits of pet ownership shouldn't be exclusive to homeowners, but open to private and social renters as well.

With the number of people privately renting increasing year on year, the news that the UK government is looking to make it easier for private tenants to have pets in their homes has never been more important.

Sadly, the single biggest reason we see dogs handed in to our rehoming centres is due to a change in the owner's circumstances, such as being unable to live in a rented property with a pet. This can also stop people coming forward to adopt rescue animals.

This needs to change and we sincerely hope the proposed updates to model tenancy contracts will help ensure that fewer owners are forced to give up their beloved pets and that more people are able to consider adoption.

We welcome the opportunity to work alongside other animal welfare organisations and the government to ensure this forthcoming change positively impacts the property sector, and that more pet-friendly rental homes become available.

**Clare Kivlehan, Dogs Trust.**

# Beachd Ailein

**ALLAN CAMPBELL**

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



Taigh gun chù, gun chat, gun leanabh beag, taigh gun ghean, gun ghàire! 'S e pàirt phrìseil den t-seanfhalac sin an companas a tha nochdte san taigh. Bho chionn beagan làithean tha sinne air a bhith a' toirt beagan taice dha nàbaidh nach eil air a bhith a' cumail ro mhath. Thug cnatan mòr greadadh air a chomasan agus a dh'aindeoin a bhith gu nàdarrach neo-eisimeileach tha e a' tuigsinn gum bheil feum aige air taic, agus tha nàbaidhean toilichte sin a chumail ris. Aon rud a bhuaill orm fhìn gu mòr 's e cho aonranach 's a tha a shaoghal is e an ire mhath glaiste aig an taigh. Tha e ag ionndrainn àbhaisteach cuideachd agus còmhraidh a charaidean. Lean an smuain sin leam is mi a' tadhal air seann charaid eile ann an dachaigh-cùraim. Chan eil dith taice neo coibhneis aige-san far am bheil e, ach thug mi 'n aire gun robh e a' call cuimhne air mòran de na rudan mum biomaid a' còmhraidh, agus bha a chuid Gàidhlig ga thrèigsinn beagan. Chan eil teagamh nach eil buaidh mhòr aig aonranachd air an t-suidheachadh sin cuideachd,

oir tha a' mhòr-chuid de na tha san dachaigh cuide ris a' fulang le dìth cuimhne, agus chan eil Gàidhlig aig duine aca. Dh'iarraim uile gun gabhadh suidheachaidhean mar seo a sheachnadh agus gum biodh a h-uile taic air a chur air dòigh dha sean agus òg ann an dùthaich bheartach adhartach. Ach chan eil am "beartas" idir làidir le crionadh ann an seirbheisean poblach de gach seòrsa fad bhliadhnaichean, 's gun iomradh air lasachadh. Far nach eil ràn is gàire naoidhein cha bhi sluagh òg a' fàs suas a bharrachd, is thig crionadh air cànan, dualchas, agus eòlas coimhearsnachd. Chan iongnadh dragh a bhith air luchd-poilitigs nan Eileanan Siar, mar aon àite a tha a' faicinn tràghadh sluaigh. Tuigear cuideachd carson a bhiodh daoine diombach à buidheann poblach leithid HIAL a bhith a' bagairt cur às do chosnaidhean anns na h-Eileanan Siar mar "leasachadh" air an cuid seirbheis dhan àite. Aig an aon àm 's a tha seo ga chur air adhart tha buidhnean poblach eile ri spàirn a' brosnachadh leasachaidhean sòisealta agus eaconomaigeach

agus cha b' iongnadh cuid a bhith ag ràdh gum bheil an dàrna gnìomh a' magadh air an fhear eile! Carson, tha iad a' faighneachd, nach eil a h-uile buidheann poblach ag obrachadh còmhla gus poileasaidhean agus amasan an riaghaltais air fad a chur an gnìomh?

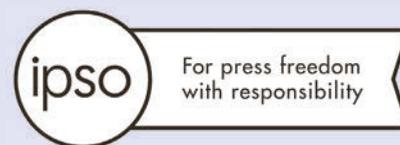
Deagh cheist, agus 's e pàirt den fhreagairt nach eil a h-uile buidheann air a maoineachadh tron aon roinn den Riaghaltas agus gum bheil eilean daonnan a' sireadh an luach as fheàrr às na chosgais iad, agus theagamh nach biodh barrachd luach comasach far am biodh coimeasgadh amasan!

One can understand people in the Western Isles questioning an apparent lack of integrated policy when one public body plans to cut jobs to develop its service, while other public bodies strive to create employment and develop the economy.

**Ailean Caimbeul**  
(Allan Campbell)

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

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



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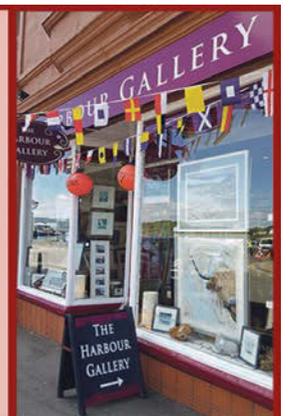
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# DISTRICT NEWS

## JURA

A group campaigning for marine conservation and sustainable use of the sea has just become a Scottish registered charity.

Friends of the Sound of Jura, formed in 2017, relies on a hard-working team of volunteers and is continually looking for more people to help.

Skills in demand are media, applying for grants, project management, photography, marine science and education.

'You can get involved on many levels - whether you want to do some desk research or campaigning from home. You don't have to be on the shores of the Sound of Jura to get involved,' said a group spokesperson.

A volunteer is also needed to co-ordinate regular beach cleaning anywhere there is access to the shoreline on both sides of the Sound of Jura as well as Loch Sween.

Anyone who would like to get involved with surveying the area's seabed should also get in touch.

Email [info@friendsofthesound-ofjura.org.uk](mailto:info@friendsofthesound-ofjura.org.uk)

## DUNBEG



West Highland Housing Association presented a donation to the Dunbeg Development Group just before Christmas. Douglas Mackie, chairman of West Highland Housing, presented Marion Rae, chairwoman of the Dunbeg Development Group, and Laura MacCormick with a cheque for £2,000. The funds were raised by WHHA leasing ground for upgrades to Kirk Road. And the association was keen to ensure the funds were used to benefit the community. The group is focusing its activity on providing better community facilities and this donation will help its efforts to create a new village hall.

## DALMALLY

Dalmally Agricultural Society has its annual general meeting tonight, Thursday January 23, at 7.30pm at the golf club.

## DALAVICH

Dalavich Social Club has its annual general meeting on Saturday February 1 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

Dates for this year's Loch Stock Festival are May 8 to May 10 at the social club.

## MULL

Mull Safe and Sound wants to hear from groups or people organising get-togethers to breakdown isolation and help people make new friends.

The project is working on a list of groups and organisations on the island and neighbouring Iona so it can publish a booklet which will be kept mainly in GP consulting rooms and the community hospital.

Those behind the project are

## Success for Gaelic department



Nicola Noble won the poetry competition while Cailean MacLean is nominated for a FilmG award.

Tobermory High School's Gaelic department has had a lot to celebrate recently.

S3 pupil Nicola Noble won first prize in the Sorley MacLean Trust Gaelic poetry competition, organised by Stòrlann. Nicola wrote her winning poem Air an Iolaire (On the Iolaire) to commemorate 100 years since the sinking of the Iolaire on the January 1, 1919.

Nicola received a certificate, a £70 Amazon voucher and a £30 Gaelic book token as her prize.

The school's FilmG club, a mixture of both Gaelic learners and fluent speakers in S1-S3, has been shortlisted for two FilmG youth awards, the Gaelic Award for Learners and Best Performance for S3 pupil Cailean MacLean.

The group's film Alasdair Dìongmhalta (Determined Alasdair) is about a footballer, played by Cailean MacLean, who gets dropped from his team but remains determined to succeed.

This year, the FilmG club was

supported by former Tobermory High School pupil and FilmG award winner Shannon Maclean, who returned to the school as part of the FilmG crew.

Shannon is also shortlisted for two FilmG awards this year. Her documentary Seònaid, about Mull's Janet MacDonald, is shortlisted for Best Country Film and Best Film in the open category.

The FilmG awards ceremony takes place in Glasgow on Friday February 14.

hoping it will encourage people to lift their heads 'a little higher' and develop friendships and make connections, helping life to feel less isolating.

Whether it is people who meet up for a knit and natter, mums who like motorbikes or anyone who plunges into wild swimming, Mull Safe and Sound would like to hear from them, to be included in the booklet.

Email [safesoundsally@hotmail.com](mailto:safesoundsally@hotmail.com) with a brief description of when, where and how participants meet up and include contact

details. 'By including your group, you will be helping to make another human feel included and that they matter,' said a Mull Safe and Sound spokesperson.

Refreshments will be served between 2.30pm and 4.30pm. Entry by donation.

## BARCALDINE

A £50,000 road safety project to install a new barrier on a corner north of Barcaldine, as well as new warning signs on the bend and its approaches, began on Monday (January 20) on the A828.

The new barrier has been designed to protect road users from roadside hazards and the installation of the

## TOBERMORY

Tobermory Guides are hosting an Aussie Afternoon Tea on January 26 at the Scout Hall to mark Australia Day. All money raised will go towards the welfare of the surviving animals and the Australian Country Fire Service Volunteers.

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## At random

MARTIN LAING

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



# Tickets selling fast for Seil panto



Lots of laughs are coming to a stage on Seil, courtesy of this year's Aladdin of Ardencaple cast.

Panto players on Seil raise the curtains on Aladdin of Ardencaple tomorrow, Friday January 24.

Tickets for £5, from Balvicar Stores on the island, are selling fast for this weekend's three performances.

Shows are at 7pm tomorrow and at 3pm and 7pm on Saturday January 25.

Ages of the cast range from just seven to over 80, said director John Colston, who added: 'It's going to be a cracking show this year - with music, slapstick, old jokes

and new jokes, all set on the isle of Seil. We have romance, intrigue, magic - and a lot of scarecrows.'

A scarecrow festival on Seil this summer made more than £11,000 for the island hall's development project.

signs will raise greater road user awareness of the bends ahead.

The work will take up to two weeks and the A828 will remain open, however, temporary traffic lights and a 30mph speed limit will be in place throughout.

### LOCHDON

Shortbread and Scottish dancing is on the menu at Lochdon Primary School's themed community cafe

on Monday January 27 from 2pm until 3pm.

### STORNOWAY

Service) has announced the appointment of Ealasaid MacDonald to the post of director of strategy and external affairs.

The newly-created post will take a leading role in nurturing important stakeholder relationships and

in developing a renewed Léirsinn (Vision) with partners for the future of Gaelic media. The post will also take a lead role in proposing and delivering strategies for transformation as MG ALBA and its partners face increasing levels of challenge and opportunity in the media sector.

Ealasaid will take up the role in Stornoway, starting on January 27. Originally from Eriskay and South Uist, Ealasaid previously

worked in policy for Renfrewshire Council and has been living and working in the Isle of Lewis for the past five years as a freelance policy and public affairs consultant.

Donald Campbell, chief executive of MG ALBA, said: 'This is a time of unprecedented change for us.'

'Ealasaid will be a fantastic addition to our senior management team and we're excited that she is joining us.'

## Still in the dark

I lamented towards the tail end of last year the poor provision of street lighting in parts of Oban, especially the town centre.

In particular, I raised the issue of the almost stygian darkness in Lochside Street, just outside Kwik Fit and next to The Original Factory Shop.

I was gently upbraided for 'council bashing' by Lewis Morrison, who emailed to advise: 'Simply go to the Argyll and Bute Council website, click on "Report It" on the green bar along the top, select the problem, put in the Post Code PA34 4HR, click the + button until you can identify the actual street lights and then fill in the boxes to clarify the problem and Bob is your proverbial...'

I took Lewis at his word and reported the problem on the council's website as suggested.

Conversely, but gratifyingly, I was also contacted and given vociferous support by Andy Spence, the chief executive of BID4Oban, who said he had raised the issue with Argyll and Bute Council and would continue to do so.

That was back in November.

Despite Andy's exhortations, my reporting of the problem and, for all I know, other people raising the issue, the lighting still has not been fixed.

## Hole lot of trouble

It's winter, of course, and at this time every year our roads go to pot as freezing temperatures take their toll.

One of the worst bits of road for potholing in Oban town centre is near the aforementioned Lochside Street, in Lochavullin Road, Lynn Road and Lochavullin Drive to be precise.

The surface on all three of the roads radiating from the mini double roundabout close to Marks and Spencer Foodhall and behind Tesco is in a dreadful state.

I suspect the council is responsible for these roads, which are usually extremely busy. It is time the roads guys filled in the holes.

## What do you think?

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

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# OUTDOORS

## Online resource tracks skate movements

An online resource for tracking the movements of some of the largest and rarest creatures in British waters has been expanded.

The Skatespotter website, which includes details of 1,500 critically endangered common or flapper skate, has been updated to include historic records that give an improved insight into the lives of individual fish.

The move was announced as Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters 2020 gets under way.

Anglers are encouraged to submit any photographs of common skate they catch and release to the database, allowing researchers working to conserve the species to identify individual fish by the distinctive spot patterns on their backs and study their movements.

For the first time, historic information from the Scottish Shark Tagging Programme (SSTP) dating back to 1975 has been added, as well as additional tagging data and photographs from Orkney, Shetland, the Outer Hebrides and Portpatrick. The data reveals interesting details about the skate living in the Loch Sunart to the Sound of Jura Marine Protected Area (MPA).

Female skate are much more likely to be recaptured, because they tend to remain in the same area. Only five males have been captured more than 10 times, compared to 17 females.

Known as Di000289, the most tracked male skate is therefore unusual, having been captured 19 times between 2016 and 2019 in the Firth of Lorn.

The data shows there is little movement of skate between the Firth of Lorn and the Sound of Jura. Only two males and three females have moved between the two sites out of 1,500 individuals.

Skatespotter, which launched in 2018, is a joint project between Scottish Natural Heritage and the Scottish Association for Marine Science.

# Munros challenge hits heights in Argyll

A Scottish climber has set out from Argyll on a three-month expedition which, if successful, would see him climb all of Scotland's 282 Munros in winter during one continuous trip, writes Ken MacTaggart.

Most hillwalkers regard topping all of the 3,000ft peaks as the challenge of lifetime, but Kevin Woods hopes to do so in one season.

The feat has only ever been achieved twice before, by two experienced climbers who died in separate mountain accidents last year.

In his first 16 days, he had topped all the Munros in Argyll, plus Glen Coe and some further afield, for a tally of 49 summits.

## 'Kevin spent Christmas Day around the Crianlarich hills and Boxing Day on Beinn Bhuidhe.'

Until last year living at Glenachulish, Ballachulish, and now based in East Dunbartonshire, Kevin started his epic trek up Ben More on Mull on December 21, the day of the solstice which marks the official start of winter.

Returning to Oban, the next day he headed for the narrow ridge of Ben Cruachan and the pair to the north of Glen Strae, Beinn a'Chochuill and Beinn Eunaich.

On December 23, he had a monster day out on the five Munros at Bridge of Orchy, covering 33km and 2,450 metres of ascent. He spent Christmas Day around the Crianlarich hills, then returned to Inveraray for an icy Boxing Day on Beinn Bhuidhe above Glen Fyne.

After notching up 15 Munros he took a day off to repair his van, then resumed his campaign, spending Hogmanay on the six hills of south Glen Coe. New Year's Day saw no let up, as he started at Beinn Sgulaire in Appin and headed north over neighbouring peaks.

Kevin uses a converted van as accommodation and for transport between mountain areas, when he is not linking the hills up on



Kevin Woods battles gales on Sgorr nam Fiannaich, Glen Coe and, below, on Beinn Bhuidhe, Glen Fyne, above Inveraray.



foot. Friends and relatives are supporting him with deliveries of food and other supplies.

He usually climbs alone, as few can keep up with him. But he plans to take a companion on the notorious Cuillin ridge on Skye later in the expedition.

The early days of 2020 were spent in Glen

Coe, the Black Mount, Glen Etive and Glen Falloch.

On January 6, he waited out the worst of the day's gales and rain in Glen Croe below the Rest and Be Thankful, then set off at 1.30pm for Ben Narnain, Ben Ime and Ben Vane which he knocked off in three hours. He set off up his fourth peak, Ben Vorlich, in the dark and emerged at Inveruglas in moonlight before 9pm.

That day completed the 23 Munros of Argyll. Sticklers for detail will note that the summit cairn of the giant peak of Ben Starav above Loch Etive, unlike its neighbours in the glen, strictly speaking lies a few hundred metres outside Argyll.

His future plans are now to work steadily northwards, flexibly moving east and west depending on the weather.

Further reports of Kevin's progress will come in the following weeks. He can be followed on Facebook as 'Kevin Woods Winter 282'.



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## This week's walks



The Coll Bird Festival 2019 included a Gortan beach clean (photograph: David Palmar) and, below, the spoon-billed sandpiper chicks (photograph: Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust).

# Speaker revealed as Coll prepares for bird festival

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

It might still be the dark days of January but on the island of Coll, twitchers are preparing for this spring's Coll Bird Festival.

On the weekend of May 8 to 10, Coll Bird Festival is delighted to be hosting Professor Rhys Green, who will speak on the important subjects of the corncrake and the spoon-billed sandpiper, both in the news recently because of their critically endangered status.

Prof Green is the world expert on the rare and endangered corncrake. He says the Isle of Coll is the best place in the UK to spot the species and has studied the Coll corncrake for decades now.

Corncrakes (*crex crex*) are shy, pigeon-sized birds related to moorhens and coots, which breed in Ireland and Britain, and across central Europe migrating to Africa in winter.

He is also the lead scientist on



Saving the Spoon-billed Sandpiper and is delighted to be bringing to the island an update on the plight of this popular little bird.

Two of these extremely rare chicks were hatched in captivity at a nature reserve in Gloucestershire at the end of 2019.

The pair belong to the only captive flock of spoon-billed sandpipers in the world, established at the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) in Slimbridge.

The trust said conservationists had been 'trying to coax these little birds to breed' for eight years

and had now 'finally cracked the problem'.

There are only about 200 breeding pairs of the critically endangered species left in the wild.

Coll Bird Festival will be a wonderful opportunity for island ornithologists and beginner or amateur birders to encounter the extensive bird life Coll has to offer and hear from the experts. In 2019, 90 different types of bird were recorded in 48 hours on the island.

The festival is organised by An Cridhe, part of Coll's Development Trust and charity. Prices for this year's event are kept low and are not intended to be profit-making but, instead, to enable the wider birding community to learn about, and experience, the island (and other parts of Argyll), boosting tourism in the out-of-season months. The event would not be possible without the support of local RSPB teams, who give generously of their time over the weekend.

### LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

The walk leader should be contacted beforehand for meet-up and start times. Car sharing usually possible and people can try before they buy. Further information at [www.lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk](http://www.lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk)  
**Sunday January 26, Coire nan Lochan and Coire Gabhail, Glen Coe.**

An easier route does not cross the burn but continues up to the floor of Coire nan Lochan.

From the southernmost lochan, turn east and follow the contour to a small plateau astride the ridge between Gearn Aonach and Stob Coire nan Lochan, NN155551.

From here, a broad ramp leads down south-southwestwards below the crags on the right, and above the crags on the left.

The route crosses a stony couloir and continues a descending traverse until the crags on the left give way to a steep grassy hillside.

Continue the traverse until it is convenient to descend to the Coire Gabhail path below and follow this to the A82. Follow the Old Road back to the start.

Grade: M+  
Distance: 7 Km  
Height to climb: 674m  
Map(s): LR41, EX384  
Meet at: Fort William WM NN112742 at 0945

Start of walk at 1000  
Leader: Ann Jones 07770 434114.

**Thursday January 30, Strontian Oakwoods, Strontian.**  
Walking with the fairies: A circuit above the Strontian (Sron an t'Sithein - hill of the fairies) Glen

From the village shops (NM815616) climb steeply through the community woodland of Phemie's Walk to gain the high road leading to Scotstown and Ariundle.

We then make a high traverse of the Strontian Oakwoods returning along the Strontian River with a final climb back to the village along the Fairy Road.

Grade: L  
Distance: 14Km  
Height gained - 100m  
Map(s): LR40, EX391  
Meet at: Corran Ferry slip for 0915 ferry

Start of Walk: 0945  
Leader: Sheila McKenzie  
01967402122 or 07880891262.

### NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

Full walk details at [www.nevis-hillwalking.club](http://www.nevis-hillwalking.club). If anyone would like to go on a walk, contact club secretary Suzanne Theobald on 01397 701783 or email [enquiries@nevis-hillwalking.club](mailto:enquiries@nevis-hillwalking.club)  
**Saturday January 25, Binnein Shuas and Binnein Shios, Loch Laggan.**

Two fine hills set between Loch Laggan and Lochan na h-Earba, with grand views of splendid Munros in every direction. Delightful craggy hills with some route finding needed on the summits.

Start just E of the Moy Bridge at NN433831, where limited off-road parking is available. Cross the river Spean and follow the track SE for about 2km then turn right at the junction. After about a further 1Km at NN446812 head NE up the hillside, keeping to the crest of an ill-defined ridge.

Scramble over rocky outcrops to reach the summit of Binnein Shuas, 746m. Head NE to a WP at NN467831 which overlooks a descent route to the NE spur of the hill. Descend the steep grassy slope to WP(156) at NN467832, then continue down a steep ramp, keeping to its left side below crags, to reach easier slopes on the NE spur. Follow the crest of the spur ENE down to broad col at about 380m alt\*. Climb NNE up to the long summit ridge of Binnein Shios and continue to its highest point at the far end. Retrace steps down to about 450m alt, then curving W, make across some open woodland for the track along the shore of Loch Laggan. Aim for a point opposite Eilean nan Tunnag at about NN464843. Follow the track SW for 3km, then fork right at the junction to follow the outward route back to the start.

\*For a shorter day, omit Binnein Shios and, from the col\*\*, head directly for the track beside Loch Laggan.

\*\*For an alternative return from the col, continue NE down to the dam across the river linking the two lochans at NN48448 83719. Cross the dam and follow the track SW to the head of the lochan. Turn W and continue on the track back to the start.

18km, 810m ascent, \*14km, 500m ascent, \*\*18km, 500m ascent  
Suggested and coordinated by Andrew Gilbert.

We think Fridays are for dramming...

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#### Advertorial

## Over 17,000 households helped by Scottish Government's flagship energy efficiency scheme

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Since its launch over four years ago the Scottish Government's Warmer Homes Scotland scheme has helped 17,000 qualifying householders. In most cases each household has so far received over £4,000 of home energy saving improvements such as central heating, boilers, renewables systems and insulation measures.

Alison Craig, Home Energy Scotland's Highlands and Islands advice centre manager, said:

'We want to hear from you to see if we can help. Particularly if you're struggling to keep up with your bills or finding your home hard to heat.

'Warmer Homes Scotland could be the solution and it's available now so you could get support this winter.

'All you need to do is contact us at Home Energy Scotland and chat to one of our friendly advisors, free of charge, to see if you could benefit.

'We offer free and impartial advice, so even if you don't qualify for Warmer Homes Scotland we can explore other support that may be available, such as discounts from your energy supplier.'

Miss B, a mother of two, had a new heating system installed via the scheme. She said:

'It all went very smoothly and happened very quickly, much more quickly than I thought. I have a warm house, and it's even warmer now than when I had heating here before. And it's really easy to use.'

Call Home Energy Scotland free on 0808 808 2282 or visit [homeenergyscotland.org](http://homeenergyscotland.org) for more information on current help and support from Warmer Homes Scotland and other schemes.

Home Energy Scotland is funded by the Scottish Government and managed by the Energy Saving Trust, with a mission to help people in Scotland create warmer homes, reduce their bills and help tackle climate change.



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## Big Energy Saving Week runs from 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

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<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/our-campaigns/all-our-current-campaigns/besw/>

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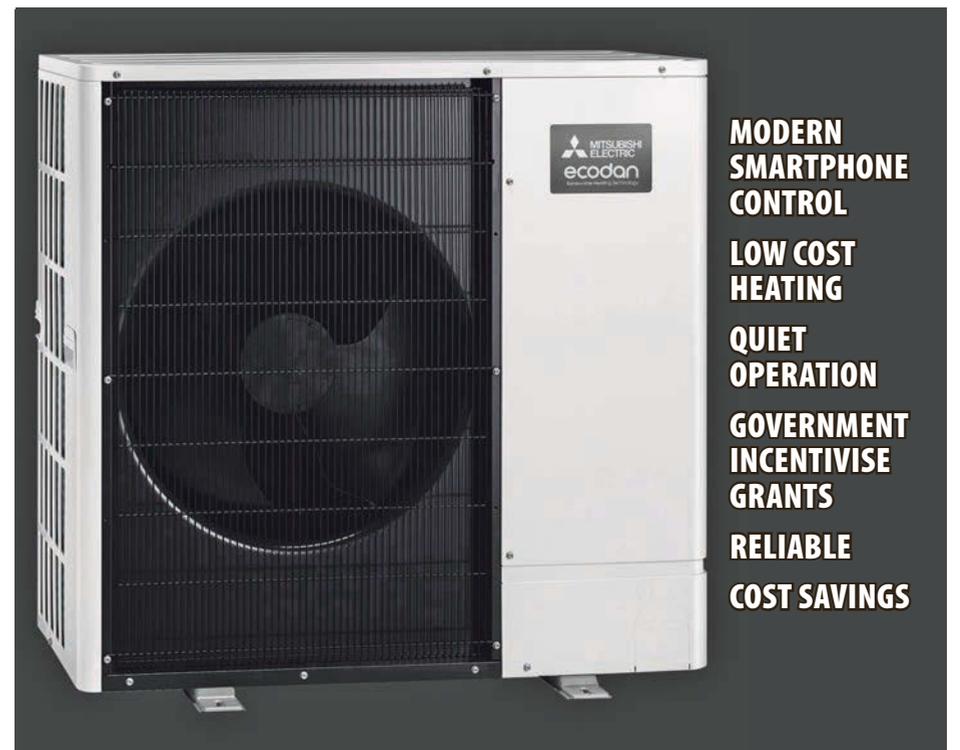
The entire line up is also certified by the Microgeneration Certificate Scheme (MCS)

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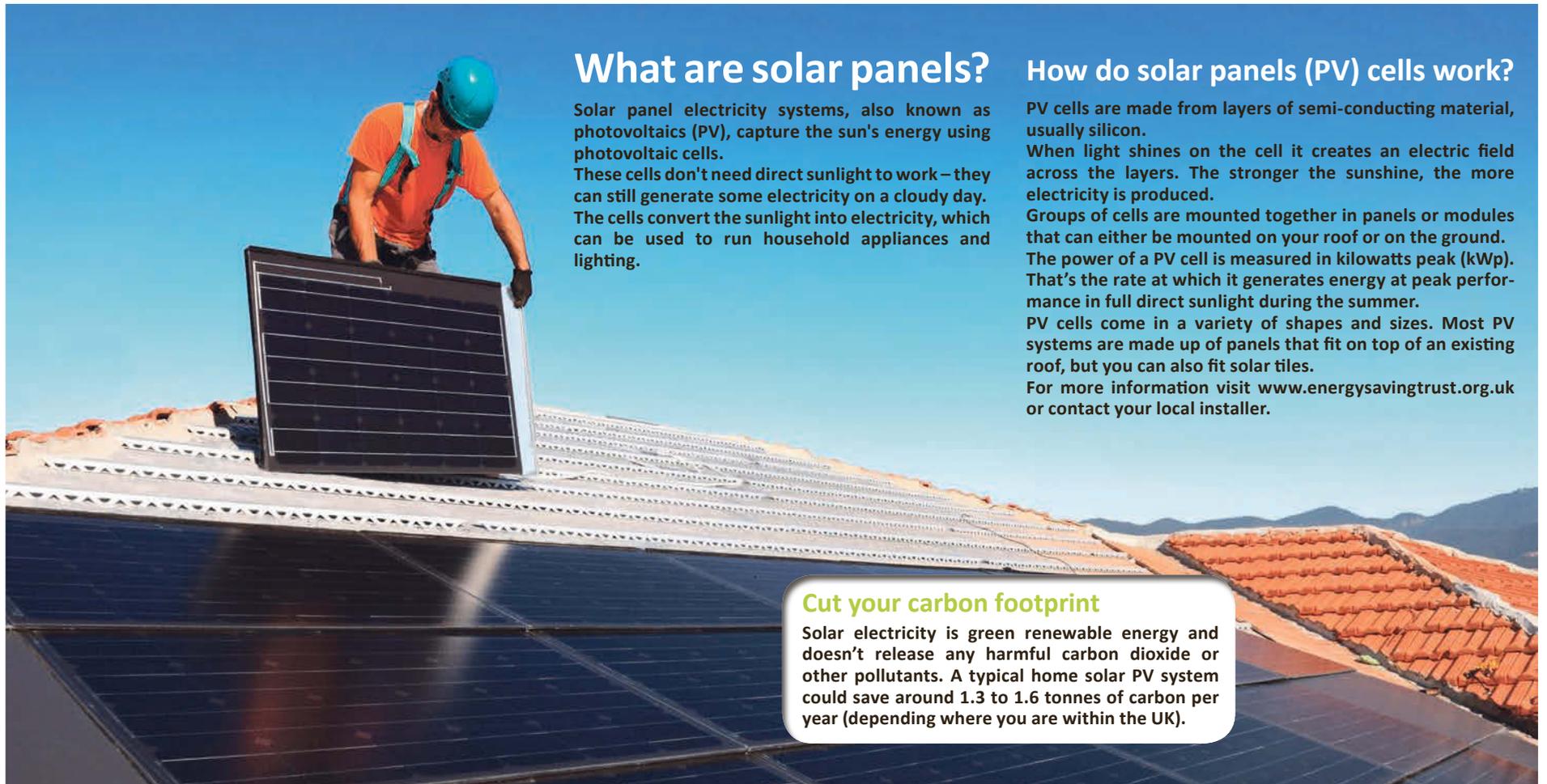
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# LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

## Killin Drama Club panto goes down a storm

Killin Drama Club took its audiences on a fantastic journey along the Yellow Brick Road, staging this year's panto, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, in the McLaren Hall over the weekend.

Thanks to a tornado, Dorothy and Toto find themselves in the Wonderful Land of Oz, accompanied by Aunt Em and her farmhand, Skeeter. There they encounter all the famous characters including Scarecrow, Tinman and cowardly Lion.

The wicked Witch of the West discovers that Dorothy now wears the magic ruby slippers, and sets out to obtain them by fair means or foul.

This version also included the Jitterbug and the Cornfield Crows, who all appear in the original book, but not in the classic MGM film.

The pantomime followed the original storyline faithfully, but included some extra panto-style characters, such as the comic and a traditional dame – a sparkling pantomime that really captured the magic of the original story.

The popular club currently has about 50 members, including around 30 junior members, so the event really was a community affair. The cast was Dorothy – Eloise Murray; Skeeter – Myrica Reid; Aunt Em – Glenda Mardon; Glinda – Karen Lafferty; Grotbag – Kay Dowling; Fester – Chaz Kemp; Scarecrow – Sammy Hibbert; Tin Man – Susan Fraser; Lion – Colin Hay; The Gatekeeper – Michaela Smith; Madame L'Oreal – Alex Tigwell;

Continued on pages 34 and 35.



Killin pantomime this year was *The Wizard of Oz*. Photographs: Ron Allner

### Bad news for Snowmen

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# New Writer Awards announced

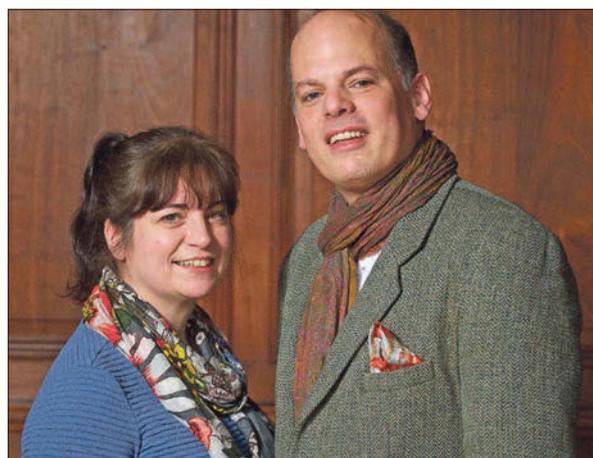
Two writers from Argyll and Lochaber are among the 13 recipients of the Scottish Book Trust's New Writers Award, which is supported by Creative Scotland.

Since 2009, Scottish Book Trust, the national charity transforming lives through reading and writing, has supported more than 100 creative individuals through the New Writers Awards.

Mary Ann Kennedy, who now lives in Lochaber, has been selected for one of the awards along with Andreas Wolff.

Well known as an award-winning musician, Mary Ann Kennedy was born and brought up a Gaelic speaker in Glasgow.

Her writing began with song, encouraged by friends and mentors such as Aonghas MacNeacail and Donald Meek. An inspirational year as musician-in-residence at the Gaelic college, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, gave rise to two highly acclaimed albums,



Mary Ann Kennedy and Andreas Wolff. Photograph: Rob McDougall

including An Dàn, a collection of original contemporary songs, her own lyrics among them.

She co-edited a family biography and compendium for Acair Books in 2012, which won the Gaelic Book of the Year at the Royal National Mòd, and the Arts and Culture prize at the

inaugural National Gaelic Awards. In 2018, she wrote the score and original songs for Deeds Not Words, a Rural Nations theatre production celebrating the story of women's suffrage in the Western Isles.

Her current projects include an ongoing Gaelic-inspired exploration in

words and music of the River Clyde from source to sea, and of her hometown of Glasgow.

Originally from Berlin, Andreas Wolff fell in love with the Scottish islands, especially the Hebrides and their Gaelic culture, when he visited as a teenager. Andreas settled in Scotland 16 years ago and studied a BA (Hons) in Gaelic at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on the Isle of Skye and now works as a video journalist for BBC ALBA in Argyll, in Scotland and in Europe.

During his award, Andreas wants to explore long form travel and other narrative non-fiction writing in Gaelic, building on the factual story telling skills he acquired as a journalist.

The New Writers Awards provide a selection of talented writers with financial support to enable them to concentrate on developing their work, as well as professional guidance to help them

move towards publication.

Former awardees include Helen Sedgwick, whose first crime novel *When The Dead Come Calling* (Point Blank Books) was released earlier this January; Morag Law, whose short fiction collection *Cuibhle an Fhortain* (Wheel of Fortune - Luath Press) was published in December 2019; and Kirstin Innes, whose novel *Scabby Queen* (4th Estate) will be published in April 2020.

Each recipient will receive £2,000 and support tailored to their needs, including mentoring from writers and industry professionals, training opportunities, and the platform to showcase their work to publishers and agents. The awards also include the offer of a week-long writing retreat at Moniak Mhor to provide time, space and freedom to create new work.

The Gaelic Books Council provides two additional places on the programme,

which support two Gaelic New Writers awardees each year. The Gaelic Books Council also selects these writers.

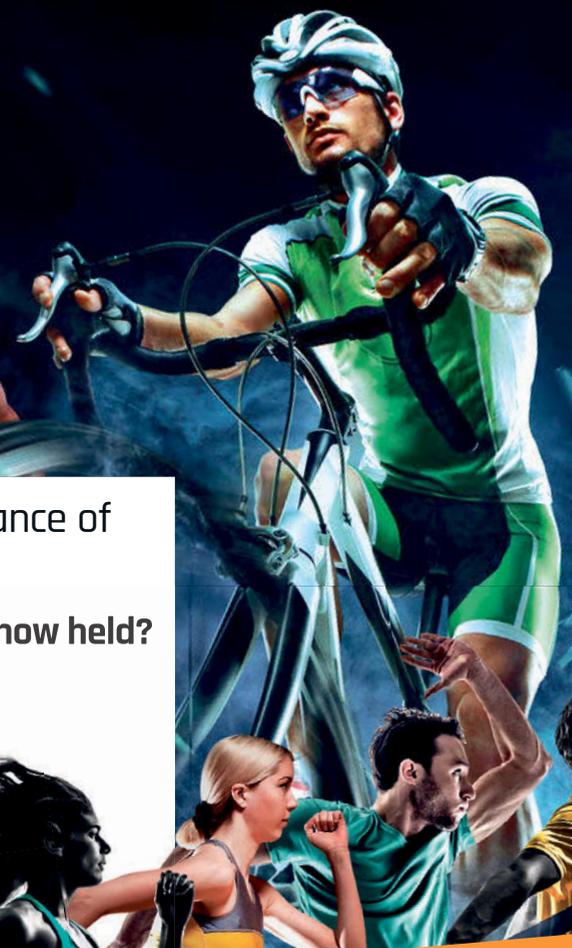
Support for an additional place is also generously provided by The Callan Gordon Award, which was set up by his family to celebrate the life of Callan Gordon, a young Scottish writer.

Alan Bett, literature officer at Creative Scotland, said: 'This programme from Scottish Book Trust feeds the literature sector annually with new and exciting voices from Scotland. As in previous years, we are sure that these 13 names will soon feature on book spines and festival programmes. The New Writers Awards go beyond providing writers with mentoring and time to develop their craft, and cover the many practical elements that are essential for a career as a contemporary writer. Many congratulations to all those selected.'



**Scottish CYCLING RUNNING & Outdoor Pursuits Show**

**SEC 29 Feb - 1 March**





We have **8 pairs of tickets** up for grabs, so to be in with a chance of winning, just answer the following question:

**In which city is the Scottish Cycling, Running & Outdoor Pursuits Show held?**  
 (a) Edinburgh (b) Glasgow (c) Dundee

Name .....

Address .....

Tel: .....

ANSWER:

**What's at the show...**

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- CalMac Paddle Board Challenge
- BMX Stunt Show
- Celebrity guests & stars from road and track
- Indoor Cycling Track
- Kids' Cycling Area & Kids' Zone
- Indoor Running Track
- Climbing Walls
- Segway Course
- Triathlon Challenges & more

**scottishcyclingrunningsshow.co.uk**

**Terms & conditions:** Send your answer, together with your name, address and daytime contact number to: **Scottish Cycling and Running Show Competition**, The Oban Times, PO BOX 1, Oban, PA34 4HB to arrive by Feb 6th 2020. The first 8 correct entries drawn at random will win the prizes as stated. Prizes are non-transferable and cannot be exchanged for cash. Usual rules apply. Editor's decision is final.

# WHAT'S ON

In partnership with Oban Town Diary BID4oban.co.uk

## THURSDAY 23RD JANUARY

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

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

**Recovery Cafe**  
New Hope Kitchen  
12.30pm

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

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

**Netherlorn Piping Society Club Night**  
Argyllshire Gathering Halls  
7.30pm

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

## FRIDAY 24TH JANUARY

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

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

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

## SATURDAY 25TH JANUARY

**Parkrun**  
Ganavan Sands  
9.30am

**Event - Ballet West Swan Lake**  
Corran Halls  
2pm & 7pm

**Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans**  
Rook and Reel  
Open till 2:00am

## SUNDAY 26TH JANUARY

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

**Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans**  
QUIZ NIGHT at 9:30pm  
£1 per person, max of 6 per team  
Win £20 bar voucher

## MONDAY 27TH JANUARY

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

**Slimming World Fort William**  
Salvation Army Hall  
9.30am & 11.30am  
Tel; Gillian 07796 040803

**Fellowship Meeting**  
New Hope Kitchen  
2pm

## 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 28TH JANUARY

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

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

## WEDNESDAY 29TH JANUARY

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

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

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

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

**Knitting Group**  
New Hope Kitchen  
2pm

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

# Blast from the past kicks off Benderloch hall centenary year

Centenary celebrations at Benderloch's Victory Hall got off the ground last week with a nostalgic look back at the village's past, writes Fiona Scott.

A large audience gathered at the venue when Bob McCulloch brought his Old Benderloch Slide Show to the hall last Thursday night.

A huge variety of photographs, some more than 100 years old, covered a variety of topics such as village buildings, including Connel Bridge, and transport, as well as people from the past and present.

Bob McCulloch gave an excellent talk and many in the audience had extra information to add.

The Victory Hall committee thanked everyone who came along and Bob, who started the centenary celebrations with such a fine look-back.

Next month's celebrations have a musical theme and on Friday February 14 the hall plays host to an award-winning traditional band with a contemporary twist.



Bob McCulloch's Old Benderloch Slide Show got the celebrations off to an excellent start last week.

Hot off the stage from Celtic Connections comes GNOSS and the hall committee is delighted to announce that the band will have superb support. A group of local young pipers will be playing from their repertoire and share stories of time spent in chanter and piping classes led by world champion piper Angus MacColl, of Benderloch, who has taught many children over the years through regular classes in the Victory Hall.

The next few months will see open club nights when members of the public will get the chance to join indoor bowls and badminton, as well as various exhibitions and events around children's entertainment, the natural world and theatre— just a few of the regular items enjoyed by Victory Hall users.

To keep up to date with all the centenary events, visit the Victory Hall, Benderloch Facebook page.



## WINTER OPENING HOURS 2020

January / February / March

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12.00pm to 9.00pm for hot food

Bar open until midnight



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# Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



## Stars of Uist and Cape Breton

Last Saturday evening, I attended the 25th anniversary concert of Ceòlas in the Old Fruitmarket as part of the opening weekend of Celtic Connections.

It was a tremendous evening. The Fruitmarket was laid out with tables which gave the whole night the feel of a massive house cèilidh – the sort I imagine goes on each evening at Ceòlas when the festival (celebrating connections between Uist and Cape Breton) happens each year on the island.

The performances all had that relaxed cèilidh vibe. Dàimh were the house band for the evening and the fear an taighe was Gillebride MacMillan, who started things off with a great rendition of A' Pheigi a' Ghràidh.

Over the course of the evening, the audience was treated to songs, tunes and dances from Kathleen MacInnes, Allan Henderson, Ailean Dòmhnallach, Anna Wendy Stevenson and Simon Bradley, Mairi Rankin, Sineag MacIntyre, Mairi MacMillan, Fin Moore, Paul McCallum, Frank McConnell, Ellen MacDonald and Cape Breton's Miller MacDonald Cormier.

As you can imagine, it is very difficult to pick out a highlight from such a host of talented performers but I certainly enjoyed Kathleen's rendition of A Thighearna Dhia (the Gaelic version of How Great Thou Art) and



A great crowd of musicians, singers and dancers from Uist and Cape Breton entertained the Old Fruitmarket crowd.

Paul McCallum's flawless version of Sine Bhàn (accompanied on piano by Allan Henderson) was a real hairs on the back of your neck moment. Allan the Whaler and Seonaidh MacIntyre's Gaelic singing with the pipes was also brilliant.

I really could go on and on with highlights but I better not because it might make me late for the concert I'm heading to tonight which is The Big Fling – Scottish Dance Music Extravaganza in the Royal Concert Hall.

I dare say you'll read all about that next week!

## Celtic Connections

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

Friday January 24: Mànran and Band of Burns, Barrowland Ballroom, 7.30pm.

Friday January 24: SIAN, EBEN, and the Fèis Rois

Cèilidh Trail at 7.30pm.

Saturday January 25: Boghall and Bathgate Caledonia Pipe Band with Tryst in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall at 12.30pm.

Saturday January 25: Skye in His Heart: A musical tribute to Rick Taylor at the Strathclyde Suite at 1pm.

Saturday January 25: Auld Lang Syne: BBC SSO and special guests at 7.30pm in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall.

Saturday January 25: Gaels Le Chèile at Cèol 's Craic with IMLE, WHYTE, Marit Fält, and Rona Wilkie at the CCA at 7.30pm.

Saturday January 25: Peat and Diesel and Astrid in the Barrowland Ballroom at 7.30pm.

Saturday January 25: Peatbog Faeries and the Poozies in the Old Fruitmarket at 8pm.

Sunday January 26: Phil Cunningham's Big 6-0 Birthday Bash in the City Halls at 7.30pm.

Tuesday January 28: Cherish the Ladies 35th anniversary celebration in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall at 7.30pm.

# Burns suppers are on the menu

Oban is working up an appetite for Burns Night celebrations this weekend, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Although Oban Burns Club cancelled its annual event because of a shortage of organisers, there are still a number of other suppers going ahead in the area.

Oban Burns Club made the difficult decision to call off its men-only supper last year after more than 80 years. Difficulty in getting speakers to make the toasts had also become a problem for organisers.

The club had hoped a plea for help would save the January event but no-one came forward at a meeting to rally support. The club, one of Oban's last male bastions, had even offered to open up membership to women in the hope they could help save the day.

Chairman John MacLean said: 'It's not happening for this year but it might be revived for next year; I'm still hopeful for that.'

Anyone interested can contact Mr MacLean on 01631 565519.

Traditionally a Burns supper is a celebration of the life and poetry of the poet Robert Burns and is usually held on or near the poet's birthday, January 25.

'There are other suppers happening round Oban and we hope people will support them to keep the tradition going. I'm still hopeful our club will have one again next year,' added Mr MacLean.

Dunollie Museum, Castle and Ground has a Burns Supper Lunch on Saturday January 25 from 1-3pm with haggis, neeps and tatties on

the menu. Go to [dunollie.org/](http://dunollie.org/) events to find out more.

Home-Start Lorn had its annual fundraising Burns Supper at Cuan Mor on Sunday and Luing's Atlantic Island Centre is hosting an event at 6.30pm on the bard's official birthday, complete with Highland dancer. Call 01852 314096 to book.

The Bridge of Orchy Hotel is celebrating this Saturday with a Burns Night Supper and Ceilidh, go to [bridgeoforchy.co.uk](http://bridgeoforchy.co.uk) or call 01838 400208, while new head chef Michael Leathley at Port Appin's Pierhouse Hotel has created a special Burns menu on offer until this Sunday January 26, including a dram. To fund out more call 01631 730302.

Send in Burns Night celebration photographs to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

# OBAN PHOENIX CINEMA WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

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### FRIDAY 24TH JANUARY

1917 | 15 12:00/19:30  
Little Women | U 16:15  
Jumanji: The Next Level | 12A 16:30  
Jojo Rabbit | 12A 19:15

### SATURDAY 25TH JANUARY

Spies In Disguise | PG 11:30★  
Jumanji: The Next Level | 12A 12:00/15:00  
Little Women | U 13:45  
Jojo Rabbit | 12A 16:45  
The Amber Light | 12A 18:00  
Sorry We Missed You | 15 19:15  
1917 | 15 20:00

### SUNDAY 26TH JANUARY

Jumanji: The Next Level | 12A 11:15/14:15  
Spies In Disguise | PG 11:30  
Little Women | U 13:45  
Jojo Rabbit | 12A 16:30  
Monthly Musical: The Wizard of Oz | U 17:00  
Sorry We Missed You | 15 19:00  
1917 | 15 19:15

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### MONDAY 27TH JANUARY

Jumanji: The Next Level | 12A 12:00/16:30  
Little Women | U 16:15  
Jojo Rabbit | 12A 19:15  
1917 | 15 19:30

### TUESDAY 28TH JANUARY

Little Women | U 12:00/16:15  
Jumanji: The Next Level | 12A 16:30  
Jojo Rabbit | 12A 19:15  
1917 | 15 19:30

### WEDNESDAY 29TH JANUARY

Jumanji: The Next Level | 12A 12:00★/16:30  
Little Women | U 16:15  
Jojo Rabbit | 12A 19:15  
1917 | 15 19:30

### THURSDAY 30TH JANUARY

Sorry We Missed You | 15 14:30★  
Jumanji: The Next Level | 12A 16:30  
Little Women | U 16:45  
1917 | 15 19:30  
Jojo Rabbit | 12A 19:45

**NEVER MISS WHAT'S ON**

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# M'ALBA

## MY ALBA

### DIARDAOIN 23 Am Faoilleach / THURSDAY 23 January

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 Fuine (rpt)
- 19.30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)
- 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
- 20.00 An Là – News
- 20.30 Two Go To Tolsta – Sgeulachd Syd Agus Millie (rpt)
- 21.00 Sar Sgeoil: Outlander (rpt)
- 22.00 ÙR/NEW: Mach a Seo!
- 22.30 ÙR/NEW: Concorde
- 23.15 Dhan Uisge (Spar Cave) (rpt)
- 23.20 Belladrum - Cridhe Tartan (Highlights) (rpt)
- 23.30 Fonn Fonn Fonn (rpt)

### DIHAOINE 24 Am Faoilleach / FRIDAY 24th January

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 18.35 Machair (rpt)
- 19.00 An Là – News
- 19.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
- 19.30 Leugh Mì (rpt)
- 20.00 Oran na Mna (rpt)
- 20.30 An Lot (rpt)
- 21.00 Opryan Luir (rpt)
- 22.00 An Klondike (rpt)
- 22.50 Dhan Uisge (Spar cave) (rpt)
- 23.00 Ceol Ulaidh/ Castle Sessions (rpt)

### DISATHAIRNE 25 Am Faoilleach / SATURDAY 25th January

- 16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 17.45 An Là – News
- 18.00 ÙR/NEW: Scottish Premiership – Motherwell v Hibernian
- 20.00 Machair (rpt)
- 20.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
- 20.30 Wild Atlantic Way, with Anne London (rpt)

- 21.00 Orain nan Gaidheal (rpt)
- 22.00 ÙR/NEW: Nochd
- 22.45 Ceol bho Perthshire Amber (rpt)
- 23.00 Scottish Premiership – Motherwell v Hibernian (rpt)

### DIDÒMHNAICH 26 Am Faoilleach / SUNDAY 26 January

- 16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 18.15 An Là – News
- 18.30 Search La – News Review
- 19.30 Alleluia! (rpt)
- 20.00 Two Go To Tolsta – Sgeulachd Syd Agus Millie (rpt)
- 20.30 Mach a Seo! (rpt)
- 21.00 Farpaisean Chon-Chaorach (rpt)
- 22.00 ÙR/NEW: Nochd
- 22.50 Ceol bho Perthshire Amber (rpt)
- 23.00 An Klondike (rpt)
- 23.50 Dhan Uisge (spar cave) (rpt)
- 23.55 Belladrum – Cridhe Tartan (Highlights) (rpt)

### DILUAIN 27 Am Faoilleach / MONDAY 27 January

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 Turas a' Bhraidain (rpt)
- 19.30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)
- 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
- 20.00 An Là – News
- 20.30 ÙR/NEW: An Lot
- 21.00 Trusadh – The Highland Railway (rpt)
- 22.00 Port (rpt)
- 22.30 DIY le Donnie (rpt)
- 23.15 Eadar Chluich (rpt)
- 23.20 Dhan Uisge (Spar Cave) (rpt)
- 23.30 Mach a Seo! (rpt)

### DIMÀIRT 28 Am Faoilleach / TUESDAY 28 January

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming

- 19.00 Fuine (rpt)
- 19.30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)
- 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
- 20.00 An Là – News
- 20.30 Dreach Ur (rpt)
- 21.00 Farpaisean Chon-Chaorach (rpt)
- 22.00 Trusadh – The Highland Railway (rpt)
- 23.00 Oran na Mna (rpt)
- 23.30 Alleluia! (rpt)

### DICIADAIN 29 Am Faoilleach / WEDNESDAY 29 January

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 Turas a' Bhraidain (rpt)
- 19.30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)
- 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
- 20.00 An Là – News
- 20.30 An t-Eilean/From Skye with Love (rpt)
- 21.00 DIY le Donnie (rpt)
- 21.45 Ceol bho Perthshire Amber (rpt)
- 22.00 Fonn Fonn Fonn (rpt)
- 22.30 Port (rpt)
- 23.00 Sar Sgeoil: Outlander (rpt)

### DIARDAOIN 30 Am Faoilleach / THURSDAY 30 January

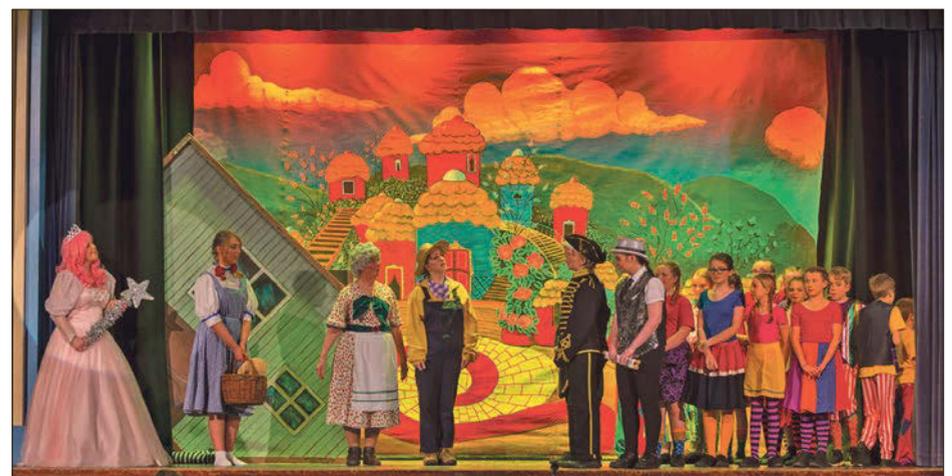
- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 Fuine (rpt)
- 19.30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)
- 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
- 20.00 An Là – News
- 20.30 ÙR/NEW: Eorpa/European Current Affairs
- 21.00 Sar Sgeoil: His Bloody Project (rpt)
- 22.00 ÙR/NEW: Mach a Seo!
- 22.30 ÙR/NEW: Concorde
- 23.15 Dhan Uisge (Cuan Sound) (rpt)
- 23.20 Belladrum - Cridhe Tartan (Highlights) (rpt)
- 23.30 Fonn Fonn Fonn (rpt)



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# Community affair

Photographs: Ron Allner



Coco Chanel – Eilidh Kemp; The Wizard – Lee Douglas; Commander Galen – Emilie Borgeaud; and Toto – Toto.

The supporting chorus included Caitlin Chisholm, Isla Chisholm, Kenzie Cope, Stewart Gall, Lauren Glendinning, Leah Glendinning, Lily Hill, Logan Hynd, Jai Johnstone, Scarlett Johnstone, Iona Lafferty, Harry Mathewson, Freja Mattsson, Timmy McPhee, Carlo Phillips, Olivia Phillips, Paige Riddell, Jodi Thomsson, Lieke Van De Coterlet, Noa Van De Coterlet, Ben Watson, Cai Weir, Lara West, and Kaci White.

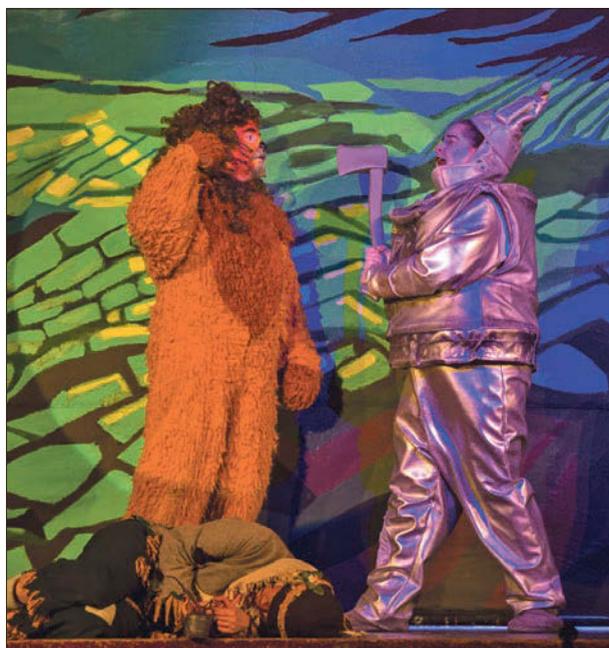
The production was directed by Gordon Hibbert, Lesley Syme as assistant director/stage manager.

The stage crew was Davy

Fettes, Liz Stevens, Dave Syme, Clare West, while the scenery and painting was carried out by Alison Calder, Allan Chisholm, Josh Douglas, Kay Dowling, Brian Hibbert, David Mardon, Glenda Mardon, Elizabeth Murphy, and Clare West.

Keeping everyone on cue with their lines was prompt Susan McRobbie.

Choreography was devised by Sammy Hibbert, with all the technical wizardry carried out by Josh Douglas and Tim Wilkinson; follow spot operator Aiden West; incidental piano music, Seonag Hay and Hazel Lafferty; programme layout Lesley Syme; advertising club members, child protection and chaperone co-ordinator Eleanor Murray.



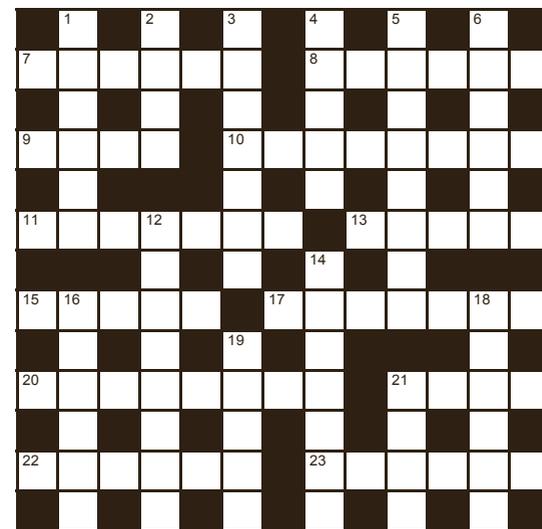
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**MONDAY:** 8am-12pm: Breakfast with Stephen, 12pm-3pm: Sounds of the 60s with Bob G, 3pm-5pm: Clyde 2, 5pm-7pm: Drive time with Marcus, 7pm-8pm: Rosie's Highland Fling, 8pm-9pm: John McLuckie Show, 9pm-10pm: David Cullen Show, 10pm-12am: Clyde 2  
**TUESDAY:** 8am-10am: Breakfast with Stephen, 10am-1pm: Ken Hunter, 1pm-3pm: Macky on Fm, 3pm-5pm: Mental Health, Musings with Mer, 5pm-7pm: Drive times with Bob G, 7pm-8pm: Highest Praise with Stuart Chalmers, 8pm-9pm: Sounds of Scottish with Archie Cameron, 9pm-12am: Clyde 2  
**WEDNESDAY:** 8am-10am: Breakfast with Stephen, 10am-1pm: Comfort Zone with Lesley, 1pm-3pm: Doug Carmichael lunch show, 3pm-5pm: Clyde 2, 5pm-7pm: Drive time with Campbell, 7pm-9pm: Country meets Rock & Roll with Ken or Len, 9pm-11pm: Gordon's Grooves, 11pm-12am: Clyde 2  
**THURSDAY:** 8am-11am: Breakfast with

Andy & Sarah, 11am-3pm: Molly's Mix, 3pm-7pm: Drive time with Stephen, 7pm-9pm: Christine's Collection, 9pm-10pm: Anne's Ceilidh, 10pm-12am: Margo till Midnight  
**FRIDAY:** 8am-10am: Breakfast with Laura, 10am-1pm: Teeny & Tiny, 1pm-5pm: Clyde 2, 5pm-6:45pm: Drive time with Jim Lynch, 6:45pm-7pm: Sports View, 7pm-8pm: Country meets country with Jackie Craig, 8pm-10pm: Peter Rainnie, 10pm-12am: Clyde 2  
**SATURDAY:** 8am-10am: Breakfast with Stephen, 10am-1pm: Saturday morning live with Linda Crosher, 1pm-6pm: Clyde 2, 6pm-7pm: Sports view with the dream team, 7pm-8pm: Sounds of Scottish with Archie, 8pm-10pm: Dave Lewis, 10pm-12am: Margo till Midnight  
**SUNDAY:** 9am-11am: Sunday Morning with Breege, 11am-1pm: Sunday brunch with Allan, 1pm-7pm: Clyde 2, 7pm-9pm: New Country with Dave & Murdo, 9pm-11pm: Drum & Bass with Graham Scott

## Crossword



**Across**

- 7 Smooth (6)
- 8 Volunteer not to be included (3,3)
- 9 Beat (4)
- 10 Unwavering (8)
- 11 Melted (7)
- 13 Gadget (5)
- 15 Bedding (5)
- 17 Everlasting (7)
- 20 Say again a different way (8)
- 21 Burlap fiber (4)
- 22 Marine mammal (6)
- 23 To make more exalted (6)

**Down**

- 1 Traveling by air (6)
- 2 Bill (4)
- 3 Foundation (7)
- 4 Antiquated (5)
- 5 Make a fool of (8)
- 6 Habitual practice (6)
- 12 Sight test aid (3,5)
- 14 Forget (7)
- 16 Relationship without reciprocal feeling (3-3)
- 18 Inform (6)
- 19 One's word (3-2)
- 21 Judges (4)

**LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION**



## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

**OBAN MUSIC SOCIETY**  
**Ayman Jarjour**  
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St John's Cathedral, Oban  
Sunday 26th January at 3pm

## Screen Machine

Scotland's Mobile Cinema

**Gigha** Mon 27 - Tue 28 Jan  
**Tarbert Loch Fyne** Wed 29 - Thur 30 Jan  
**Lochgilphead** Fri 31 Jan - Sun 2 Feb

**Cats** (U) 110 mins  
"an all-star live-action extravaganza" Empire  
27/01 at 5.30pm, 29/01 at 5.30pm  
**Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker** (12A) 142 mins  
"a thrilling, fun-filled, light-speed finale" The Guardian  
27/01 at 8.30pm, 29/01 at 8.30pm, 31/01 at 8.30pm  
**Frozen 2** (U) 103 mins 28/01 at 5.30pm, 30/01 at 5.30pm,  
01/02 at 2pm, 02/02 at 5.30pm  
**Little Women** (U) 135 mins  
Four sisters grow up in New England after the US Civil War.  
28/01 at 8.30pm, 30/01 at 8.30pm, 01/02 at 5.30pm  
**1917** (15) 119 mins  
Two British soldiers must traverse hostile enemy territory.  
31/01 at 5.30pm, 01/02 at 8.30pm, 02/02 at 2pm with captions  
**Knives Out** (12A) 130 mins  
"fun whodunit worthy of Agatha Christie" The Telegraph  
02/02 at 8.30pm

Book at: [www.screenmachine.co.uk](http://www.screenmachine.co.uk). Tickets also at the cinema 30 mins before screenings. Cash only, no cards. £7.50 Adults. £5.50 concs. Fully accessible for wheelchair users.



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## Around the markets

### LOCHBOISALE

#### United Auctions

#### Saturday 18th January 2020

UA sold 178 store and breeding cattle, followed by 142 sheep of all classes. Bulls averaged £729.66 (+£9.72) and sold to £1,000 for a 410kg, CharX from 136 Stilligarry and heifers averaged £676.19 (+£87.53) and sold to £875 for a 430kg CharX, also from 136 Stilligarry. Bulls averaged 222.88p/kg (+13.95p) to 284p/kg for a 250kg, LimX from 29 Claddach, North Uist and heifers averaged 205p/kg (+21.25p) to 254p/kg for a 240kg, SaIX from 2 Grimsay Island. A good show of naturally shown calves were on offer and met a spirited demand selling to a good following of mainland buyers. A small show of sheep met a buoyant trade with lambs averaging £56.04 (+£12.78) and ewes averaging £40.22 (+£7.09). Leading prices per head: BLKS – AAx – £865, 8 Kildonan; £840, 319 Kilphedar; £835, 205 Stoneybridge; £820 (4), 8 Milton; £805 (2), £800, 261 Daliburgh; £800 (2), 301/324 Kilphedar. BRBx – £720, 136 Stilligarry. BAx – £866, 2 Grimsay Island, Benbecula. CHARx – £1,000, £930 (2), £920, £850, 136 Stilligarry. LIMx – £885, £875, 7 Nunton, Benbecula; £830, 324 North Boisdale; £820, £815, 7 Nunton; £800, 325 North Boisdale. HFRS – AAx – £800, 2 Drimisdale; £790, 8 Milton; £780, 8 Kildonan; £770, 1 Milton. CHARx – £875, £860, £840, £830(2), £800, 136 Stilligarry. LIMx – £785, 7 Nunton; £745, Druim Torrach Croft, North Uist; £740, 342 North Boisdale; £720, 18 West Gerinish. SIMx – £800,

7 Middlequarter, North Uist; £790, 16 Eoligarry, Barra. Leading prices per kilo: BLKS – AAx – 237p, 261 Daliburgh; 234p (4), 8 Milton; 232p, 205 Stoneybridge; 231p (4), 8 Milton; 230p, 2 Daliburgh. BAx – 259p, 2 Grimsay Island, Benbecula. CHARx – 244p, 236p (2), 233p (2), 136 Stilligarry. LIMx – 284p, 29 Claddach, North Uist; 274p, 3 Milton; 272p, 29 Claddach, North Uist; 263p, 17 Torlum, Benbecula; 263p, 29 Claddach, North Uist; 262p, 6 Askernish; 261p, 5 Nunton, Benbecula; 254p, 29 Claddach, North Uist. HFRS – CHARx – 226p, 221p, 136 Stilligarry; LIMx – 252p, Druim Torrach Croft, North Uist; 239p, 235p, 18 West Gerinish; 226p, 324 North Boisdale; 225p, Hillview; 224p, 1 Milton. SALx – 254p, 228p, 2 Grimsay Island, Benbecula. SIMx – 220p, Druim Torrach Croft, North Uist. CAST COWS PER HEAD – AAx – £950, 8 Milton; £805, 237 Stoneybridge. LIMx – £915, £885, 3 Hosta, North Uist; £865, 261 Daliburgh; £825, 18 West Gerinish. SHx – £845, 18 West Gerinish. SIMx – £745, 7 Middlequarter, North Uist. PER KILO – AAx – 138p, 8 Askernish; 127p, 8 Milton. LIMx – 152p, 377 South Boisdale; 152p, 3 Hosta, North Uist; 122p, 261 Daliburgh. SHx – 122p, 18 West Gerinish. IN-CALF COWS – £950, Cnoc An Torr; £800, 346 North Boisdale. LAMBS – SuffX – £70.00, Croismorag, North Uist; £70.00, 88 Bualadubh; £67.00, 29 Claddach, North Uist. TextX – £76.50, 29 Claddach, North Uist; £69.00, £65.00, Croismorag, North Uist. BF – £61.00, 88 Bualadubh.

EWES – TextX – £82.00, 29 Claddach, North Uist; £70.00, 3 Claddach, North Uist. BF – £41.00, 29 Claddach, North Uist.

### STIRLING

#### United Auctions

#### Thursday 16th January 2020

Sold 4,802 prime sheep comprising of 3,607 prime hogs selling to an average of 208.49ppk and 1,195 ewes and rams. Old Season Lambs (3,597) – Luckenburn (BTeX) £120.00; Langside (Cross) £118.00; Langside (Tex) £114.00; Langside (Cha) £110.00; Henderston (Suf) £105.00; Stralochy (Chev) £104.50; Quixwood (Mule) £97.00; Remony (BF) £93.00. Old Season Lambs (3,597) – Luckenburn (BTeX) 282.00ppk; Tay and Torridon (Tex) 245.00ppk; Low Tirfergus (Cross) 227.00ppk; Higham and South Fallfield (Chev) 224.00ppk; Park (Suf) 218.00ppk; Balgoner (BF) 212.00ppk; Drummie (Chev/Mule) 208.00ppk. Ewes (1195) – Halbeath and Pitlochrie (Tex) £158.00; Burnside of Edingight (BTeX) £150.00; Meadowbank (Suf) £114.00; West Lecropt (Hamp) £110.00; Beeches (BFL) £105.00; Blinkbonny (LleyX) £106.00; Meadowbank (Mule) £98.00; Stralochy (Chev/Mule) £95.00; Halbeath (Zwa) £89.00; Burnside of Edingight (Chev) £82.00; Quixwood (BF) £83.50. Tups – Langside (Suf) £125.00; Mid Auchencarroch (Tex) £124.00; Mid Auchencarroch (BFL) £119.00; Clunebeg (Cha) £112.00; Dalcrue (LleyN) £90.00; Rhodders (BF) £74.00.

## New series of An Lot/The Croft on BBC Alba

BBC ALBA's popular programme about life as a crofter in the Outer Hebrides has returned for a brand new series this month.

Viewers will get the chance to catch up with Donald 'Sweeny' MacSween on his croft in the Isle of Lewis in this five-part series of programmes, which runs until Monday February 3.

Sweeney's croft has been in the family for more than 100 years and he first captured the imagination of BBC ALBA viewers in 2015 in the first series, as he tried to turn his passion for crofting life into a full-time occupation.

Over the last four years there have been many challenges as he strives to fulfil his dream. Now in his second year full-time, Donald is always on the lookout for something

new to maximise his income from 'An Lot'. In this series he looks at different ways of using wool, gets ready for 600 new hens, and builds a new shed shop for tourists, largely due to an increase in cruise ships coming into Stornoway in recent years.

Many of these visitors are keen to experience life on a Hebridean croft, and Donald welcomes them with his cheeky charm and offers some novel new wool products in his newshop.

Donald said: 'For me, the most important thing about this series is that I feel it is a true reflection of what crofting is like.'

'It is easy to share stories exclusively of cute lambs and positive stories, but that isn't a true picture of what crofting is. It can be brutal,

heart-breaking, depressing but the positives outweigh the negatives, otherwise I wouldn't be doing it. It is what I love.'

He says one of the most exciting parts of this series was producing his own Harris Tweed using the wool from his own (black) Hebridean sheep.

He added: 'We are entering extremely uncertain times for agriculture and no one can be sure what is going to happen.'

'Hopefully my branching into tourism and adding value to what I produce can help other crofters and farmers think about what is possible.'

The first episode of An Lot/The Croft aired on Monday, January 6 but each episode is available on the BBC ALBA iPlayer for 30 days after it airs.

## 886 bulls set for Stirling Bull Sales

United Auctions' Stirling Bull Sales are set to host 886 bulls and females across seven pedigree breeds for show and sale at Stirling Agricultural Centre.

The event from Scotland's leading livestock auctioneers will take place over two weeks from Sunday February 2 to Monday February 3 and continue from Sunday February 16 to Tuesday February 18.

The Stirling Bull Sales are supported by Galbraith, Scotland's leading independent property consultancy.

Week one opens with Sunday judging of Aberdeen-Angus, Beef Shorthorn and Lincoln Red females and bulls on February 2 with their sales held the following day.

Monday February 3 also sees the pre-sale show of Limousin bulls in the morning with their sale in the afternoon.

Week two begins with pre-sale shows for Simmental females and bulls as well as Salers

bulls on Sunday February 16.

Simmental females kick off the first sales of the day on Monday February 17 followed by Salers bulls. The Charolais breed shows start from noon in the exhibition hall with Simmental bulls going under the hammer in the sale ring at the same time.

The sales of Charolais bulls and females bring the event to a close on Tuesday February 18.

John Roberts, United Auctions' group sales director, said: 'Stirling Bull Sales are the biggest bull sales in the UK and it's this unrivalled selection of high-quality bulls forward for show and sale in a compact schedule that draws pedigree and commercial breeders from the UK and Europe. The exhibitors will see packed ringsides of buyers throughout as we welcome an influx of more than 12,000 visitors to the city of Stirling for an unmissable two-week event.'



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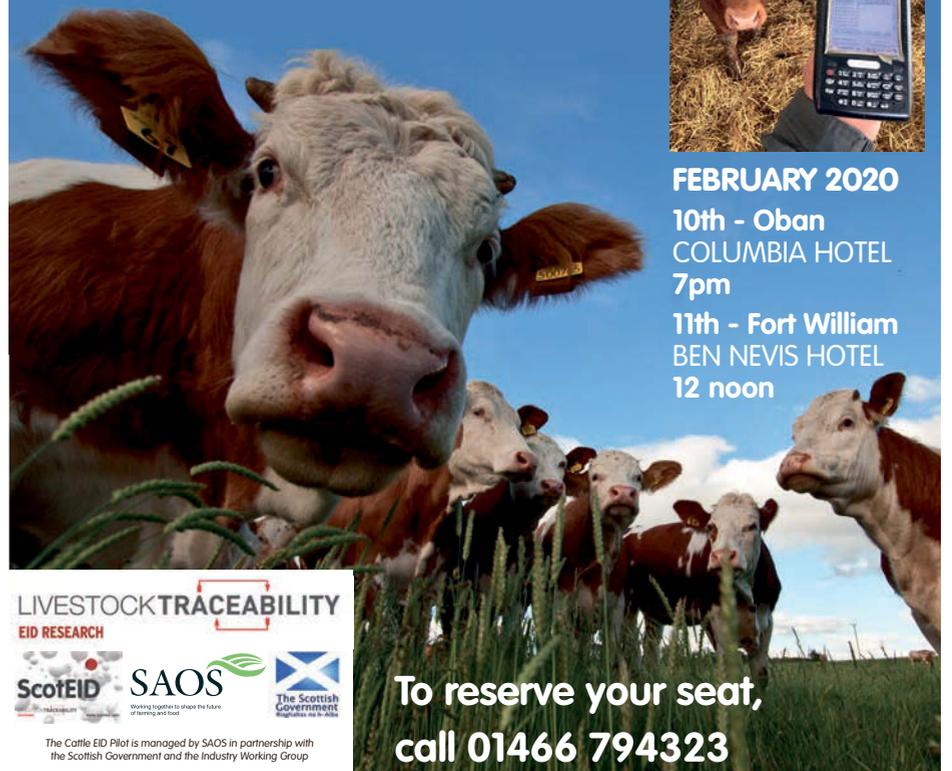
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Subaru's popular compact crossover XV now comes with a new powertrain, the e-BOXER, which combines an electric motor with two of Subaru's core technologies: the horizontally-opposed Boxer engine and Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive. Built on the Subaru Global Platform, a cutting-edge re-design of the body and chassis,

XV offers advanced safety performance and a dynamic driving experience. Plus, XV e-BOXER is as safe as ever with EyeSight driver assist technology and Subaru Rear Vehicle Detection standard across the range. Chosen by customers who trust it to be safe, capable and reliable: XV preserves Subaru's heritage and marks the

future of 'Confidence in Motion' with e-BOXER.

XV e-BOXER combines a 2.0 direct injection horizontally opposed petrol engine with an electric motor. A lithium-ion battery unit is mounted within the boot floor and allows for pure-electric driving at speeds of up to 25mph. Making hybrid the Subaru way, the new

technology used in the XV e-BOXER design is arranged in a symmetrical layout (the heavy motor is placed near the vehicle's centre of gravity and the battery is positioned above the rear axle) which plants the car on the road giving noticeable handling improvements and maintaining Subaru's unique balanced weight distribu-

tion. XV e-BOXER has a natural braking feel and offers a seamless transition between EV and Engine driving.

The e-BOXER version of Subaru's XV was reconfirmed with the maximum five star Euro NCAP rating in 2019, following its initial safety test when the Subaru XV was also awarded the prestigious

safety recognition of Euro NCAP's "Best in Class of 2017" in the Small Family Car category. Subaru was voted Best Manufacturer for Safety Features in the 2019 Driver Power Survey and, as safety is a top priority, the XV e-BOXER comes with a suite of driver-assist and safety features as standard\*



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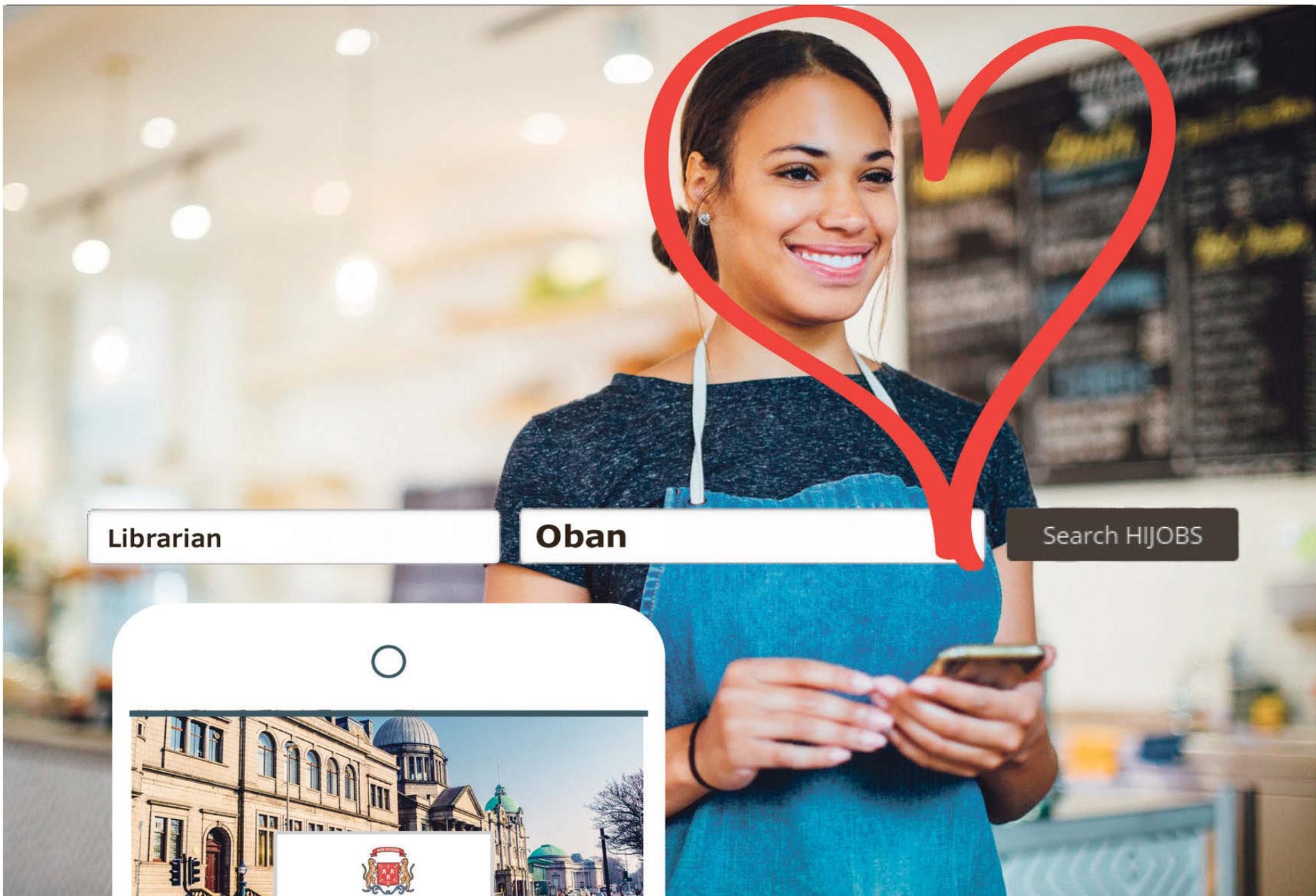
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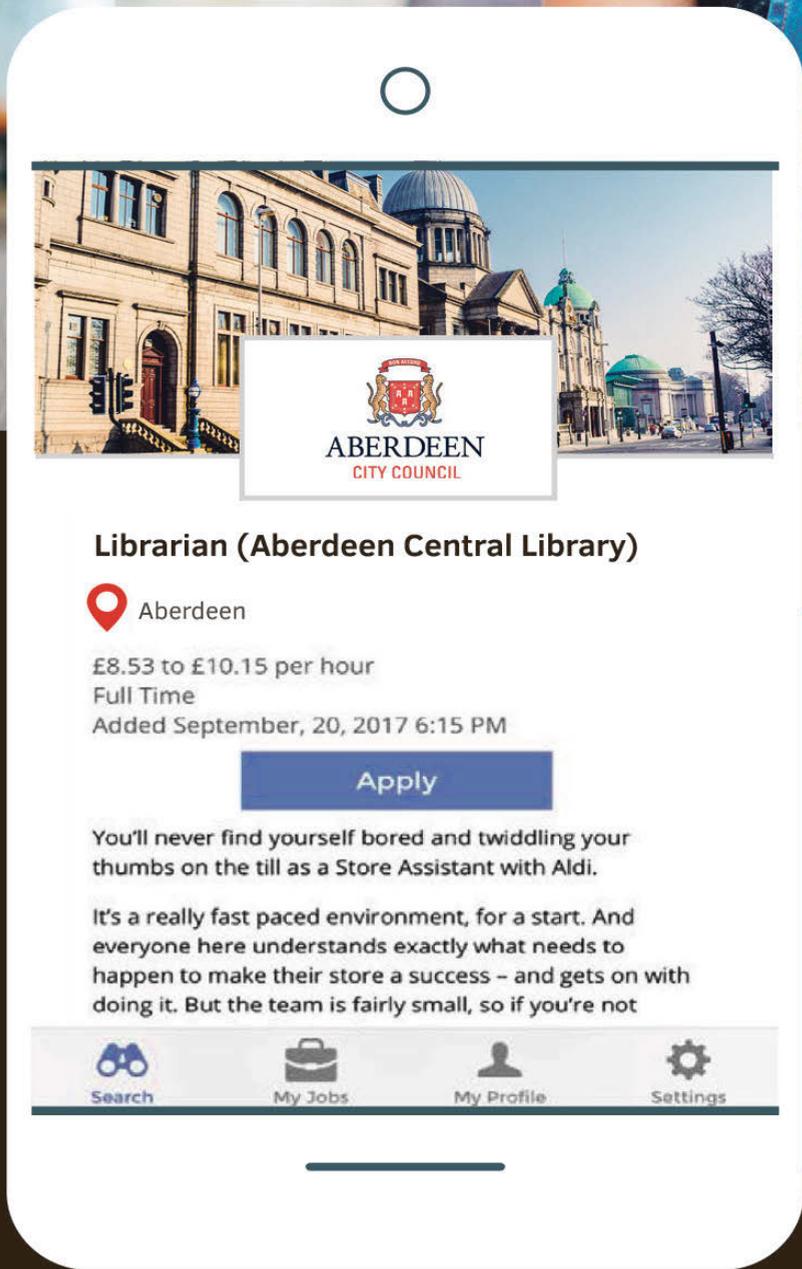
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## FIXED PLANT MAINTENANCE FITTER



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

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

### Responsibilities:

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

### Personal Specification:

- A highly motivated individual with drive and enthusiasm.
- Ability to work as part of a 24 hour, 7 day a week operation as required.
- Experienced fitter who is also skilled in welding, cutting and fabricating techniques with tech qualification, NVQ3 or equivalent.
- Excellent communication and team working skills.
- Ability to plan and implement maintenance schedules and good working knowledge of engineering drawings.
- Good understanding of health and safety.
- Good organising skills
- IT literacy and ability to work to deadlines.
- Ability to work flexibly.

Please submit your CV and covering letter to Paul Kersley, Engineering Manager (Mechanical) e.mail [paul.kersley@aggregate.com](mailto:paul.kersley@aggregate.com)

**Closing date for applications: Friday 31st January 2020.**

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

Telephone +44 (0) 1631 568140

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

## INVERARAY CASTLE SEASONAL STAFF 1st April – 31st October GUIDES/TEAROOM ASSISTANT

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

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

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

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

## INVERARAY CASTLE SEASONAL STAFF REQUIRED (MARCH – MID NOVEMBER) TEAROOM MANAGER/ INVERARAY CASTLE TEAROOM

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

Our ideal candidate should have at least 3 years' experience in a similar environment.

They must be able to manage a small team and have excellent communication and customer service skills.

Competitive salary for the right candidate.

Position:- Seasonal – 5 days out of 7 March – Middle of November

**Please send your current CV to:-**

**Mrs J Young, Castle Manager**

**Email: [manager@inveraray-castle.com](mailto:manager@inveraray-castle.com)**

**Closing Date for applications**

**10th February 2020**

## Couple Required for Seasonal Role On leading West Coast Sporting Estate Ghillie / House keeper

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

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

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

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

Further details of the estate are available on the estate website.

[www.benmoreestate.co.uk](http://www.benmoreestate.co.uk) [www.hookedonmull.co.uk](http://www.hookedonmull.co.uk)

### Career opportunities



## CONSTRUCTION SITE MANAGER – OBAN

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

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



The Oban Times  
 & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

## REPORTER

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

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

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

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

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

You should also hold a full driving licence.

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

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

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



# A great career starts here

*Every day across Scotland more than 2,000 people are supported by Carr Gomm 'to live their lives safely and well according to their choices, whilst making plans to achieve their hopes and dreams for tomorrow'.*

*And you can be part of this vision with Carr Gomm, one of Scotland's leading social care and support charities.*

*As employers Carr Gomm will help you develop your career as a professional support practitioner registered with the Scottish Social Services Council.*

*A unique and rewarding working life for people from all walks of life and interests starts here*

Jane Bruce is Carr Gomm's service manager for home care based in Oban.

It is Jane's job to oversee service provision, working with supported people, their families, social work department and her own staff to create the right package to meet each individual's needs. One thing Jane emphasises is Carr Gomm's 'person-centred' approach. 'The philosophy of Carr Gomm is that we like to see everyone as unique. We work with people not for them - we help them to continue with their normal life,' she said.

Part of that skill is creating the right package of care and matching the right member of staff to each supported person. 'I am responsible for making sure people are supported and that includes our staff as well. The majority of our work is commissioned by the social work department; we have a very close working relationship with them. Logistics play a major role in my work.' For people considering using the Carr Gomm service, Jane says: 'I would tell them we are here to do whatever you need us to do and we are not here to take over or tell them what to do.'

Jane also believes passionately that the role of the carer is not recognised enough -

either by society or by people looking for a career where they can make a difference. 'We have a great bunch of staff here in Oban and they do not get the recognition from the public that their skills



**Jane Bruce: Carr Gomm recognises the needs of individuals be it the people they support or its members of staff.**

and dedication deserve. That oversight also stops people thinking of caring as a career. 'Caring and supporting people in the community is a great choice of career and a lot of young people do not realise they can create a well-developed career with qualifications for themselves. 'I would stress that caring is a career path as well and working with people is a first step not only in a career in care but can be a first step to pursuing a nursing career and many other similar professions.' When Jane is not at work you will find her playing euphonium with Lochgelly Brass Band in Fife, training at wado-ryu karate, where she holds a third dan or just enjoying

riding her motorcycle. Just as Carr Gomm believes that each person it supports is unique, it also believes its staff are. Carr Gomm people come from all works of life and this blend of people, their outlook and interests at different stages of their working life plays a key role in the Carr Gomm success story. 'That is why I believe so passionately that people looking for a rewarding career where they can make a difference should always think about joining us,' said Jane.

## Rewarding, challenging and a chance to learn more

**Men play a vital role in homecare at Carr Gomm**

When Robert Glancy's first shift with Carr Gomm ended he knew that this was where his future lay. Many people in Dunoon will know Robert not only from his work with Carr Gomm but when he worked for the well-known Rae's Fruiterer and Florist. 'When Rae's closed I then applied for a job with Carr Gomm after talking to a friend who already worked there. 'I was unsure about entering this area of work having never worked in anything similar before, but decided that it was time to try something different,' he said. 'I didn't know if I would like or be able to do the job as it was so different to any jobs I have had in the past. 'However, after my first shift I knew that this was a career that I would like to pursue further. 'I started with Carr Gomm as a relief support assistant on the overnight response team on part-time hours with shifts from 11pm to 7am with planned visits to supported people and also responding to personal alarm callouts.' Alarm callouts could be

for a multitude of reasons ranging from falls to false alarms, covering a large area including Dunoon, Toward, Ardentinn, Strachur, Colintrave and Tighnabruaich. Robert requested full-time hours and his manager suggested that he may like to try some homecare shifts. 'For a while I worked

*'The work can be hard, but it is so rewarding, and I feel that I have gained such a lot from the wide variety of people I have met. 'I would like to encourage more men to try this type of work; after all there are as many males requiring support as females and the men can appreciate talking to another man.'*

**- Robert Glancy, Dunoon**

between the two services, but found that I enjoyed homecare more as it was more involved with the supported people and you got to know them better,' he said. In October 2018 Robert started a full-time contract as a support practitioner with the homecare service. 'I have found working on the homecare service to be both rewarding and challenging. 'You have the chance to get to know the supported people better, about them and their lives and what they like and dislike. 'It is also a challenging job at times especially if the client takes unwell, but being able to help and support them is a reward in itself and at times bringing a smile to someone's face is a great feeling. 'There can be times of sadness in this job but there can also be times of uncontrollable laughter with supported people who have a great sense of humour. 'Carr Gomm has helped me develop in the job and I have attended several training courses including moving and handling,

first aid, and medication training. There is also a company online training programme which employees are encouraged to complete that covers a wide range of topics. 'I would definitely recommend working in the social care sector and my advice to anyone thinking of working in this field would be 'give it a go.'

## A good choice for your carer and your career

Tony Dalton is one of the people who has support from Carr Gomm in the Oban area.

A retired Royal Navy officer and author he has Motor Neurone Disease and, after 43 years in Dalavich, he moved to Oban into a specially

adapted house. He said: 'I've had Motor Neurone Disease for more than 30 years but when I needed more help, I moved to Oban and a purpose-built, housing association, wheelchair-friendly house. 'Carr Gomm gets me up in the morning, which takes about two hours; they and another care company enable me to live as independently as possible.

*'Caring and supporting is not just a job. The thing I enjoy most about using Carr Gomm is that the staff are helpful, cheerful, respect my wishes and make time to ensure everything is in place before they leave.'*

'They do a brilliant job; they should be very proud

of themselves it must be a very rewarding job.' After years of meeting and coming to know Carr Gomm staff and the company's ethos, Tony would recommend a career with them. 'It is an excellent career and they train with SVQ and do college courses. 'It would give a young person a great deal of confidence - being trained and talking to people.' And as for the service itself, Tony has no hesitation in recommending it: 'People might be a bit concerned about their personal privacy; I was in the Navy so had no concerns but I try to put myself in their shoes. 'I would tell them that they should have nothing to worry about; all the carers are sympathetic and not intrusive into your personal space.'

## Make a difference every day

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

**Carr Gomm is recruiting for their Home Care and Day & Overnight Responder services in Oban.**



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





**Network Rail is looking for Operatives at our Crianlarich Depot.**

Out in all weathers, you will play a practical role in keeping Scotland moving. Across a range of manual tasks, the efficiency and safety of the railway is crucial.

These are hands-on roles, working outdoors in all weathers during the day, night and at weekends. If you've got what it takes, we'll provide all the training, protective clothing and support you need to succeed. Operative £24,406 (pay award pending) plus up to 25% premium depending of shift pattern.

For further information and to apply visit <https://www.networkrail.co.uk/careers/>

## The Gem Box

Shipton & Co, Oban  
Fine Jewellers since 1870

### Sales Consultant

required

**Flexible Working hours  
Including Weekends**

Ideally the candidate will have Experience in Selling or Customer Service & a passion for jewellery.

Salary & package discussed on application

To apply please email your CV along with a cover letter to [debbie.hickey@shiptonia.co.uk](mailto:debbie.hickey@shiptonia.co.uk)



## North Argyll Carers Centre seeks to recruit a Manager

North Argyll Carers Centre is a value-based charity, which supports those who look after a family member or friend due to illness, disability, frailty or addiction, on an unpaid basis. We provide information and advice as well as practical and emotional support. We are affiliated to Carers Trust.

We are recruiting a Manager to build on our success and to sustain and grow our organisation. This is a highly demanding role and the successful applicant will have significant leadership experience, demonstrate strategic awareness, a sound understanding of working with carers and be an effective and visible ambassador for carers.

The successful candidate will work closely with the Board of Trustees to deliver our organisation's strategy and lead the organisation in our move to The Rockfield Centre later this year.

**37 hours per week: £32,000-37,500 depending on experience**

**Closing date: 9th February**

**Interview date: 19/20th February**

North Argyll Carers Centre's commitment to Equal Opportunities is reflected in our selection process

**For a recruitment pack please contact Zivile on 01631 564422 or [zivile@northargyllcarers.org.uk](mailto:zivile@northargyllcarers.org.uk) or further information on the job please contact John Stevens (Chairman designate) on 01631 711874 or email: [john@northargyllcarers.org.uk](mailto:john@northargyllcarers.org.uk)**

Registered Charity No: SC040902

Career opportunities



### CONSTRUCTION SITE OPERATIVE

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

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



### Vacancies

Fixed Term Appointments – 1 Year – with the possibility of extension or permanency

Full-time – 37.5 hours/week

Part-Time – 22.5 hours (3 Days)/week

Salary Scale: £19945 to £21947 (depending on experience. Pro-rata for Part-time Post)

Receptionist /Typist/Administration Assistant  
Typing and Computer Skills are Essential.

For details of these posts and an application form please contact:

[lochgilthead.surgery@nhs.net](mailto:lochgilthead.surgery@nhs.net)

Or Telephone the Depute Practice Manager on: 01546 462002

Closing Date for Applications:  
14th February 2020



Lifeboats

**JOIN THE RNLI  
AND HELP SAVE LIVES AT SEA**

### COXSWAIN/MECHANIC

From £30,978 (dependent on experience)  
Islay Lifeboat Station • Ref: 10807

We're looking for a Coxswain/Mechanic to join our lifeboat crew in Islay. Islay lifeboat station supports the RNLI by saving lives at sea, providing support to the community and working with our colleagues in other emergency services and community organisations.

You'll be someone who understands that this is more than a job and will be happy being based in a small rural community. So, as a Coxswain/Mechanic you must be prepared to drop everything to respond to emergency situations but can keep a cool head and make tough decisions whilst doing so.

For further information and to apply, please visit: [www.rnli.org/jobs](http://www.rnli.org/jobs)

Closing date: 2 February 2020.  
Interview date w/c 17 February 2020.

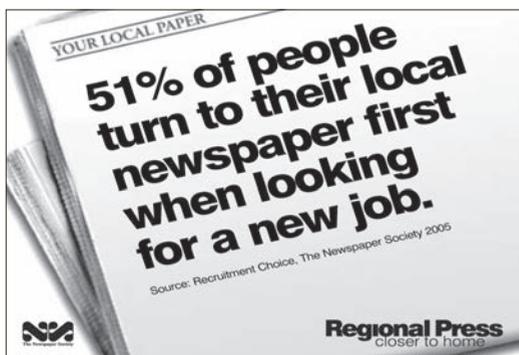
## The Rockfield Centre

Are looking to recruit for the exciting new role of

### Heritage Officer

28 hour post based in Oban.  
Full details website.

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



Oban Times RECRUITMENT  
Oban Times RECRUITMENT

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**FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT**

Iain Martin has registered their croft Lee on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 18 Sept 2020

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C6578.

**FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT**

Mrs. C. Wright has registered her croft Knockdhu, Kilchrenan and Dalavich on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by the 7th October 2020.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C6610.

**FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT**

Mrs June Currie has registered her croft known as 5 Keil, Benderloch (share), Ardchattan & Muckkairn on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by the 13th October 2020.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C6624.

**PROPOSED ASSIGNATION OF A CROFT**

Alistair Duncan Hay is applying to assign the tenancy of the croft at 66 & 67 Banavie (Share) to Maree Nairn of 14 Lochiel Road, Inverloch, Fort William.

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](mailto:info@crofting.gov.scot) by February 20, 2020.

**Rectification of First Registration of a Croft**

A rectification has been made to the Croft 1&26 Inverroy on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 18 September 2020.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The Croft Registration number is C6576.

**MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 CONSTRUCTION OF AN OUTFALL, LOCH SUNART**

Notice is hereby given that Mr Manasseh has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of the construction of an outfall at:

<b>Cost</b>	<b>£3251.24</b>	
<b>Location</b>	<b>Latitude</b>	<b>Longitude</b>
Loch Sunart	56° 42.399' N	005° 46.882' W
	56° 42.360' N	005° 46.845' W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Acharacle Village Store, Main Street, Acharacle, PH36 4JL

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email to: [MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot](mailto:MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot), quoting reference: 07164 and Mr Manasseh.

**Fair Processing Notice**

The Scottish Government's Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) determine applications for marine licences under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. During the consultation process any person having an interest in the outcome of the application may make representation to MS-LOT. The representation may contain personal information, for example a name or address. This representation will only be used for the purpose of determining an application and will be stored securely in the Scottish Government's official corporate record. Representations will be shared with the applicant and/or agent acting on behalf of the applicant, any people or organisations that we consult in relation to the application and, where necessary, be published online, however personal information will be removed before sharing or publishing.

A full privacy notice can be found at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine/PrivacyNotice>. If you are unable to access this, or you have any queries or concerns about how your personal information will be handled, contact MS-LOT at: [ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot](mailto:ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot) or Marine Scotland - Licensing Operations Team, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB.

**Argyll and Bute Council**

**PLANNING**

These applications listed below may be inspected between 09:00-12:30 - 13:30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, your Local Customer Service Point and by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk).

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

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
19/02659/LIB	Alterations to internal partitions to form spa accommodation	Perle Oban Hotel, Station Road, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 5RT
19/02665/PP	Demolition of workshop and erection of dwellinghouse	Workshop, Land South Of Dunfraoch, Taynuilt, Argyll And Bute
19/02562/PPP	Site for the erection of 2 dwellinghouses	Land South East Of Elderslie, Oban, Argyll And Bute
19/02640/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land North Of Craignek, Benderloch, Oban, Argyll And Bute
19/02531/PP	Erection of dwelling house and storage shed, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Site A Land North Of The Anchorage, Scarinish, Isle Of Tiree, Argyll And Bute
20/00034/PP	Renewal of planning permission 17/00540/PP (Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank, formation of vehicular access and upgrade of existing vehicular access).	Land North West Of An Teallach, Arduaine, Argyll And Bute
20/00030/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Land North East Of Spennie Beag House, Tobermory, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute, PA75 6QA
19/02666/CONAC	Demolition of two-storey rear extension	Arnabost, Dervaig, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute, PA75 6QJ
19/01160/PP	Change of use of shop to form dance studio (retrospective)	MacKenzie Interiors, Tweedmill, Soroba Road, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 4HQ
19/02667/PP	Demolition of two-storey rear extension and erection of replacement extension and associated works	Arnabost, Dervaig, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute, PA75 6QJ
20/00002/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of sewage treatment plant	Plot 1, Land South West Of Craig Lora, Benderloch, Oban, Argyll And Bute
19/02533/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and storage shed, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Site B Land North Of The Anchorage, Scarinish, Isle Of Tiree, Argyll And Bute
19/02586/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and detached garage, installation of septic tank and formation of access	Land South Of Penlarach, Lerags, Oban, Argyll And Bute
19/02602/PPP	Site for the erection of two dwellinghouses	Land Adjacent To Dunoille, Mansefield Road, Port Ellen, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute
19/02605/PP	Installation of air source heat pump to the rear elevation	1 Main Street, Port Charlotte, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute, PA48 7TX

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](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

Comhairle Earra – Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



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



**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

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

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

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
19/05622/FUL	Land 5655M SE Of Penstock Cottage, Lochaber Road Kinlochleven	Installation of generating station at the base of Blackwater Dam (amendments to planning permission 18/05815/FUL)
20/00051/S42	Volunteer Arms Inn 49 High Street, Fort William	Section 42 application to amend condition 2 of planning permission 19/00551/FUL to extend the terminal hour to 10pm
19/05623/MSC	Land 400M NE of Blar Mhor Industrial Estate Phase 1-3 Lochyside	Amendments to design for sub-phase of residential masterplan including changes to fuel source, minor alterations to external works & alterations to detailed house type design
20/00043/FUL	Land Next to Achabeg West Lochaline, Morvern	Change of use to garden ground and erection of garage/workshop
19/05621/MSC	Land 400M NE of Blar Mhor Industrial Estate Phase 1-2 Lochyside	Amendments to design for sub-phase of residential masterplan including changes to fuel source, minor alterations to external works & alterations to detailed house type design
19/05601/MSC	Land 400M NE of Blar Mhor Industrial Estate Phase 1-1 Lochyside	Amendments to design for sub-phase of residential masterplan including changes to fuel source, minor alterations to external works & alterations to detailed house type design
20/00044/FUL	Land 55M East of Carn Dearg Corrou Station	Alterations to access track
20/00102/FUL	Craiginnes Upper Scotstown, Strontian	Siting of shepherd's hut
20/00031/FUL	Croft 5 And 6 Cuilcheanna, Onich	Erection of stables
18/05357/FUL	Land 120M North of Burnside Glenachulish	Siting of four holiday pods (Re-Notification)

**Time period for comments is 14 days**  
 ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
 Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL**

**S65, TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED)**

**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL (MAYBANK, MALLAIG, PH41 4QY) (REVOCATION ORDER) 2019**

TAKE NOTICE that The Highland Council as Planning Authority for the area of Highland ("The Council") have made an Order under Section 65 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) to revoke Planning Permission 17/03046/FUL for the alteration/extension and change of use from house to guesthouse at Maybank, Mallaig PH41 4QY.

The Council has been notified in writing by the owner and occupier of the land that they do not object to the Order. The Council is of the opinion that no other person will be affected by the Order.

If you wish to have an opportunity of appearing before, and being heard by, a person appointed by the Scottish Ministers you should give notice in writing to that effect to the Scottish Government, Development Department, Planning Division, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ, not later than the 20th day of February Two Thousand and Twenty.

If no such notice has been given by that date, the Council shall confirm the Order upon the expiry of fourteen days from the 20th day of February Two Thousand and Twenty and, upon the date of confirmation, the Order shall take effect.

Dated: 10th December 2019

**Head of Corporate Governance**  
 The Highland Council  
 Council Headquarters  
 Glenurquhart Road  
 INVERNESS  
 IV3 5NX

**Argyll and Bute Council**

**Is your child eligible for funded Early Learning and Childcare (ELC)?**

**Registration for Early Learning and Childcare from August 2020**

will take place between

**27th January 2020 - 31st January 2020**

For children born between

**1st March 2017 - 28th February 2018**

Information on ELC and our funded providers can be found at:

- Website – <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/early-years>
- By phoning the Early Years Helpline on 01369 708503

To register for ELC please go along to your funded provider of choice\* during normal opening hours to pick up a 'registration pack' and complete an application form\*\*

\*If you choose a childminder to provide your child's funded ELC please contact Early Years for a registration pack.

\*\*Please bring your wee ones birth certificate when registering.

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## ENGAGEMENTS

**O'DONNELL - MACCOLL** - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Craig, younger son of Eddie and Sheena, Glenessca, Salen, Mull, to Julie, eldest daughter of Alastair and Janet, Eilean Fraoich, Portuairk, Kilchoan.

## DEATHS

**BONNE** - Peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on January 14, 2020, aged 85, Dr Weibe Rob Bonne (Tobermory), beloved husband to Mary, much loved father to Willem, Hank, Lucielle and the late Jimi, loving Paps to Katharina, Seumas, Louis, Roddy, Siofra and Oisín. Gratitude extended to all staff at Lorn and Islands Hospital.

**CLARK** - Donald Clark, George Hotel, Inveraray, peacefully at Oban Hospital on January 19, 2020, devoted father to Donald John and Kris and grandfather to Anouk, Manon and Lola and very much loved partner of Jane Somerville. Funeral service to be held at Inveraray Parish Church on Thursday, January 30, 2020 at 12.30pm interment thereafter at Glen Shira Cemetery, to which all friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Cancer Research UK. Colourful attire requested to celebrate the Great Man's life.

**CLARK** - Suddenly but peacefully at the Mid-Argyll Hospital on Sunday, January 19, 2020, Margaret Clark in her 74th year of 3 Balure, Ford. Loving partner of Tosh Beaton, dearly loved mum of Tracy and Ian, adored Nana of Ben, Connor, Skye, John and the late Tasha. Much respected mother-in-law of Gordon and Brenda, dear sister, aunt and cousin to all the family and a good neighbour and dear friend to many. Funeral service will be held Friday, January 24, 2020 at 12:30pm at St Margaret's Church, Lochgilphead thereafter to Achnabreac Cemetery. Family flowers only. Donations to Glenaray Ward, Mid-Argyll Hospital.

**COOPE** - Derek, passed away suddenly on Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban. Much loved and cherished husband of Joyce, beloved Dad of Mandy, Debbie, Jason and Dan and dearly loved Grandpa/Grandpops of Alex, Nico, Ross and Hugh. A Celebration of Derek's Life will be held in Oban in the near future and details will be announced later.

**GIBSON** - Peacefully after an illness bravely borne, Kenneth Gibson, Lochbuie, Isle of Mull, aged 77 years. Loving husband of Anne, much loved father and grandfather, sadly missed by all the family. Funeral service to be held at Torosay Parish Church on Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at 11.00am thereafter to Balure Cemetery.

**HILL** - Mary Therese. It is with great sadness that the family announce the death of Mary Therese, retired teacher of Glasgow and Inverie, at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital on January 17, 2020. Fortified by the rites of the Holy Mother Church R.I.P. Reception followed by Funeral Mass on Monday, January 27 at 10.00 a.m. at St. Andrews R.C. Cathedral, Clyde Street, Glasgow thereafter to the Linn Cemetery, Lainshaw Drive.

**MACKINNON** - Peacefully on January 17, 2020 at North Argyll House (formerly Burnside Cottage, Stronmilchan, Dalmally) Ann Elizabeth, beloved wife of the late Neil, dearly loved mother of Stewart and Neil and much loved mother-in-law, grandmother and great grandmother. Funeral at Glenorchy Parish Church, Dalmally on Friday, January 31, 2020 at 1pm.

**MARTIN** - At Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on January 17, 2020, William James Martin (Billy), in his 77th year, loving and much loved husband of Margaret, dad of Robert and Janet, dad-in-law of Lorna and Colin and granddad of Torquil, Harvey, Olivia and Gabrielle. A private funeral has taken place.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**BEATON** - Colin, Joseph and family would like to thank everyone for their kindness, cards and sympathy on the sad loss of their father Joe. Many thanks to those who attended the funeral Mass and graveside. Special thanks to Rev Mgr James MacNeil for his spiritual support and to Catriona at Hamish Hoey and son for their professional funeral arrangements. Grateful thanks to the Manager and staff at the Royal Hotel for the lovely catering provided. £627 Raised for Mary's Meals.

**CAMERON** - 1931-2020. Ann Marie, Catriona, Angus, Elaine and the grandchildren would like to thank friends, neighbours and family for their kindness following the sudden death of Rosemary, through phone calls, cards, condolences, baking and flowers. Thanks to everyone for attending the funeral and interment. Our thanks go to the staff of CAU Belford Hospital, in particular Nicky for her kindness, to Frs David Connor, Roddy MacAulay, Roddy Johnston and her cousin Fr Sandy Culley for mass and prayers. Thanks also to Aonghas Grant, Jimmy Forsyth and Mr MacBeath (Piper) for music accompaniment during the mass and at the grave side with special thanks to the Holly Tree Hotel for refreshments following the interment. Finally a sincere thank you to Jamie and Beth and their staff, for their care and professionalism in caring for Rosemary's final journey and assisting us with arrangements. The collection taken raised the amazing sum of £929, which will be shared between Rosemary's Parish Church and Mary's Meals.

**CARTER** - Audrey, Graeme, Simone and Chrissie would like to thank everyone, family, friends, neighbours and work colleagues (ours and Alec's) for all the kind messages, cards, flowers, phone calls and visits on our sad loss of Alec. Special thanks to Father James for his

kindness, support and lovely service. Catriona from Hamish Hoey's for all her help and professional service with all the arrangements. Kieron and all the staff at The Royal Hotel. Mark Gowdie from Digital Kangaroo for the order of service and all the boys who carried Alec from Church to graveside. We can't thank everyone enough who came to pay their respects at the church and graveside. We are overwhelmed by the kind donations from you all. Over £1500 was raised for the cinema. Love to you all x

**GIBB** - The Gibb family would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their overwhelming support and kind expressions of sympathy following the sad loss of John. Special thanks to Dr Waddington and all staff at Lorn Medical Centre, ECCT Team, Gaynor Wotherspoon and Macmillan Day Bed Unit; Dr Catherine Ogilvy and staff in Ward B7 in John's care and his fight to beat cancer; also to Catriona of Hamish Hoey & Son for her caring and efficient funeral arrangements; to Amanda at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls for arranging service layout and lovely buffet on return from Pennyfuir; to piper Andy Matthews at Halls and graveside. We were so lucky to have the wonderful celebrant Alyson Stewart guide us through every stage of the service prior to the funeral and give so much support on the day - a huge thank you. Finally thank you to all who attended the service and so generously donated £1,600 to Lymphoma Action.

**HAVLIN** - Moira Havlin and family would like to thank all who attended her husband John Havlin's funeral on January 9, 2020 at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Kinlochleven. Also thank you to all who sent cards

and flowers, to Fr. Roddy for a comforting service and to John MacLellan's for professional funeral arrangements. I would also like to thank all the staff at Abbeyfield Care Home, Ballachulish for looking after John for the last few years and the doctors and nurses at the Belford Hospital, Fort William. The sum of £416.85 will be donated to the Abbeyfield Residents Fund. Thank you all so much. Moira Havlin and family.

**MACLELLAN** - Fiona and John would like to thank all relatives, friends, and neighbours for all the sympathy, kindness, cards and flowers following the sad loss of their mum Morag Ann Maclellan (MoMo). Thanks also goes to Alan Smurthwaite for a beautiful heartfelt service, to Jimmy Milne at Kilmallie Community Centre for all the help and with the set-up of the Hall. To John and Linnie and the team at John McLellan Funeral Directors for all your help in making the day so personal. Finally, Wet Wet Wet (one of Morag's favourite bands) didn't get a look in with all the rain that fell but that did not stop all the brave people from attending the service so for that thank you all from us both.

**MACLEOD** - The family of Calum would like to express their heartfelt thanks to everyone for the sympathy cards, flowers, messages and stories of our late Calum following his sad passing. Grateful thanks to John and Stuart at John McLellan Funeral Directors for the professional and faultless service on the day, you made it all so much more bearable. To Fr Connor, Deacon Tom and all former Clergy for the help and support to Calum over the years. To Charlie Toal for his hard work at Cille Choirill, The Alexandra Hotel for the catering and to all who came

to the service, £556.76 was collected for Lochaber Macmillan Nurses. Finally but in no means least we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to Key Housing and all the carers who went above and beyond their duties to give Calum the best.

**McDONALD** - Sheila, Cameron and family, would like to thank family, friends and neighbours, for their support, sympathy and comfort received on the sudden loss of Lovat. Ian of D & A Munn's who was always there for us. Special thanks to John Horne and staff for allowing us to make the Royal Hotel perfect for Lovat's Celebration of Life, to Alyson Stewart (Humanist Celebrant), for her lovely words both in Oban and Perth Crematorium, Justine of Thistle and the Rose and indebted to Ballochmye for their touching music. Finally, to all who attended and for your generous donations, a sum of £1107.60 was collected for Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease (known as ABCD). - Airdeny House, Taynuilt.

**McDOUGALL** - Elizabeth and the family would like to thank everyone who have supported them in any way during the sad loss of Donnie. A special thanks to the doctors and nurse in A&E who looked after Donnie and were so good to the family on the day of Donnie's passing. Thank you to the Rev. Dugald Cameron for guiding us through an uplifting service and to Ann Barlow for playing her violin. A big thanks to Ian MacInnes and his team and to the Royal Hotel for a beautiful buffet. The figure of £230.96 from the retiring collection has been donated to the British Heart Foundation.

**RICHMOND** - The family of the late Johan Richmond would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many kind and thoughtful

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expressions of sympathy extended to them following their sad loss. Special thanks is due to the Oban paramedics team, Tarbert Medical Centre and The Beatson Centre for their care of Johan; to Rev Robert Macleod for his uplifting service; to Marjorie Kelly for her lovely accompaniment; to Donald MacDonald undertakers for their professional and compassionate service, and to Tarbert Hotel for refreshments. Finally, the family expresses their gratitude to all who attended the funeral and donated to Tarbert Nursing Aid.

**MEMORIALS**

**BERRY** - Treasured memories of my mother Catherine Berry, passed away January 28, 2019, also my father George and brother Michael. Nobody or nothing can take away the pain Until one day we are together again.  
- George and Caroline.

**HEGARTY** - In loving memory of Denis, loving husband, dad, step-dad and papa x A year today since you passed away Sorely missed every day.  
- Linda and all the family. R.I.P. Miss you Dad  
- Your Eilidh Boos x

**KERR** - Remembering our father, father-in-law, papa, great-papa Willie, who died January 29, 2015.  
- Love John, Morag and family x

**LYNN** - Winnifred. It is four years since Winnifred passed away, January 23, 2016. It may not be a long time since Winnie died but to me it has been a lifetime.  
- God Bless you darling, your husband, Colin.

**LYNN** - In loving memory of my sister Winnie, who passed away January 23, 2016.

After many years of illness bravely borne. Remembered always.  
- Kate and family.

**MACBETH** - Lizzie. Unforgettable mother, granny and great granny, died January 24, 2010. The roses will bloom again.  
- Mima and family, Fort William, Arbroath and Darlington.

**MACCONNACHER** - Precious memories of May, a devoted Wife, Mum, Gran and Nana, died January 27, 2015. Many a day your name is spoken Many an hour you are in our thoughts A link in our family chain is broken You have gone from our home But never from our hearts.  
- Alexander, Jill and William, Sander and Laura, Darren, Cameron, Craig and Jamie, xxx

**MACDONALD** - Precious memories of David Hepburn (Davie), who passed away on January 26, 2001. Miss you and love you always.  
- Margaret, Elspeth, David, Roslyn and Ewan. With all our love from your three grandchildren.  
- Kyle, Emma and Ally.

**MACNEIL** - Remembering with love Patricia Buchanan, died January 21, 2014. A dear wife, mother, sister and friend, remembered always.  
- Auckland, Glasgow and Oban.

**PEARSON** - Treasured memories of our precious son Jamie, tragically taken from us on January 24, 1996, aged 27. Remembering you is easy We do it every day It's the heartache of losing you That never goes away Loved always  
- Mum and Dad xx In memory of Jamie, a loving

brother, brother-in-law and uncle. Remembered and missed every day.  
- Audrey and Gregor xx Love and miss you loads.  
- Gemma xx Ashleigh xx Ryan xx

**POTTER** - Precious memories of our youngest daughter and sister Jennifer Jane, tragically killed January 20, 2001, aged 17. Loved and missed.  
- Mum, Coogie and family xxx.

**POTTER** - Always remembering my lovely granddaughter Jennifer, who was sadly taken from us on January 20, 2001, age 17 years.  
- Love from Nana Potter xxx

**POTTER** - Treasured memories of a dear niece and cousin, Jennifer, who died tragically on January 20, 2001. Always in our thoughts.  
- Aunty Kirsty, Uncle Stephen and cousins Findlay and Susannah.

**POTTER** - Fond memories of Jennifer, who died on January 20, 2001.  
- From Aunty Irene and all the family.



Bishop Kevin Pearson.

**Argyll and the Isles Bishop has new post**

The Right Reverend Kevin Pearson has been elected as the new Episcopalian Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway. Bishop Kevin is currently the Bishop of Argyll and the Isles. The See of Glasgow and Galloway became vacant in 2018 following the retirement of the Rt Rev Dr Gregor Duncan. Bishop Kevin will take up his new post at a service of installation later in the year, on a date to be announced in due course. Bishop Kevin has served as Bishop of Argyll and the Isles since February 2011 and before that was Rector of St Michael and All Saints Church in Edinburgh, Canon of St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, Dean of the Diocese of Edinburgh and the Provincial Director of Ordinands (responsible for the discernment and selec-

tion process for candidates for ministry). He is also currently the convener of the Council of the Scottish Episcopal Institute (responsible for the training of those entering authorised ministry) and serves on the provincial Standing Committee of the Scottish Episcopal Church. Bishop Kevin was elected to Glasgow and Galloway by the Episcopal Synod, a body comprising the Diocesan Bishops of the Scottish Episcopal Church. Bishop Kevin said: 'I am delighted, excited and humbled to be elected as the new Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway. I am looking forward enormously to entering this new phase of ministry and serving the people of Glasgow and Galloway. My wife Elspeth and I already know many in the diocese.'

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

Many of us have been watching with a mixture of concern and sympathy the unfolding saga of the Sussexes, Harry and Meghan, as they forge a new purpose and place for their lives, and how that relates to their position within the royal family. The concern some of us feel relates to how the publicity is impacting on the elderly Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. It is obvious, too, that the combination of being celebrity and royalty puts great pressure on the young couple. One of the Bible passages that I like to read in the period after Christmas relates to when the boy Jesus was taken by Mary and Joseph to the Jerusalem temple. By this time Jesus was aged 12 and would have begun studying the scriptures. For some reason, the boy Jesus stays behind at the temple, becoming separated from the rest of the party who were setting off back on the 800-mile journey to Nazareth. Whether this was due to their oversight or his is not clear. Clearly distressed, Mary and Joseph return to the temple and find Jesus sitting among the Jewish teachers, asking and answering questions. The answer Jesus gives to his mother's rebuke is the first recorded words we have from him: 'Did you not know that I had to be in my Father's house?' Even at that tender age, Jesus was thinking for himself, discovering what his purpose would be. There are times when one person will see a different road opening up, and those around him or her will need patience and trust. **Rev Dr Malcolm Kinnear, Kinlochleven and Nether Lochaber Parish Churches**

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# Kilmallie are looking up

Kilmallie manager John Stewart is clear on what's required for Kilmallie to continue their progress next season and fitness is at the core.

The club's annual general meeting takes place at Caol Community Hall on Saturday January 25 with an 11am start but it would be a major surprise if Stewart wasn't to continue in the role which saw him lead Kilmallie to Mowi Premiership survival following their promotion from the National Division at the end of the 2018 shinty season.

After floating between the National Division and the Premiership in recent years, Kilmallie cemented their place in the top flight last season with a game to spare and their boss is looking for more of the same.

'Our aims for next season are pretty much the same as last year,' said Stewart as he prepares his side to go again. 'There's always the worry that having gone into last season flying after winning the National and Balliemore, we won't quite have the same bounce this time around.'

'However, we've told the boys that staying up was as big an achievement as the league and Balliemore successes and we now want to improve further and get closer to Caberfeidh who finished just above us. Cabers have Scottish internationals like Craig Morrison, Blair Morrison and Kevin Bartlett who are great players so everyone has to be at it to make it happen.'

'There are some key requirements though and I must say that fitness is a huge thing in the Premiership. You can see the advantage it gives you, especially on the wings. The speed at which teams like Kingussie and Oban Camanachd play makes it difficult to compete against unless you are also at your peak fitness. You also come up against the best defenders in shinty – guys like Rory Kennedy.'

'It's really night and day compared to the National Division. It's such a cut-throat league and it's pretty much two leagues within one as the top clubs battle it out for the title and the others look to avoid relegation. Hopefully, our experience last season will stand us in good stead though and we really need to treat every game like a cup final.'

'However, I'll know more about where we are at after the pre-season. We are training on Tuesday and Thursday each week; fitness on Tuesdays and stick work on a Thursday.'

'The turn-out has been okay so far although we'll subtly switch nights if we think anyone is avoiding the fitness sessions,' he laughed. 'We are lucky to have the 3G pitch at Lochaber High School to work on though. It's a great facility.'

Kilmallie were troubled by injuries during the second part of last season and boss Stewart still has concerns. 'Daniel Stewart will miss the start of the season as he has a hernia problem. It will probably be April before

we see him back in action. That's a blow as he's been terrific since he joined us and he was our top scorer last season.'

'Liam MacDonald is another concern. He's been troubled with a knee problem for a while. I'd love to have a fully fit Liam MacDonald in the side and the same goes for Michael Rodger.'

'Jordan MacPhee and Ryan Stewart are both working their way back to fitness so we've had a number of injuries to contend with. Aaron Sandison is back training again though and that's good news.'

'So fitness, player availability and getting that early confidence will be key to our chances. I'm giving up my time to do this job and I give it my all so I expect full commitment from everyone else too.'

Stewart also recognises the need to introduce younger players when the time is right. He said: 'Ben MacKinnon and Aidan Love are two of our promising youngsters. Ben is an attacker whilst Aidan is more a wing centre. Both made appearances from the bench last season and we could see more of them in the first team if they keep working hard.'

The backbone to the Kilmallie team remains unchanged as Stewart continued: 'Innes Blackhall will again be a main player for us next season. I didn't see anyone get the better of him last year and he thoroughly deserved his place in the Scotland U21 squad. He can play anywhere and I could actually do with two or three of him in different roles. I think half back is his best

**Fitness, ability and hard work were attributes John Stewart oozed as a player and they are the standards he sets his squad with the countdown to the new shinty season well under way.**

position though; he's very influential whilst playing there.'

'Steven Stewart has been excellent since he joined us from Fort William, Craig MacIsaac is another who has a big role to play and we are lucky to have a keeper like Shane Gillies who I consider, along with Cameron Sutherland (Oban Camanachd) and Scott MacLachlan (Inveraray) to be one of the best keepers of his age group. Calum MacDougall is another terrific player. He travels from Edinburgh to train and play for Kilmallie which is great commitment. He's a big lad and he really needs to realise just how good he actually is.'

'We would also like a cup run this year. Last season, we drew Newtonmore in the first rounds of the MacTavish and Macaulay,



Kilmallie manager John Stewart during his playing days.

both in the space of a month, and we exited both competitions so a kinder draw this time around would be welcome. We also lost out to Lochaber in the Camanachd Cup second round soon after so we'd definitely like a longer cup run this time around.'

Kilmallie are helped by the fact they have consistency off the park ahead of the new season as Stewart explains.

'Archie MacPherson will continue as my assistant and he's a huge help, bringing great experience having previously been a manager is his own right. He also took the North U21s last season.'

'Ryan Stewart will take the training and put the boys through their paces whilst John Wallace provides first aid and we are very lucky to have someone with John's skills. Meantime, former first-team keeper Kevin Toye stays on as Kilmallie second team manager where he's doing a tremendous job.'

Looking back on last season, Stewart said: 'We had a good pre-season last year including friendly wins over Beaulay and Fort William and we started well last season with league wins at Newtonmore and Lochaber.'

'However, we then went on a six-match losing run in the league until we picked up a point at Lovat in a match we probably should have won. We moved Innes Blackhall to half back for that match and it's a switch that paid off as it seemed to settle the team.'

'That result gave us confidence and we later added wins over Kinlochshiel and Inveraray to pretty much secure Premiership shinty for another year. However, we also lost to the bottom two sides – Lochaber and Inveraray – during the season.'

'It's important next term to take as many points as possible from the teams round about you so our matches against Caberfeidh, Fort

William and Glasgow Mid Argyll in particular will be key next season.'

'The fixtures became very stop-start towards the end of last season. I'm not one to blame the Camanachd Association for that. I think there were a lot of contributing factors but it was a nightmare to deal with. We were at Lovat in the middle of August and didn't play again until we faced Kingussie in mid-October. We had stopped training by then and with our last match against Kyles Athletic was scheduled for mid-November so sharing the points in that match was definitely the right thing to do.'

'It was great for all the boys to secure our Premiership status with one game remaining. Myself, Archie (MacPherson) and John (Wallace) thanked all the players for their efforts. The aim was always to keep Kilmallie in the Premiership and we were all delighted to have managed it. It's taken a lot of hard work and effort but it's been well worth it in the end.'

Looking ahead, Stewart added: 'It's important to have the local derby against Fort William back. Fort William have done the right thing over the last few seasons and they've built a really good side. They are quick and, if they start well, they could have a good season in the Premiership. As with any prosperous shinty club, there is a committed backroom team who ensure smooth running from the youths right through to the seniors.'

John Stewart highlighted the work done on their Canal Parks pitch as an example, saying: 'There is so much good work happening behind the scenes. Donald Lamont and Peter Jackson do a great job looking after the pitch. We had the prestige of hosting last season's Sutherland Cup final and finalists Lochside Rovers and Lovat seconds were very complimentary about our pitch and facilities. That sort of thing is great for the club's reputation and a lot of

people put in a big effort to make it happen.'

Kilmallie have two pre-season friendlies confirmed as they meet Oban Celtic at Mossfield on Saturday February 22 and they have lined up a BSW Cup clash with Lochaber on Saturday February 29, the week before the new season starts and Stewart may add to that schedule.

Stewart first broke into the Kilmallie as a raw 15-year-old, all of 25 years ago. He became the club's most decorated player over that time, enjoying National League and North Division 1 title wins. He was also a vital part of a squad which featured in several cup finals – one Camanachd Cup and five MacTavish Cup amongst them – but a cup success proved elusive.

His talent as a regular goalscorer was recognised on the international stage with nine senior Scotland caps and three appearances for the U21s to his name and that international prowess is something he encourages his own players to aim for.

'I tell our guys to aim to become international players. Kilmallie have had numerous players represent Scotland at U17 and U21 levels over the years but they should always aim to kick on into the senior side. Liam (MacDonald) has achieved it recently on a couple of occasions but there should definitely be more.'

'I've no doubt Innes (Blackhall) can do it but there are others too like Shane (Gillies) and Calum (MacDougall). These boys would all benefit from a mix of club and international shinty.'

Fitness, ability and hard work were attributes John Stewart oozed as a player and they are the standards he sets his squad with the countdown to the new shinty season well under way.

## Oban Celtic pre-season friendlies

Oban Celtic's pre-season plans are complete.

Dougie MacIntyre and Les Kinvig have set their charges a testing schedule, starting with a match against Lochaber at Mossfield on Saturday February 1.

The Oban Celtic second team take on their Inveraray counterparts, again at Mossfield, a week later.

The Oban Celtic first team will be tested against Mowi Premiership side Kyles Athletic at Dunoon on Saturday February 15 whilst their host top flight opposition once more the week after with Kilmallie the visitors to Oban.

Oban Celtic will complete a busy month against Mowi South Division 1 side Taynuilt at Mossfield, with the annual Robert Wylie Memorial Cup at stake, on Saturday February 29, just seven days before the new season starts.

The Oban team will defend the trophy having beaten Taynuilt 3-0

at the Taynuilt Sports Field last year. The goals were scored by Daniel MacMillan, Ross MacMillan and Lee Askew whilst Neil Carmichael was awarded the man of the match quiaich.

All the friendly games throw up at 1pm with the exception of the meeting between the Oban Celtic and Inveraray second teams which is a noon start.

Oban Celtic assistant manager Les Kinvig said: 'We've set the boys some tough games with Kyles, who are one of the game's top sides, Lochaber and Kilmallie all in the Premiership last season. That lets our boys see the level they need to get to.

'We'll try a few things and maybe use one or two of our first team fringe players in the reserve match against Inveraray whilst the Taynuilt game allows us to introduce some of the second team boys into the senior side.

'The weather has hampered the start to our pre-season training but we are under way now. The stick work and training is one thing but you can't beat getting pre-season played, that's where the real benefit is, so we hope the weather doesn't scupper our plans.'

## Oban Camanachd reshuffle

Oban Camanachd have reshuffled their pre-season plans to include a meeting with Ballachulish.

The Scottish Sea Farms Glasgow Celtic Society Cup holders welcome Mowi National Division side Inveraray to Oban for their first pre-season friendly on Saturday February 1 with the Oban Camanachd and Lochside Rovers players having an inter-club mixed match a week later.

The Glasgow Mid Argyll first and second teams travel to Oban on Saturday February 15 whilst the Newtonmore first and second teams are the visitors the week after with Oban Camanachd and Lochside Rovers providing the opposition.

The Oban Camanachd squad round off their pre-season schedule with a trip to the Jubilee Park to take on Ballachulish, who finished second in Mowi South Division 1 last season, on Saturday February 29.

Meanwhile, Oban Camanachd were unable to go ahead with their sixes tournament as the weather once more proved a formidable opponent on Saturday January 18.

The club have looked at all alternatives but, due to the weather and time constraints, the event will now take place later in the year.

## Lovat set three

Lovat have confirmed three pre-season friendlies, all against Mowi National Division opposition, ahead of the new shinty season.

With co-managers Alan MacRae and Jamie Matheson taking over from Fraser Gallacher in the close-season, the Balglate side will look to build on their Lovat Cup victory over Beauy when they meet Glenurquhart at Balglate on Saturday February 8.

They follow that up with a clash

against Strathglass on the following Saturday with the venue dependent on playable pitches.

Lovat were to play Lochaber on Saturday February 22 but that game is now off and they complete their pre-season programme against Skye Camanachd at Balglate on Saturday February 29.

## Pre-season friendlies begin

Inverness and Kinlochshiel are set to get the pre-season friendly matches under way on Saturday January 25.

The sides renew rivalries after meeting at the same stage in previous pre-seasons.

However, they will wait until nearer the time to confirm the venue with the weather and playable pitches being the main factor.

## WCA fixture list

The Women's Camanachd Association are putting the final touches to their fixture list for the 2020 shinty season.

Clubs should be informed of their fixture schedule before the end of the month.

Badenoch are defending champions in the Mowi National Division with Skye looking to retain the Mowi Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup.

## 2020 Glengarry tournament

There will be a full house at Glengarry's annual indoor tournament to contest the Johnstone Rose Bowl at the Nevis Centre, Fort William, on Saturday January 25.

Badenoch are reigning champions having beaten Glengarry in last year's final.

There will also be a player of the tournament award, won by Badenoch's Kirsty Deans last year.

The tournament starts at noon.

The Johnstone Rose Bowl was donated to the Glengarry Girls' Shinty Club in 1998 (a year after the team was formed) by Mrs Ailsa Johnstone of DA Johnstone and Son Contractors, Invergarry, who have been loyal sponsors ever since.

## Gaelic Community Shinty Sixes

The game of the Gael and the language of the Gael met as the Gaelic Community Sixes took place at Millburn Academy on Saturday January 18.

Both Gaelic speakers and Gaelic learners battled it out in a tournament designed to encourage the use of Gaelic in shinty.

Six teams competed in the men's competition with Skye Camanachd defeating Inbhir Nis 6-2 in the final following the section games.

Strathglass came out on top in the ladies' competition whilst BSGI Buidhe and BSGI Purpaidh contested the Cupa Bhòrd na Gàidhlig. The sides drew 3-3 in an exciting encounter with BSGI Purpaidh taking the honours following a penalty shoot-out.



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OT

# National coach puts Oban players through their paces

Squash royalty was welcomed to Atlantis Leisure on Saturday in the form of Scottish national coach Paul Bell.

A fantastic day was had by all as the high performance trainer spent the morning with the Oban Tennis and Squash Club juniors before turning his attention to

the senior players in the afternoon.

Lesley Fraser, who along with Kenny Drummond and Grant Addison coach the juniors every Saturday, said: 'I am super proud of our junior squash players today.'

'Apart from the tots, all the juniors had a session with Paul who put them through

## SQUASH

their paces on the courts. They all demonstrated great manners, respect and ability to follow instructions to the mark.

'I also feel very proud of our coaching team which consists of Kenny



Junior members.



National coach Paul Bell put the Oban Squash Club members through their paces on Saturday morning.

Drummond, Grant Addison and myself. The kids proved that what we are doing every Saturday is working.'

The afternoon saw the turn of the adults as 30 club members took part in five different group sessions with everyone enjoying every second of their court time with Paul.

Oban Tennis and Squash Club convener Jackie Kersley commented: 'It's the first time we've had the Scottish Squash national coach at the club and, hopefully, it won't be the last.'

'His knowledge, coaching skills and coaching technique were invaluable to everyone.'

'Many thanks to Oban's own Martin Heath, former squash world number four, for helping to organise this event for our club. A fantastic day was had by everyone.'

Anyone wanting any information on the squash club should get in touch with Jackie on 07816 459503.

## Funding boost will help attract elite squash players to Oban



Ethel Johnston (right), Scottish Sea Farms HR administrator, presents Oban Tennis and Squash Club convener Jackie Kersley with a cheque for £2,000.

Oban Tennis and Squash club's PSA (Professional Squash Association) Satellite competition received a major boost this week when South Shian-based Scottish Sea Farms came on board as the main sponsor.

Oban Tennis and Squash Club convener Jackie Kersley said: 'Scottish Sea Farms sponsorship of £2,000 will help bring elite squash players from all parts of the country to compete, putting Oban firmly on the professional squash circuit map.'

A Scottish Sea Farms spokesperson added: 'Scottish Sea Farms are delighted to support the Oban Open - what an exciting time for the Oban Tennis and Squash Club and for the town.'

### Inspired

'It's great to attract top squash talent so that youngsters and adults alike can be inspired.'

The event will be held at Atlantis Leisure on March 27-29.

## Scotstoun success for ladies' squash team

Eleven ladies from Oban Ladies' Squash Team travelled to Glasgow recently to compete in the annual Scotstoun ladies' bronze event.

This year's event was bigger and better than ever with a record entry of 40 women from Central and West Scotland competing. Due to the high level of participation the event was split into A, B and C grades with a main and subsequent plate section.

There were good performances all round for the Oban team with Nicola Morgan finishing fifth in the main A draw, only losing one game to a former World Masters champion from Bridge of Allan.

Congratulations to Laura Tulip who finished second in the C grade main draw and Carrie Craik who won the C grade plate.

The team would like to thank coach Colin MacNiven for his support on the day. The team are back in action in March where they are due to play Western Squash Club in a friendly match in Glasgow.



Carrie Craik won the C grade plate at Scotstoun.

# Positive overtures from Lorne after 18-12 win

Oban Lorne	18
Strathaven	12
Tennent's West Region Division 2	

Having defeated the top two teams in the league over the past two weeks, Oban Lorne RFC travel to Paisley this weekend looking to keep their winning run in motion.

Now sitting in fourth place in the West League Division Two table, with two games in hand over leaders Strathaven, the Green Machine are in a very healthy position. But, with only a single point separating his team and this weekend's opponents, coach Andrew Johnston knows that the trip to Anchor Recreation Grounds will result in a tough test.

'This will be no easy game and the Green Machine will have to bring their A game to ensure they come away with something,' he said.

'Again a consistency in selection will be key to maintaining the recent run of form.'

Last weekend Oban welcomed the league leaders to Glencruitten for their first meeting of the season. The pitch was in excellent condition with only a couple of minor issues given the amount of water that had fallen during the week.

Oban were in confident mood with a full squad that remained relatively unchanged from the previous weekend's great away victory at Cumnock.

Strathaven started the game well showing exactly why they are sitting top of the table. They were very slick and well organised and accurate in their attack which ultimately led to an early try for the visitors.

Oban worked hard to get back into the game but every time they managed to get into



Fergus McCoss on his way to scoring a try at Glencruitten last Saturday afternoon. Photographs: Stephen Lawson

good position they made vital errors. The lineout wasn't functioning at all well with a number of opportunities to build pressure thwarted by timing issues.

Oban eventually got back into the game when a great carry from Stephen Povey built a platform to attack from. With good quick recycled ball, Ferg McCoss found a great line before sidestepping the last defender to score under the posts. Half time score: 7-7.

With some words of advice from the coaching team looking for more discipline and more accuracy, Oban started to make the improvements required after the restart, leading to a brace of successful penalty kicks by Vasil Borisov.

Strathaven came right back into the game and

## RUGBY

were rewarded with another try which was unconverted to leave Oban with a single-point lead.

With 20 minutes to go Oban started to string some phases of play together but the main difference was their defence.

The ability to get up off the floor and back in the game always meant there was a body there to make the next tackle.

This defensive pressure was what led to the final score of the game. Borisov got off the line fast, an attempted clearance was charged down and regathered by Borisov who scored out in the corner to seal an 18-12 victory.

Oban's next home game is on Saturday February 1 against fellow title challengers Dalziel.



Crawford Brown barges his way through the Strathaven defence.

# Mid Argyll indoor athletics competition

Mid Argyll Athletic Club are reminding boys and girls in the local area and beyond that the annual Mid Argyll competition of sports hall athletics will be held this Sunday, January 26. The competition will be held in the games hall and gymnasium at Lochgilphead Joint Campus.

The competition is the first of four local area events being held in Argyll this winter promoted by Mid Argyll Athletic Club with support from Mull Athletic Club, Campbeltown Running Club and Atlantis Leisure in Oban. The next local area competition will be at Atlantis Leisure in Oban on Sunday February 23 followed a week later with the Kintyre contest on Sunday March

1 in Campbeltown Grammar School. A date for the Mull contest held in Tobermory High School will be confirmed in the next few days. Successful athletes from the local area competitions will qualify to take part in the Argyll final with the date for the Argyll final at Atlantis Leisure in Oban on Sunday March 22. It was originally planned to hold the final on March 29 but due to a clash with the Music and Dance Festival in Oban that weekend, Atlantis Leisure kindly arranged to host the event on the March 22.

Specialist equipment is used for various running, jumping and throwing events bringing the excitement of track and field athletics indoors in a warm and

## ATHLETICS

dry environment. This event on Sunday provides an ideal opportunity for young boys and girls to come along and try athletics for the first time.

The Mid Argyll competition will start at noon this Sunday, with all entries on the day from 11.30am. There will be awards for the overall winners in each age category and medals for all competitors. Age groups start at under seven, then under nine, under 11, under 13, under 15 and under 17. Age is taken as on September 1 2019 and an entry fee of £2 per competitor will be levied or £5 for families of three or more competitors.

## SAILING



Murray MacDonald.

# Argyll sailors celebrated at RYA Scotland Awards

The Royal Yachting Association Scotland Awards are an annual celebration of the people who make a difference across the recreational and competitive boating community in Scotland. The 2019 awards take place at The Falkirk Wheel on Saturday January 25 when the winners will be announced.

Two notable nominations based in Oban include Murray MacDonald of Autism on the Water and the Monday Mayhem team from Oban Sailing Club.

For Murray MacDonald, the autism spectrum which he was diagnosed with has provided an opportunity as he founded Autism on the Water (AOTW) in 2016 to raise awareness of the condition and share his passion for sailing. The idea has now become an official charity which has received international support and enabled others with the condition to experience time on the water. This inclusive approach has gained Murray a nomination for the Elizabeth McKay Award.



Oban Sailing Club's Monday Mayhem team.

A team from Oban Sailing Club who enable the Monday Mayhem sessions is led by Richard Home and has revolutionised sailing opportunities in Oban. In ensuring the night is not all about racing, the team have delivered a regular social sailing night with shoreside activities continuing through the winter to maintain the momentum, cohesion and the fun of the group. Crucially, it engages with local families and brings a breadth of involvement to the club. The distinctiveness of Monday Mayhem has changed perceptions within the community about sailing. Despite being told it would not work, they believed and made it happen.

Ruairidh Scott, originally from Tarbert, Loch Fyne, has been nominated in the Performance of the Year category as he became the J70 World Champion and second at the Dragon World Championships in Freemantle alongside significant victories including the overall winner of the J Cup, the J70 Nationals and the HM King Juan Carlos Trophy. Ruairidh has gone on to become one of the world's most successful one design sailors and now works for North Sails UK, based in Southampton.

Ruairidh managed the whole 2019 J70 campaign including the J70 Europeans in Lake Garda and the Worlds in Torquay. The team based themselves in Torquay for a total of two and a half weeks for the Worlds and set out a strict regime of training, racing and rest. As a result they felt confident going into the Worlds with a second place at the pre-Worlds ultimately resulting in winning the 2019 World Championships.

OT

## BADMINTON



Erika Skofca in action for Oban Lorne Ladies.  
Photograph Stephen Lawson

## International honours for Erika and Helen

Congratulations go to former Oban Lorne Ladies player Erika Skofca, who has been named in the Italian international squad for the upcoming Six Nations.

Erika grew from strength to strength with Oban Lorne and played her heart out for the ladies every single game over her two seasons with the club.

Glencoe's Helen Nelson has also been picked for international duty. She captained the Scotland squad who travelled to take on Spain in a Six Nations warm-up fixture last Sunday. The game ended in a 36-12 win for Scotland.

Oban's Abi Evans did not play against Spain due to injury. She is having a knee operation next week and will probably miss all Scotland's Six Nations matches.



Helen Nelson in action for Scotland Women  
Photograph: Craig Watson - www.craigwatson.co.uk

## ADULT FOOTBALL

## Results and fixtures

Last Saturday's results: Central Scottish AFL Division 1B - Cambusnethan Talbot 1, Oban Saints 7. Greater Glasgow Premier League Division Three - Oban Saints GG 1, Boswell 3. Sean Grant scored for Saints. Scottish Amateur League Premier Division One - Dunoon 3, Neilston 3; Lochgilphead Red Star 1, Campbeltown Pupils 1.

This Saturday's fixtures: Central Scottish AFL 1B - Oban Saints, no game; Greater Glasgow AFL - Oban Saints GG, no game; Scottish Amateur FL - Premier Division One - Campbeltown Pupils v Parkhall; Easthall Star v Lochgilphead Red Star; Glynhill Moorcroft v Dunoon; Premier Division Two - Tarbert v FC Argyll

## OBAN SAINTS YOUTHS

## Results and fixtures

Last Sunday's results: Busby 7, Under 13s 2; Under 14s 2, Glasgow Boys 3. Scoring for Saints was Zander Craik (2). Under 15s no game; Under 17s no game.

This Sunday's fixtures: Under 13s v Rossvale Madrid; Under 14s v St Patrick's SA; Under 15s no game; Under 17s v Busby.

# Magnificent seven Cambusnethan



Cambusnethan Talbot	1
Oban Saints	7
Central Scottish Div 1B	

Seven goals on their travels last Saturday afternoon, including a first goal for the club for young Aaron McKay, saw Oban Saints extend their Central Scottish Amateur Football League winning streak to 12 games to consolidate their position at the top of Division 1B.

Also on target at Motherwell's Dalziel Park were Lewis Cameron, Ross Maitland, James Ford and David Beaton, with an own goal from Cambusnethan Talbot fullback Jamie Brown completing the Saints scorecard.

Lee Black brought the home side briefly back into contention but the Saints defence, with Graham Douglas back between the sticks following suspension, repelled a spirited start to the second half from the Lanarkshire men to eventually run out 7-1 victors.

With two massive cup games looming, co-manager Willie Gemmell decided to assess his options and handed starting roles to Matt Rippon, Gavin Forgive and Aaron McKay with Ruaridh Horne, David Beaton and Gemmell himself dropping to the bench.

### Flicked on

Saints almost made the perfect start after winning possession straight from the home side's kick-off.

Ross Maitland's cross from the left was flicked on by Lewis Cameron and prodded just wide by Aaron McKay racing in at the back post.

The bright start continued

with Craig MacEwan heading a Matt Rippon right wing cross just over from 12 yards out.

The home side made their first foray forward in the fourth minute, hitting Saints on the counter-attack where Lee Black looped a header from a Ryan Boyle left wing cross into the arms of Graham Douglas.

Cambusnethan threatened again five minutes later when Graham Douglas had to race to the edge of his box to save at the feet of Steven Hart after Ryan Boyle had turned the Saints defence with a ball over the top.

### Combined

Matty Kelly and Scott Maitland combined well on the left to set up Ross Maitland for a tenth-minute shot which slipped just wide of Paul O'Hara's left hand post.

Saints made the breakthrough in the 14th minute from a Graham Douglas goal kick after Lee Black had fired well wide from a Steven Hart cutback.

Craig MacEwan fed Ross Maitland in the inside right channel with Maitland's shot deflecting into the path of Lewis Cameron for an easy finish from seven yards range.

Lewis Cameron warmed up for his impending appearance with the Central Scottish Amateur Football League Select with another impressive appearance and almost caught out Paul O'Hara in the Cambusnethan goal with an in-swinging corner kick from the left which landed on the roof of the net.

Saints doubled their advantage after 25 minutes in similar circumstances to



Young Aaron McKay is congratulated on opening his Saints goalscoring account.

the opening goal. Graham Douglas punched clear a Ryan Campbell corner kick from the Talbot left launching a swift counter-attack up the Saints right. Craig MacEwan once again found Ross Maitland whose downward shot on the half volley from 18 yards bounced up and over the despairing dive of keeper Paul O'Hara.

A perfectly weighted through ball from Matty Kelly sent Scott Maitland scurrying to the bye-line from where his cutback was back heeled goalward by Lewis Cameron forcing Paul O'Hara into a smart save at his near post.

Top goalscorer Craig MacEwan was leading the line well but the search for his 17th goal of the season continued in vain when keeper O'Hara threw up a strong right hand to claw away MacEwan's attempted lob on the end of a Matt Rippon through ball in the 31st minute.

### Stranded

The Saints defence failed to heed this warning and lost their clean sheet two minutes later when Brady was once again picked out in space by Ryan Boyle. Brady flicked the ball past a stranded Graham Douglas into the path of Lee Black who made no mistake from 10 yards.

Saints immediately re-established their two-goal cushion after Ross Maitland forced a corner kick on the left from the restart. Craig MacEwan was inches away

from connecting with Lewis Cameron's delivery at the near post with Jamie Brown inadvertently knocking the bouncing ball into his own net denying Dene Cassells what would have been a tap-in at the back post.

An exquisite touch from Craig MacEwan to kill a Matt Rippon high ball stone dead started the move for Saints

### Saints have reached the halfway point in their 24-match league campaign and remain firmly on course to achieve their principal target of promotion to the Central League Premier Division

fourth goal. MacEwan laid the ball off to Ross Maitland who in turn found Lewis Cameron. Cameron's jinking run into the box evaded several challenges before his ball across the face of goal was knocked home from close range by Aaron McKay for his first goal for the first team.

The half-time interval reinvigorated the home side who had the better of the early second half exchanges. Graham



David Beaton shows his pace as he gets away from Jamie Brown.

# as Saints thump



Graham Douglas pushes this Ryan Campbell cross behind for a corner. Match report and photographs: Derek Black

Douglas got across his line well to push a 54th minute Ian Caulfield free-kick over the junction of post and bar before coming through a ruck of players to punch clear the resulting corner kick from Ryan Campbell. The danger, however, wasn't fully clear and Douglas was once again in the thick of the action clawing behind another Campbell cross under pressure from Mark Brady.

Saints weathered the Cambusnethan pressure and carved out a good chance at the other end which Aaron McKay blazed high and wide on his left foot after good work from Ross Maitland.

Saints co-manager Willie Gemmell made three changes on the hour mark, withdrawing Matt Rippon, Ross Maitland and Aaron McKay and sending on Ruaridh Horne, James Ford and David Beaton.

David Beaton's blistering pace on the right immediately presented problems for the home side and only an excellent block by Ian Caulfield prevented Beaton from testing Paul O'Hara with a well struck shot.

Any faint hopes of a Cambusnethan comeback were extinguished in the 69th minute when the three substitutes combined to devastating effect. Ruaridh Horne sent David Beaton off on another run on the right wing from where his fizzing ball along the 18-yard line was controlled first time by James Ford. Ford's quick feet took him away from Cambusnethan skipper Paul O'Kane and his sweetly struck shot flew past Paul O'Hara's left hand and into the bottom corner.

Lewis Cameron rounded off another excellent all round performance with his second goal of the afternoon in the 75th minute. After his corner kick from the right had been

knocked back out to him on the corner of the box, a drop of the shoulder opened up just enough space for him to rifle an unstoppable shot into the bottom corner giving the keeper no chance.

Fraser MacFarlane replaced Cameron for the closing stages and was involved in the build-up for seventh goal which was another crisply struck low shot this time from David Beaton on the right of the 18 yard box which arrowed across Paul O'Hara into the far corner to round off the scoring.

## Trickery

James Ford's trickery took him into the box in the 86th minute where Paul O'Hara made a good save at his near post to turn the ball behind for a corner kick.

Craig MacEwan's frustrating afternoon in front of goal continued to the last kick of the game when he struck the post from close range after getting on the end of a James Ford cross from the left.

Saints have now reached the halfway point in their 24-match Division 1B league

## Farewell to our friend Jimmy Soutar

Last week the Scottish Amateur football community turned out in huge numbers to join the family and friends of Jimmy Soutar in celebrating the life of one of the amateur game's leading lights.

Jimmy was sadly taken away on Christmas Eve at the age of 71 after a brief but brave fight against pancreatic cancer.

A vast crowd attended Wednesday afternoon's funeral service at Linn Crematorium, Glasgow, indicative of the extremely high regard in which Jimmy was held.

Jimmy was a great friend to Oban Saints over the years and was a long standing committee member



Matty Kelly congratulates Lewis Cameron on his opening goal against Cambusnethan. Both Matty and Lewis played for the Central Scottish League Select on Sunday against Aberdeenshire in an Inter-League Trophy quarter final match played at New Tinto Park. Lewis was one of the scorers in a 2-1 win for Central.

campaign and remain firmly on course to achieve their principal target of promotion to the Central Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division.

Saints have no game this Saturday as do the GG team so the club have organised a practice match for 9am

## FOOTBALL

on Saturday which will allow co-manager Gemmell and club secretary David Buchanan the chance to travel to Clydebank to watch the Singer v Wishaw match. Saints play the winners in the last 16 of the Scottish Cup.



Jimmy Soutar.

representing the club for many years during our time with the Scottish Amateur Football League, which he also served in a number of roles including president, and more recently with the Central Scottish Amateur Football League.

The club was represented at the funeral service by secretary David Buchanan, co-manager Willie Gemmell and the club's most senior player Ross Maitland.

Both Willie and Ross were among a number of Saints players who proudly represented the Scottish Amateur Football League Select under Jimmy's stewardship with Willie having the honour of being named captain.

Jimmy's knowledge and enthusiasm will be greatly missed by all at Oban Saints and by his many friends in Scottish amateur football.

Our thoughts and prayers remain with Jimmy's wife and family.

Rest in peace, Jimmy.



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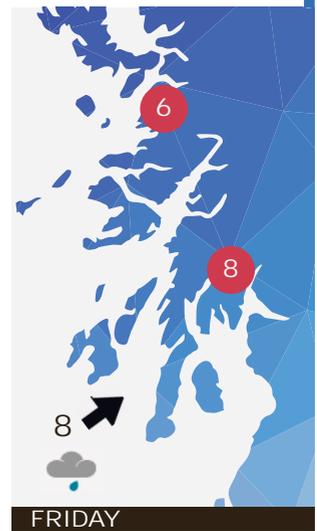


## WEATHER

**Thursday**  
Light rain showers and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures  
7°C to 9°C.

**Friday**  
Light rain showers and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures  
6°C to 8°C.

**Weekend Outlook**  
**Saturday**  
light rain and a moderate breeze  
**Sunday**  
Hail showers and a fresh breeze  
Temperatures  
4°C to 7°C.



FRIDAY

## TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday January 23, 2020** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

	04.42	3.6	11.00	1.2
<b>Thur</b>	17.07	3.6	23.23	1.2
<b>Fri</b>	05.21	3.8	11.46	1.2
	17.41	3.7	**.**	**
<b>Sat</b>	00.01	1.1	05.58	4.0
	12.27	1.1	18.14	3.7
<b>Sun</b>	00.39	1.0	06.34	4.0
	13.05	1.1	18.47	3.8
<b>Mon</b>	01.16	1.0	07.10	4.0
	13.41	1.2	19.19	3.8
<b>Tues</b>	01.51	1.0	07.44	4.0
	14.15	1.3	19.51	3.7
<b>Wed</b>	02.25	1.2	08.18	3.8
	14.49	1.4	20.22	3.6

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

## Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

**Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd**

Badminton club makes a racket with new sporting equipment

Five star Saints ease through to last 16 of Scottish Cup

# WayOutside winter challenge makes debut

More than 100 entrants braved freezing temperatures to be part of the first Tyndrum 24-hour race at the weekend.

Competitors for the winter trail race travelled from as far as Orkney and Southampton to complete as many laps as they could over dirt tracks, rocky paths, through forestry and over river crossings.

The event was also a first for its organisers, Stacey and

## ATHLETICS

The Way Hostel, just before midday on Saturday.

Sixteen hours of the 24-hour race were in darkness with temperatures reaching minus five and runners relying on head torches.

Among the runners was 68-year-old Raymond McCurdy from Glasgow who finished the 24-hour race notching up 32 miles. It was his 48th 24-hour challenge.

Volunteers marshalled the route and watched over drop bags, helped fuel participants with hot drinks. Laps were electronically tracked so supporters could follow runners' progress.

'Everyone who took part in the challenge was amazing but we couldn't have done it without the huge support of the local community, businesses and our volunteers. A big shout out to all of them. They were brilliant,' said Stacey.

Prizes to be won included special poster prints of the event and a bottle of whisky for the first person to notch up 100 miles. Other prizes were also donated, included stays in a local B&B.

Keeping the event green, race T-shirts were from ReRun, a clothing company

**'We're hoping to do it again. We'll have to see what the landowners say first but WayOutside will definitely be doing something again next year.'**

Max Holloway from Oban, who run outdoor sporting and adventure business WayOutside.

The first man home in the 24-hour challenge was Ian Harrison who completed 117 miles, the race's first woman who also came in overall fourth place was Angela Davidson with 104 miles.

As well as the 24-hour challenge, there were 12- and six-hour race options. The first runners set off from By



Competitors at the start of the Winter trail race.

Photographs: www.thepbalance.co.uk



Two runners warm up.

that recycles and logos pre-loved T-shirts.

The Green Welly Stop also ran a welcome fire pitstop part way round the course, said Stacey.

Spreading cheer even further, the event was supporting Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA) and will be making a donation from its profits to help its life-saving work.



Organisers Stacey and Max Holloway from Oban-based WayOutside hailed the event a big success.

## Bob hopes to be back in the swing at Desert Classic

### GOLF

After last week's disappointment at having to withdraw from his season opening tournament in Abu Dhabi, Oban's Bob MacIntyre will be hoping his hand injury has healed sufficiently to tee it up in the Dubai Desert Classic which begins today (Thursday).

Injury permitting, he will be up against another strong field including Open Champions Shane Lowry, Henrik Stenson and Louis Oosthuizen as well as past Masters winners Sergio Garcia and Danny Willett.

While missing out last week was undoubtedly a blow to Bob's chances of getting into the world's top 50 and qualify for the Masters, he will take comfort from seeing Abu Dhabi winner Lee Westwood rocket up the world rankings to number 29. Westwood was only two places above Bob at 63 in the world before last week's tournament. Bob's absence means he drops two places in the rankings, but a strong finish this week should see him move back up.

After the Dubai tournament, the tour moves on to Saudi Arabia.

He will also have one eye on the first World Golf Championship event of the year in Mexico on February 20 where there is not only huge prize money on offer but significant world ranking points up for grabs.



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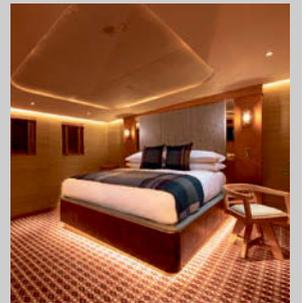
**BIG**  
**ENERGY**  
**SAVING WEEK...**  
January 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> 2020

See our  
feature  
on pages 26-29

**Ceilidh  
King Fergie  
launches  
50th album**



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turn to page 13



# Delight as Post Office to reopen Mallaig branch

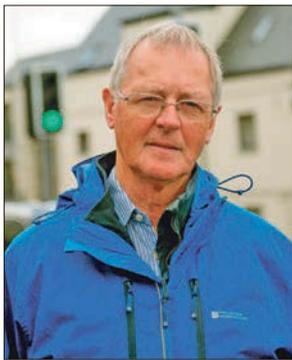
by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Mallaig Post Office officially closed in the first week of the new year, but there was joy this week with the news that residents will only be deprived of its services for little more than a month in total, with the branch set to reopen at the beginning of February.

There had been fears that the closure would be permanent. However, in an online letter to customers on its website, the Post Office's change manager, David Duff, has now said the Post Office was 'delighted' to let people know it will be restoring services to Mallaig on Thursday February 6.

The letter continues: 'As you know, the branch closed temporarily on January 6, 2020, due to the resignation of the postmaster and the withdrawal of the premises for Post Office use.

'We have now secured a temporary operator to run



**'A village the size of  
Mallaig should never  
be in this position...'**

the new service from the same location, Mallaig Post Office, and will offer a wide range of Post Office products and services.

'I know that the local community will join me in welcoming this good news and [we] hope that our customers will continue to use the branch.'

Lochaber MSP Kate Forbes

said: 'I'm relieved that a temporary provider has been found for Mallaig Post Office.

'Although temporary, this is good news for the village which would be otherwise left with nothing.

'It's awful that people have been left without a service for several weeks and I hope this temporary solution will become permanent.'

And Highland councillor Allan Henderson (pictured), Caol and Mallaig, said: 'I am delighted to be informed that Mallaig will once again have a post office, albeit under a temporary operator.

'A village the size of Mallaig serving so many remote and rural areas should never be in this position. Post Office need to use this breathing space to get a permanent solution for Mallaig.

'They also need to deliver a good consistent service suitable to the needs of today's customers.

'This also includes commercial businesses as banks withdraw their branches.'

## Film crew descends on Lochaber



The Lochaber Times office in Fort William High Street found itself part of a film set on Saturday for the shooting of a new production called Perfect Strangers. Featuring other Lochaber locations, including Glencoe, it also stars such well-known faces as Frazer Hines, Sanjeev Kohli, Clare Grogan and Sylvester McCoy. This scene features Rob (Kenny Boyle) meeting his new love Jen (Natalie Clark) for the first time.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos. Full story, page eight.

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# Business warns of low cost waste removal catch

by Richard Mason  
rmason@obantimes.co.uk

In light of new restrictions on Household Waste Recycling Centres, a business is warning of the dangers of paying a too-good-to-be-true price for waste removal.

The restrictions, which come into force at the beginning of February, will prevent certain types of trailers, heavier vehicles and some trucks from getting into HWRCs.

While some have said this could lead to members of the public fly-tipping, a Lochaber business which provides a waste disposal service told the Lochaber Times that those that provide a very low price for it could end up doing the majority of the fly-tipping.

Raymond Aitchison, who runs The Van Man business with his partner Leah Whyte, says those that provide the



Lochaber has two Household Waste Recycling Centres, Fort William, pictured, and another in Kilchoan. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

service at an extremely low price will often not have the right credentials.

In order to carry and dispose of waste, a contractor must be registered with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and dispose of it at a private landfill where fees are required.

Ms Whyte said: "Those who are not registered to move

waste and drive any of the vehicles stipulated in the new rules will not be able to make use of the Highland Council facility or Bowmans, whether or not they are commercial or domestic customers.

'Highland Council will collect waste as special collections but not commercial waste and only if appropriately packaged and moved to

the street. The likes of Restart Lochaber have had rubbish dumped by their gates, and broken and badly damaged furniture, because the recycling centre was closed.

'I would imagine they will have more problems with the likes of this too.'

Restart Lochaber is a non-profit organisation which specialises in refurbishing

second-hand furniture. It is unable to dispose of anything left outside its gates without warning but can talk about donations and has a free pick-up service for all of Lochaber.

The new rules are designed to stop unregistered use of the public facility for commercial purposes and ultimately to save the council £300,000 over two years.

While Highland Council says the onus is on householders to check credentials of people providing services, there is one simple check people can do to make sure waste is not left at the side of a road.

Ms Whyte continued: 'People will always want to pay the lowest price for this sort of service, which I fully understand, but in the event of fly-tipping occurring, any items that can trace the waste back to an address will be used to prosecute the home

owner, not the person they paid to dispose of their waste. Fines are hefty.

'Anyone having waste removed should ask the carrier for their SEPA waste carriers' ID and they will be happy to provide that. Then they can be sure that the waste is processed correctly.'

Highland Council made clear that the changes were being introduced to tackle trade abuse, which would lead to fewer costs in handling trade materials and freeing up facilities for householders, which they were meant to be used exclusively by.

Single-axle trailers and vans under 3.5 tonnes are still accepted, therefore large volumes of material such as garden waste are still going to be accepted.

The vehicle restrictions predominantly apply to trade-sized vehicles.

## Herbert Protocol launched to help trace missing persons

Police and partner agencies in Lochaber and the rest of the Highlands have launched a new scheme aimed at helping to trace vulnerable missing people.

The Herbert Protocol is a well-established initiative already used elsewhere in Scotland and the wider UK which can assist officers to respond quickly should someone go missing.

It is made up of a detailed form, which can be pre-populated with vital information such as a photograph, contact details, medication required and significant locations. This can be used by officers to save vital time in a missing person inquiry.

The scheme will be promoted with everyone registered with adult care services in the Highlands, including people living with dementia, a learning disability or experiencing mental ill health.

Sergeant David Campbell, missing persons co-ordinator for Highland and Islands Division, said: 'People go missing for a variety of reasons and unfortunately vulnerable people becoming lost, distressed or disorientat-

ed is something that we can be faced with.

'This not only puts the missing person at risk but it also causes considerable distress for their loved ones.

'In the Highlands alone, more than 40 people with dementia have been reported missing in the past year.

'Speed is of the essence in any missing person inquiry

**'The longer someone is missing, the greater the risk to them'**

– the longer someone is missing, particularly if they are vulnerable, then the greater the risk to them.

'The Herbert Protocol enables people to be assured that all relevant information can be passed quickly to police, and will provide vital assistance to officers in their search efforts.'

The Herbert Protocol originated in Norfolk and takes its name after Normandy landings veteran George Herbert, who lived with dementia and sadly died in 2011 after he

went missing while looking for his childhood home.

Ian Thomson, NHS Highland's lead social worker for its north and west division, which includes Lochaber, Lochalsh and Skye, said: 'We recognise the important role that care services have in the lives of many adults across Highland.

'Adults experiencing care should be supported to lead the lives they want to – with as much freedom, independence and opportunity as possible – while, at the same time, care services may be required to manage risks when things go wrong.

'For those adults we work with who are at a significant risk of becoming a missing person, we are strongly promoting the completion of the Herbert Protocol.'

If a family has a relative in a care home and wishes to complete the paperwork in their respect, they would initially discuss that with the care home which would then include that in the individual's care plan.

For relatives at home, the paperwork can be obtained from any police station.



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LT

## Six Music's Cerys Matthews loves Fort cafe

The Wildcat Cafe in Fort William's High Street had a surprise celebrity diner last week when Welsh singer and broadcaster Cerys Matthews MBE dropped in.

Wearing a large beanie hat and oversized glasses, the 50-year-old later tweeted: 'Great idea - thanks The Wildcat Fort William 'Avocado-no'...haricot beans and edamame peas, chilli flakes and ace bread. Thank you for the failte'.

Matthews released her own cook book last month. Where The Wild Cooks Go has been described as a 'hugely-varied collection of her culinary learnings around the globe'.

And Matthews gave a shout-out to The Wildcat on her BBC 6 Music show broadcast on Sunday.

On its Facebook page, The Wildcat responded: 'Thanks for the mention Cerys Matthews, and glad you enjoyed your visit to our wee cafe and the beautiful Highlands.'

'We love your show...Keep up the fantastic work.'

# Storm Brendan takes its toll on Lochaber

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Storm Brendan took its toll last week on roads and infrastructure across Lochaber and the rest of the Highlands.

Localised flooding, wind and ice caused damage to roads, paths, car parks and walls in numerous areas including Lochaber, Applecross, Caithness and Sutherland.

The storm followed recent severe weather causing two significant landslides which closed roads in south Skye and Raasay, temporarily cutting off communities and costing thousands in debris clearance and road repairs.

The Highland Council has the longest road network in the UK with 4,000 miles of roads, 1,000 miles of footpaths and 1,400 bridges spanning a region covering one third of Scotland.



The extensive road infrastructure presents significant maintenance challenges to the council and severe weather events result in significant additional costs which put more pressure on the limited roads budget.

Budget leader Councillor Alister Mackinnon said: 'Local roads are vital to connecting our communities

and keeping them sustainable. The condition of roads is a high priority for residents and this is very clear in all our engagement with communities.'

'We have the most extensive network of roads in the UK and added to this, we are faced with some of the most severe weather conditions here in the Highlands.'

An example of the sort of damage caused in various locations in the Highlands was this road at Applecross.

Depute leader Alasdair Christie set out the need for further investment. He added: 'Our entire roads network is vital to our rural communities and lifeline services. Every penny invested in maintaining this critical network also helps to support our tourism and business economy as well as improve connectivity for everyone in the Highlands.'

'We allocated an extra £1.5 million to roads as part of last year's budget and we want to be in a position to invest more in such improvements. It would cost many millions to get the roads across our entire network into top condition. It is therefore vital that the Scottish Government recognises the real impact of climate change in the Highlands and the need for this investment when setting its budget next month.'

## VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER



There's no doubt that the short-term accommodation rental market is booming, and the Scottish Government is now taking steps to empower local authorities with new powers to regulate the market.

From spring 2021 Highland Council, along with all other local authorities in Scotland, will be given new powers to implement a licensing scheme for short-term lets. If you currently rent out a whole flat or pod as holiday accommodation, this will affect you.

The licensing scheme will include a new mandatory safety requirement that will ensure consistent safety standards across every type of short-term visitor accommodation.

Councils will be able to designate control areas to ensure that planning permission will always be required for the change of use of whole properties for short-term lets. It will also give councils the discretion to apply further conditions to address concerns of local residents, such as around issues like littering and overcrowding.



Housing minister Kevin Stewart MSP.

Scottish Government Housing Minister Kevin Stewart said: 'Short-term lets can offer people a flexible travel option and have contributed positively to Scotland's tourism industry and local economies across the country. That is why we are empowering local authorities to implement a system that works for their area. By giving councils the power to set conditions around short-term let licenses and put in place planning control areas to tackle hot spots, communities across Scotland will be able to decide what is best for them and their local economy.'

This change is just one of the topics you can discuss with tourism industry ex-

perts, including the principal officer in charge of tourism at Highland Council, at our Tourism Roadshow on February 5 and 6. Visit [www.lochaberchamber.co.uk](http://www.lochaberchamber.co.uk) for more info and to book your free place.

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce acts as the destination management organisation for Lochaber, promoting the area as the Outdoor Capital of the UK.

We work for the benefit of all local businesses, our community and visitors. If you want to make sure you know about developments in the tourism industry and benefit from the combined clout of being part of Scotland's premier business network join us at [www.lochaberchamber.co.uk](http://www.lochaberchamber.co.uk)



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# Scottish Water moves to allay customers' fears

by Richard Mason  
rmason@obantimes.co.uk

Scottish Water has moved to allay residents' fears in south Lochaber over the waste water works in North Ballachulish.

Residents have long-standing concerns that the facility is over-capacity and is threatening to flood. They have also voiced concern about the transporting of millions of litres of sewage through the area every year.

Their concerns date back to when the facility – which deals with waste water from Nether Lochaber, Ballachulish and Glencoe – was installed in 2009, but a lack of communication between the operator, Scottish Water, and the community has now led to animosity.

Scottish Water now plans to contact community councils directly to clarify any issues.

## 'This issue is why I got involved with the community council'

Chairman of Nether Lochaber Community Council for many years and now acting secretary, Iain Jenner has been dealing with the issue since the beginning.

Clarifying the source of the animosity, he said: 'This issue is why I got involved with the community council in the first place.'

'The plan was originally rejected by the Highland Council but everything was kept as it is and it was made subterranean which falls within the permitted development rights, so no need for permission. There was no flood risk assessment for these works that sit three metres above sea level, and the excess capacity, after accounting for the Glencoe Hotel, was 14 units. There does not seem to have been any strategic planning when installing it.'

A total of 76 homes in Nether Lochaber and some in Ballachulish use private septic tanks.

Scottish Water says that this



The waste water works at North Ballachulish.

Photograph: Abrishtside Photography

is a cheaper option for some rural homes which would need a significant amount of pipework to connect to the system at a cost to owners.

A spokesperson for Scottish Water said: 'Under the current framework that Scottish Water operates within, any customers wishing to connect would be responsible for funding and laying any new lengths of sewer required to join the public system.'

'Where new or upgraded sewer network infrastructure is installed to adoptable standard and adopted by Scottish Water, a defined 'reasonable cost contribution' can be made using the funding that Scottish Water receives from its existing customers.'

Chairman of Ballachulish Community Council and the Association of South Lochaber Community Councils Kevin Smith noted that the communication breakdown was clear, as the only way residents could get information was through Freedom of Information requests.

This breakdown led to rumours spreading about how the 'sludge' was being disposed of but Scottish Water confirmed it was treated properly.

The spokesperson said: 'Our site at North Ballachulish, like waste water treatment works all over Scotland, separates the incoming waste

water that it receives into sludge and a liquid effluent.

'The effluent is treated to a standard that allows it to be safely returned to the environment, while sludge is collected and taken by road for further treatment so that it can be safely disposed of on land. In the case of North Ballachulish, the nearest site with capacity to treat the sludge is Fort William.'

Residents have noted an increase in the number of Scottish Water tankers transporting the sludge. Scottish Water told the Lochaber Times that this was an 'unfortunate byproduct' of treatment as there could be difficulties getting everything out at once.

While Scottish Water appreciated that there were more tankers on the roads, it said that some were servicing private septic tanks.

It said it did not anticipate flooding to be an issue in the area.

A spokesperson for the Scottish Environment Protection Agency confirmed that 'safeguards are in place' for waste water and it supported Scottish Water and the government to develop the network.

**HAVE YOUR SAY**  
email us at [fort@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:fort@obantimes.co.uk)

## WHAT'S ON

■ Nether Lochaber Community Association is holding an open weekend in Nether Lochaber Village Hall, on Saturday January 25, and Sunday January 26, from 10am-5pm.

The event aims to look at ideas and suggestions for the year ahead, as well as help for the activities already planned.

■ Lochaber and Lorn Ramblers have two walks in the next week. Their next one, rated Moderate Plus, will take place on Sunday January 26 and will take in Coire an Lochan and Coire Gabhail in Glencoe. The walk after that is on Thursday January 30. It is rated 'leisurely' and is a longer stroll through the Strontian oakwoods.

■ Lochaber Environmental Group continues this round of bike repair classes, starting on Wednesday January 29, for the next three weeks.

The classes teach basic maintenance and repair, including how to keep a chain running smoothly,

puncture repair, and adjusting and repairing brakes and gears. For more information and to register, email [kate@lochaberenviro.org.uk](mailto:kate@lochaberenviro.org.uk)

■ Lochaber Ladies will have a meeting at Marks and Spencer on Monday February 3 at 7pm. The meeting will consist of a tour around the store including behind the scenes and showing ladies the workings of the store.

■ Lochaber Transport Forum will hold an open public meeting in Duncansburgh Church Hall, the Parade, Fort William, at 11am on Tuesday February 4.

Up for discussion will be issues and concerns relating to buses/coaches, trains, ferries, walking, cycling and roads and pavements.

■ The Lochaber Probus Club will hold its next meeting on Thursday February 6 from 12.30-2.15pm. There will be a talk from Terry Lee about his

life and career followed by results from his recent research into the activities of Probus Clubs in the New Forest.

More information can be found on the Lochaber Probus Club Facebook page.

■ The Fort William Baby and Children's Market returns to The Nevis Centre on Saturday February 8. The market is dedicated to pre-loved items for babies and children under 10. Entry is £1 per adult and the market will run from 2-4pm.

■ Ever wondered what birds live in Glen Nevis through the winter and spring? Those interested will be able to find out and see them up close at the next bird ringing event at the Ben Nevis Visitor Centre on Sunday February 16. An experienced and licensed BTO bird ringer, John Owen, will show people why and how wild birds are ringed before they are released. From 9am to 3pm.



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LT

# Work gets under way to protect Harry Potter line

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Work is under way to protect the famous west coast rail line from potential landslips and rock-falls from the hillsides and embankments around the iconic Glenfinnan Viaduct, which features in the Harry Potter film series.

Network Rail is investing £1.7 million to remove loose vegetation from the slopes above the railway and install rock netting – proactively protecting the line that runs between Mallaig and Fort William.

The work will protect 14 rock cuttings over a two-and-a-half-mile stretch of single-track railway between Locheilside and Locheilort, encompassing both Glenfinnan station and viaduct. It will improve the resilience and reliability



The iconic railway viaduct at Glenfinnan draws thousands of visitors thanks to it featuring in the Harry Potter films.

of this line for passenger services.

The project will also include renewal of sections of boundary fencing to protect the thousands of visitors to the area who follow the tourist path up the hillside to get better views of the monument, mountains and viaduct, and

to stop them from putting themselves at risk by straying on to the railway.

In advance of installing the rock netting, dangerous trees on the slopes above the railway are cut down before specialist abseil teams remove smaller vegetation and debris from the rock-face.



Work is under way to minimise the threat of rock falls and landslips along this section of the famous rail line.

Top and bottom anchors are drilled and grouted into the hillside before the metal mesh is secured. On some sections at higher risk of rock fall, this mesh is high-tensile to give further protection.

Diane Jones, Network Rail's project manager for the work at Glenfinnan, said: 'The

work on the line between Fort William and Mallaig is part a wider maintenance programme which identifies areas prone to land-slip or rock fall and pro-actively works to protect the railway from this.

'With an ever-growing number of tourists visiting

the area, it is important that we deliver these works outwith the main tourist season, where possible, or in the evenings so people can continue to get to Glenfinnan by rail.

'Doing this proactively to protect the railway reduces the likelihood of having to carry-out costly emergency repairs but more importantly, it helps avoid any potential closure of this key rural route which is a lifeline connection for passengers and freight.'

In total the project will clear 11,500m<sup>2</sup> of vegetation, scale 8,800m<sup>2</sup> of rock face, insert 89 three-metre-long rock reinforcement dowels, install 7,000m<sup>2</sup> of draped rockfall netting and 2,800m<sup>2</sup> of high tensile rockfall netting. The work is being delivered by QTS on behalf of Network Rail and will be on-going until April this year.

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## Banavie swing bridge closes for essential maintenance

Essential maintenance on the A830 Banavie Swing Bridge is scheduled to get under way on Monday for five nights.

The £350,000 investment from Transport Scotland will involve essential mechanical maintenance work, including replacing some of the structural components vital to ensure the swing bridge continues to operate safely when opening and closing across the Caledonian Canal.

The overnight project will take place between 11pm and 5am, with all work expected to be completed by 5am on Saturday February 1.

To keep the workforce and motorists safe during the project, an overnight road closure on the A830 at Banavie Swing Bridge will be in place during the works as the bridge deck will need to be swung open to allow safe access to the bridge components.

As there is no suitable diversion route available, vehicles will be parked in signed designated areas until the swing bridge reopens. There will be no amnesty periods during the works.

The A830 will be fully open outwith working hours. The works are weather dependent



Banavie swing bridge is to undergo extensive maintenance starting next week. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

and will be rescheduled if adverse weather conditions are forecast. Consultation has been carried out with emergency services, Highland Council, local businesses, transport operators, residents and other relevant stakeholders.

Commenting on the proposals, Eddie Ross, BEAR Scotland's north west representative, said: 'These £350,000 essential bridge maintenance works will allow our teams to replace the rear roller track and will see essential painting carried out ensuring the bridge continues to function safely for years to come.'

'The traffic management is essential to keep everyone safe during the project, however, we have planned the works to take place overnight to help minimise disruption as much as possible.'

'The project has also been programmed outwith the busy summer months and has taken advantage of when the canal is closed to boat traffic during winter.'

'Regrettably, due to the nature of the works, the A830 will remain closed to all traffic between 11pm and 5am.'

'Our teams will do all they can to complete the essential maintenance as quickly and safely as possible.'



The peninsula in question can be seen jutting out into Loch Leven to the left beside the village. Photograph: Highland Council

# Ballachulish holiday plans ditched

by Richard Mason  
rmason@obantimes.co.uk

A consultation meeting and workshop are to be held this Sunday (January 26) to gather Ballachulish community's view on what people want to do with the Ballachulish peninsula, after a proposal to develop holiday accommodation was dropped.

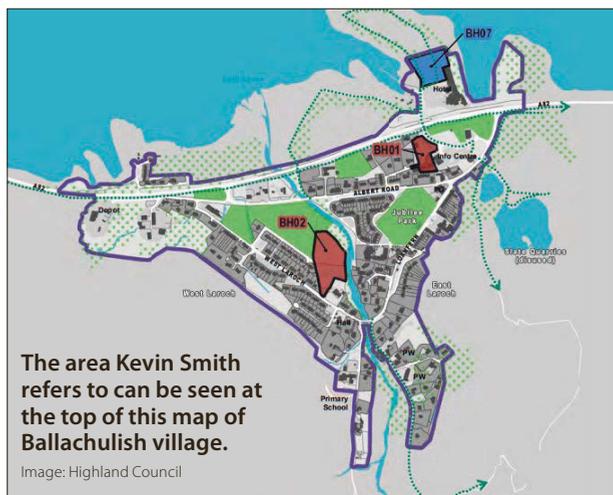
Earlier this month, a public meeting, chaired by Ballachulish Community Council, showed that the community was against putting 48 luxury lodges on the peninsula.

Following that meeting the developers, Crieff Hydro and Ossian Developments – which own different parts of the peninsula – withdrew the scheme.

They are now looking for ideas to regenerate the peninsula, with key points of interest being the harbours, boat sheds, loch frontage and the main land area.

Cluster general manager for Crieff Hydro Family of Hotels Patrick Diack said: 'We want this community to share with us their thoughts, hopes and concerns about any potential development of the peninsula areas.'

The predominant feeling from the public meeting on January 7 was for the peninsula to be left as it is,



The area Kevin Smith refers to can be seen at the top of this map of Ballachulish village.

Image: Highland Council

however, some ideas were raised around improving the boat sheds, adding a museum facility to tell the story of Ballachulish's slate quarry history, or even just making a cycle path and adding some benches.

At the earlier public meeting, chairman of Ballachulish Community Council Kevin Smith was sceptical of the feasibility of the development, raising practical questions around plumbing and necessity.

He has now said the area would be the easiest to develop in future should any ideas arise.

He said: 'If you access the WHLDP [West Highlands and Islands Local Development Plan] adopted

plan, the designated area zoned for development, shown as BH07, is the preferred area for commercial/tourism development. That does not mean other areas cannot be looked at but could prove more onerous to gain planning, from my understanding.'

The workshop will be led by Jimmy Denholm, principal of The Denholm Partnership, which drew up the original plans for the luxury accommodation.

All residents are being invited to attend the meeting at Ballachulish Village Hall this Sunday starting at 4pm.

Key points from the meeting will be drawn together into a short paper and circulated to everyone.

## Ballachulish gin distillery scoops four gongs at the World Gin Awards

It selects the very best in gins from around the world and now two gold and two silver medals at the World Gin Awards 2020 have been picked up by Pixel Spirits.

The distillery is based at the back of the Loch Leven Hotel in North Ballachulish and the awards come for two of Pixel Spirit's own gins and two it produces exclusively for Fyne Malts of Inveraray.

The popular Devil's Staircase picked up a gold award in the Contemporary Style Gin category and Drookit Piper managed a silver in the Classic category.

The Ginveraray varieties produced for Fyne Malts both took home golds; Foxy in the Classic category and Katty in the Contemporary.

Awards are split by country and awarded as far away as Australia, Japan and Brazil.

A statement from The Scottish Gin Society read:



Pixel Spirits' winning gins.

'Winning a medal at these prestigious awards is a huge achievement for any gin brand, so we were absolutely delighted to see so many of our wonderful Scottish Gins receiving awards, alongside the highest quality gin brands from countries all over the world.'

The team at Pixel was delighted at doing so well at

the awards, saying: '2020 is already off to an outstanding start for us.'

While missing out on the Best classification, the team at Pixel is a small outfit, focusing on hand-foraging local botanicals to create the gins, which come in batches of less than 80 bottles.

Craig and Noru Innes – who run the company – are now looking to the future and hoping people vote for The Devil's Staircase in The Scottish Gin Society's Consumer Choice Awards 2020.

Voting for the awards is open until February 7 and Isle of Harris gin has won the last two years.

The Scottish Gin Society said of the awards last year: 'It was far from a one-horse race and the results showed the amazing diversity that exists within the Scottish Gin industry, with the top 10 being an exciting mix of big and small brands.'

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LT

# Star Clare gets to Glencoe on time thanks to local mum and daughter

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Perfect Strangers, the title of a new independent Scottish film being shot in Lochaber this month, turned out to be quite an apt name for mum and daughter Katie and Megan Daynes.

The duo ended up making a marathon 250-mile, four-hour round trip from Glencoe to pick up well-known Scottish actress and former Altered Images lead singer Clare Grogan after the star missed her flight from London to Glasgow.

Directed by Scottish Bafta-nominated film-maker Ryan Hendrick and made by his own company, Magic Monkey Films, Perfect Strangers is a tale of two strangers who find

themselves stranded in the Highlands on Christmas Eve.

Based on Hendrick's own short film of the same name, which was nominated for a Scottish Bafta, the film tells how the couple put aside their own personal problems and team up to try to get home for Christmas.

Behind the camera is renowned director of photography John Rhodes (Only Fools and Horses/One Foot In The Grave).

On Saturday, the film crew were in Fort William's High Street to shoot scenes with the two young actors who play the title characters – Natalie Clark, of Still Game fame, and Kenny Boyle, who starred in Hero Worship.

Earlier scenes were shot in and around Glencoe and



Famous faces behind the bar at the Clachaig Inn are, from left, Kenny Boyle, Natalie Clark, Frazer Hines, Alexander Teunio, Caitlin Blackwood, Karen Bartke, Sanjeev Kohli, Clare Grogan, Sylvester McCoy and Alasdair McCrone Photograph: Magic Monkey Films and, below, Megan Daynes, far left, and mum, Katie, far right, with Clare Grogan, Sanjeev Kohli and Sylvester McCoy at the Clachaig Inn Photograph: Guy Daynes

movie-goers will see the famous Clachaig Inn at Glencoe which features as itself.

This is where a star-studded supporting cast of well-known faces including Sylvester McCoy (The Hobbit), Sanjeev Kohli (Stan and Ollie), Ms Grogan

**'Clare was very down to earth, really lovely.'**

(Gregory's Girl), Caitlin Blackwood (Doctor Who), Frazer Hines (Outlander and Emmerdale), Karen Bartke (Scot Squad) and Nicolette McKeown (Convergence) filmed their scenes.

The Clachaig Inn was taken over by Katie's husband, Guy Daynes, and his brother Ed back in 1984, and many of the film's scenes in Glencoe were shot inside the popular premises' Boots Bar.

Katie, whose daughter, Megan, 18, and son Jack, 20, are both involved in the film industry, told the Lochaber Times how the emergency taxi trip to pick up Ms Grogan came about.



'Clare was meant to be on a flight from London to Glasgow where all the rest of the cast were being collected to bring them up to Glencoe. However, she missed her flight and had to fly into Edinburgh Airport last week instead.

'Her flight landed in Edinburgh at 9.15pm and she wasn't sure how to then get from there to Glencoe in time for her first scenes early the following morning – so we volunteered to go and collect her.'

Katie and Megan then set off and Katie says on the long return journey the star of such films as Gregory's Girl and Comfort and Joy was a joy to chat to.

'All the way to Glencoe we all just chatted about family stuff and just normal things about life generally. She was

very down to earth, really lovely. By the time we got home it was just like we were speaking to a member of our own family, that's how nice and easy-going Clare was. Not strangers at all.

'To be honest all of the cast and crew were really nice.'

Katie and her family took several members of the cast on sightseeing trips in the Glencoe area, including Still Game actor Sanjeev Kohli, who ended up hand-feeding deer.

And Clare tweeted her appreciation of the Clachaig Inn's hospitality, saying: 'Dry January! Don't think so ... Love this location.'

And even the Lochaber Times makes an appearance, with some of Saturday's scenes being shot on the High Street.

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John MacDonald presents the historical bagpipes to Margaret MacMaster of Lochaber Schools Pipe Band. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

# English pipes find a home in Lochaber

by Richard Mason  
rmason@obantimes.co.uk

A set of pipes that was bought more than 60 years ago in London have found a new home with the Lochaber Schools Pipe Band.

The pipes were donated to the students by John MacDonald, who was given them by their previous owner, David Bentley from Warrington Pipe Band.

Mr Bentley and his brother have been keen pipers for most of their lives and the pipes were bought in the 1960s.

While not a piper himself, John MacDonald is a keen country dancer and involved in groups that promote it.

He said: 'I met David through the Royal Scottish Country Dancing Society as we take trips overseas quite regularly. He gave the pipes to me so that I could donate them to the local pipe band. 'Since everyone in the

Lochaber Pipe Band has their own pipes, I thought it would be best to donate them to the school's band as very few of them have access to a set.'

Accepting the pipes on behalf of the band was Lochaber instructor Margaret MacMaster who told the Lochaber Times that the pipes could be used by a pupil for practise, performances, exams and competitions.

She said: 'There are currently 40 pupils receiving piping tuition in Lochaber High School through the Music Tuition Service managed by High Life Highland.

'A significant proportion are on bagpipes ranging from beginners right through to accomplished performers. In addition to Lochaber High School, there are more than 30 pupils receiving tuition in the local primary schools.'

While the service provides equipment to pupils at reduced costs, donated equipment is always welcome and

even instruments of such an advanced age.

Ms MacMaster continued: 'The age of the pipes is often irrelevant, it is how they have been maintained that is important. A good quality set of pipes that have been forgotten about and left to dry out in someone's attic for years will often develop cracks once someone starts to play them. In these cases they require a lot of work to bring them up to good playing standard.'

'Fortunately, the set of pipes that was donated has been well looked after and maintained over the years. They will, of course, require a new pipe bag and freshen up before they can be used. I look forward to hearing them being played once I have done this.'

The school band is almost as old as the pipes themselves, as it celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, and hopes to mark the milestone with a special event.

## Lochaber Environmental Group: Feeling the chill yet?



Did you wait out Storm Brendan last week listening to the wind whistling through your house?

Does every cold spell leave you chilly in the morning? Do heating bills give you the shivers? Life doesn't have to be like that.

LEG is once again offering free home energy surveys across Lochaber all winter. Our thermal imaging cameras are a great way of finding draughts, missing insulation and other features invisible to the eye.

We can also use our electricity monitors to see exactly where your bill is going and help you save energy.

We can provide basic draught proofing strips, which can really help keep the warmth in, and provide an LED light bulb too.

The bulb is just 6W but is as bright as an old fashioned 60W, costs 1p for more than 10 hours of light and will last for a decade – a great way to minimise usage.

There are many ways to reduce bills and improve comfort – reducing the waste from draughts and missing insulation is one of the best, and a really low cost to get started.

Many houses can make improvements with no investment at all, just small changes that have a big impact.

Of course, checking the Big Energy Saving Week section is a great place to gather information for big projects, but if you want a visit in your home and some personal advice then get in touch.

We are happy to talk about all sorts of building questions, including heating systems, insulation, damp, draught proofing, ventilation or anything else you can think of.

We are also happy to visit

any property in Lochaber, whether you are the home owner, tenant or landlord, and we visit charity or business properties too.

Waste is the big issue today here; everyone wants to reduce their bills, but we want you to spend less and be warmer and there doesn't have to be any compromise.

Reducing waste is almost always the first step to take and with the right help it can be easy, so get in touch today.

The Lochaber Environmental Group GO, GROW and GLOW project is funded by the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund.

If you would like a free home energy survey or have any home energy questions then get in touch on 01397 700090 or mail [info@lochaberenviro.org.uk](mailto:info@lochaberenviro.org.uk)

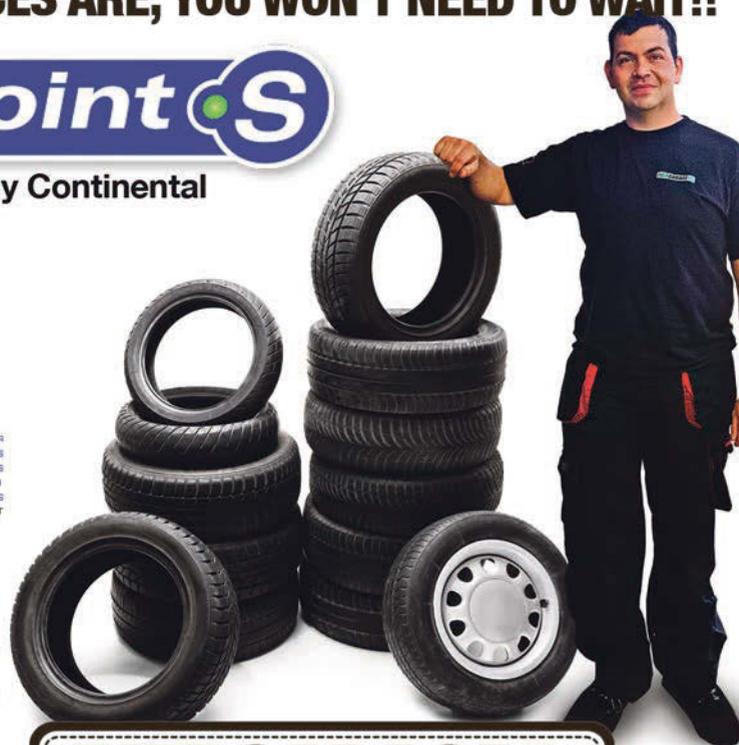
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# Red squirrels at forefront of rewilding in Morvern

by Kirsteen Bell  
fort@obantimes.co.uk

There is a natural push and pull that exists within a healthy environment, a dynamic equilibrium that maintains stable numbers of each species within an ecosystem, writes Kirsteen Bell.

However, as the human population has thrived in recent centuries, we have tipped the scales so far in our favour that there is undoubtedly no longer a natural stability for many other species in Scotland's landscape.

Rewilding has become one of the key arguments in support of a conscientious effort on our part to redress that balance.

Trees for Life is one of the organisations working towards a rewilding of the Highlands. One of its key aims is to create revitalised wild forests, providing space for wildlife and communities to flourish together; it is to that end that it has brought its Red Squirrel Reintroduction Project to Ardtornish in Morvern.

Becky Priestley, red squirrel project manager for Trees for Life, held a meeting on Sunday January 19, at Lochaline Village Hall, that gave the community a chance to learn more about the project.

There will be approximately 35 wild squirrels brought to Ardtornish and Drimnin from other areas within the Highlands

Red squirrels could be a common sight in Morvern woodlands.

Photograph: Chris Aldridge/Trees for Life.



where they have been successfully reintroduced, including Inverness-shire and Moray. Ms Priestley said: 'Scotland is the last remaining stronghold of the reds, with three quarters of the UK population here.'

As well as describing the translocation permissions and procedures, Ms Priestley highlighted the opportunities for the community to get involved, from helping to top up the feeders provided for the squirrels during the first few months of translocation, to helping to monitor the new squirrel population and report sightings.

However, when it comes to the wider question of rewilding the Highlands, the impact on the lives of the communities is always at the forefront.

Red squirrels are not a keystone species, therefore, there is little risk to the livestock of farmers and crofters, or to the freedom of movement of those who enjoy walking, riding, or cycling in the landscape, and the squirrels' impact on the ecology of the woodlands will be minimal.

The general reception to the reintroduction of these squirrels was positive, with both children and adults keen to get involved. At the same time there was a question raised over the public consultation procedure.

The topic of rewilding continues to be a sensitive one when it comes to the reintroduction of predators such as lynx and wolves, and one attendee was concerned about the setting of precedents for future rewilding projects in the area.

Another organisation, Lynx UK Trust, had originally included the western Highlands within its 2017 proposal to reintroduce lynx to the United Kingdom.

## The topic of rewilding continues to be a sensitive one

The proposal – which was ultimately submitted for Kielder Forest in Northumberland and was rejected by the UK government in 2018 – had included financial compensation for the risks of lynx attacking sheep or other farm livestock, as well as a detailed exit strategy to recapture the lynx and house and rehome in the event of the scheme being deemed unsuccessful.

However, this was insufficient for some, including the NFUS and the Crofters Commission, both of which spoke out against the scheme.

For the lynx, evidence of their earlier presence in the landscape, before human

activity pushed them to extinction, is one of the more emotive arguments in their favour.

However, as the Red Squirrel Reintroduction Project demonstrates, the previous existence of an animal on a specific landscape is not necessarily a pre-requisite for rewilding.

Regular Lochaber Times contributor Iain Thornber looked back at historical records in his Morvern Lines column of April 5, 2018, to demonstrate that there is little evidence of red squirrels' presence in the area to the south of Loch Sunart.

But during the meeting, Ms Priestley illustrated that red squirrels had certainly been prevalent in the north-west of Scotland until the 1950s, and, as the suspected reason for the massive decline of the population in Scotland was the reduction in mixed and broadleaf forests across the country, the woodland areas of Ardtornish and Drimnin were an ideal habitat in which to support the future survival of this particular well-loved species.

While the topic of rewilding in Scotland continues to drive debate, in the case of the red squirrels of Morvern, the benefit could be said simply to come from the act of humans working with nature to help a struggling species thrive.

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Fergie MacDonald has now issued his 50th album in a career spanning six decades.

# Ceilidh King Fergie launches 50th album

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Moidart's very own Ceilidh King, the irrepressible Fergie MacDonald, shows no signs of slowing down his prodigious output of music, with the release of his 50th album.

Entitled simply The Ceilidh King, the new CD features 16 tracks and is produced by Rannoch Music.

The new album was recorded at the Old Laundry Studio and the Glenfinnan connection does not stop there, with the Glenfinnan Ceilidh Band's Iain MacFarlane and Colm O'Rua both featuring.

Other musicians making an appearance include Robert Nairn (button accordion), Allan Henderson (fiddle), Hugh MacCallum (drums), Angus Nicolson (pipes), Richard Smith (keyboards), John F MacDonald



(accordion), Sandy Meldrum (keyboards) and Addie Harper (accordion and bass guitar).

Music director for the album was Allan Henderson and it is a fitting tribute to Fergie's long career, which also includes albums on vinyl and EP, with the first in 1960.

Now in his early 80s, Fergie is still a much-loved and highly respected familiar face on the traditional music circuit and says he aims to keep going as long as he can.

'I'm delighted with the new album and very grateful to everyone who contributed on it. It's all new recordings and I hope people enjoy listening to it as much I did making it,' he told The Lochaber Times.

The CD was released just before Christmas and to make sure it was in the shops in time for the big day, Fergie hand-delivered copies to shops across the north of Scotland, from Fort William and Inverness to Aberdeen.

Among the tunes featured are The Shinty referee, Whisky Galore, Archie Harrison's Reel, The Moidart Sniper and The Gary Innes Song.

Readers will be interested to learn that Fergie composed Archie Harrison's Reel to commemorate last year's birth of a son to Harry and Megan, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex.



Jimmy (Jimmy Chisholm) and Isobel (Elaine MacKenzie Ellis) hope their grown-up children will make it home for a special haggis 'supper'. Photograph: Tommy Ga-Ken Wan/Velvet Wolf Films/BBC Scotland.

## Lochaber location for Burns Night film

Glencoe and Ballachulish are to feature prominently in a BBC programme scheduled for this Saturday - Burns Night, writes Mark Entwistle.

BBC Scotland will transmit the new short film inspired by Robert Burns' Address to a Haggis, from the same production team behind the acclaimed short film TAM, which was

shown last year and was inspired by the famous poem, Tam O'Shanter.

Produced by Velvet Wolf Films, Haggis is a light-hearted drama following the lives of the MacNeep family in their ill-fated plans to get together for Burns night 2020.

Haggis factory owners Jimmy (Jimmy Chisholm) and Isobel (Elaine

MacKenzie Ellis) are keen to brag about their latest award for their outstanding Haggis recipe at the annual family Burns night reunion.

But the question is whether their grown-up children, beset by their own vagaries of life, will make it to the table in time.

The film will be broadcast on BBC Scotland at 9.30pm.

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# ConCom customers are given solution following concerns

Customers unable to use an alternative broadband or 4G provider in the Outer Hebrides will get a solution via satellite.

The Connected Communities (Hebnet) broadband system is due to be shut down in March but there are still around 500 customers using the service and some have no other option.

Since the roll-out of superfast broadband across the Western Isles in 2015, homes and businesses have been flocking to it and the high fixed cost of ConCom made it no longer viable for Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) to continue.

The service is being offered by Voove, the Hebridean partner of rural broadband provider, BigBlu Internet.

The company is also looking to offer a cyber security apprenticeship at its Uist and Stornoway offices along with some other exciting opportunities for people in the



MSP Alasdair Allan was 'disappointed' in HIE.

Hebrides. A spokesman for Voove said: 'With the purchase of the old Uist laundry building and surrounding land, we will be converting this 800sqm building into a technology hub to provide hands-on access and training for all generations, whether this is

to teach the parents, learn the basics, more advanced tasks, or those wishing to start a podcast or streaming video channel. 'Being able to provide the studio space, the equipment as well as the training to everyone, we hope to help as many people as possible understand not only the risks, but also the benefits technology has to offer.'

Constituency Western Isles MSP Alasdair Allan recently raised concerns that while 80 per cent of households in the area had access to superfast broadband, some did not even have 4G reception.

He was disappointed that HIE did not give customers more notice and wrote to the Scottish Government Minister for Connectivity, Paul Wheelhouse, saying that those customers affected by the switch off should be 'at the front of the queue' for the next stage of fibre broadband.

Donald Campbell, chief executive of MG ALBA, said: 'This is a time of unprecedented change for us.'

Ms MacDonald will take up the role in Stornoway, starting on January 27. Originally from Eriskay and South Uist, she previously worked in policy for Renfrewshire Council and has been living and working on Lewis for the past five years, working as a freelance policy and public affairs consultant.

## New director for MG ALBA is announced

MG ALBA, the Gaelic media service, has announced the appointment of Ealasaid MacDonald to the post of director of strategy and external affairs.

The newly-created post will see her take a leading role in nurturing important stakeholder relationships and in developing a renewed Lèirsinn (Vision) with partners for the future of Gaelic media.

The post will also take a lead role in proposing and delivering strategies for transformation as MG ALBA and its partners face increasing levels of challenge and opportunity in the media sector.

Ms MacDonald will take up the role in Stornoway, starting on January 27.

Originally from Eriskay and South Uist, she previously worked in policy for Renfrewshire Council and has been living and working on Lewis for the past five years, working as a freelance policy and public affairs consultant.

Donald Campbell, chief



Ealasaid MacDonald.

'This is a time of unprecedented change for us.'

executive of MG ALBA, said: 'This is a time of unprecedented change for us. Ealasaid will be a fantastic addition to our senior management team and we're excited that she is joining us to help make the most of the opportunities ahead of MG ALBA and the Gaelic media sector in the near future.'

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# £10m deal to upgrade island pier

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

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has awarded a £10.1m contract to marine, civil engineering and building contractor L&M Keating Ltd to carry out upgrade works at Lochmaddy Pier in North Uist.

Keating will be responsible for completing all civil engineering works for the harbour upgrade project, including pier strengthening and extension, upgraded fendering, land reclamation and seabed dredging.

The work was due to commence this month and is expected to be completed in spring of next year.

CalMac will continue to operate ferry services during the works.

The infrastructure upgrade

work at Lochmaddy is part of the Skye Triangle Infrastructure Project, which involves significant harbour upgrades at the three ports at Tarbert, Lochmaddy and Uig.

The work is designed to improve and modernise harbour facilities and prepare the way for new vessels.

Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands Paul Wheelhouse said he was very pleased to see the pier upgrade moving forward following the recent award of another contract for construction works at Tarbert on Harris.

'Work can now begin on the construction phase of the project, which will deliver an improved experience for the passengers who use these important services,' said Mr Wheelhouse.

'Transport Scotland continues to work with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, the Highland Council and CMAL in the delivery of our ambitious plans for the facilities at the three ports of Tarbert, Lochmaddy and Uig through the Skye Triangle Infrastructure Project.'

'I look forward to seeing this project help to further improve connectivity from and to the Western Isles, with subsequent benefits for the local economy.'

Councillor Uisdean Robertson, chairman of the comhairle's transportation and infrastructure committee, added: 'We are very pleased to have reached this very important milestone in the delivery of infrastructure improvements for the wider Skye triangle route.'

# School on Lewis sets gold standard

by Richard Mason  
rmason@obantimes.co.uk

Staff at Sgoil a' Bhac on Lewis received a gold award following an assessment under the Healthy Working Lives programme.

It is delivered by NHS Health Scotland in collaboration with Scotland's 14 local NHS boards.

By achieving the award, workplaces must have healthier, more motivated and productive staff; reduce absences and support employees at all stages; reduce accidents and work-related ill health; enhance their reputation; and contribute to the health of the wider community.

Staff at the school began their Health Working Lives journey in 2011 and, despite a number of changes to management, it has remained a priority.

In the years since 2011, staff



School staff receive their gold award.

have worked through and have been successful in obtaining and then maintaining awards at bronze, silver and silver plus.

In the 2018-19 session they actively worked towards gold and achieved it following an assessment in December 2019.

School staff have been able

to participate in activities such as yoga and rowing, and a number of campaigns have highlighted cancer, diabetes and World Down's Syndrome.

In addition, work has been done to focus on healthy eating, promote alcohol awareness and taking action to reduce accidents, incidents

and sickness. Head teacher Kirsteen J Maclean thanked HWL adviser Norma Macleod for encouraging the team to work towards the goal.

She said: 'We were aware that no other school in the local authority held this award but did not know, until we achieved the award, that only one other workplace in the Western Isles, apart from the NHS itself had achieved this standard.'

'Mental health continues to be a priority for us and we will continue to ensure opportunities are focused on the mental health and well-being of our pupils and our employees and that a good work-life balance is achieved.'

'The next challenge for us is to maintain this award annually and to ensure that the work of Healthy Working Lives in Sgoil a' Bhac goes from strength to strength.'

# Portree RNLI seeks new press officer

The RNLI's lifeboat station in Portree is looking for a volunteer to join the existing team in the role of lifeboat press officer.

Portree Lifeboat Station was established in 1991 and is situated along the eastern side of the Isle of Skye. The station operates a Trent-class all-weather lifeboat that launched 22 times in 2018, aiding 18 people.

Crewed by volunteers, funded by public donations and answering the call of help day or night, whatever the weather, the RNLI has an incredible story to tell and wants someone to help recount how volunteers in the community are working to save lives at sea.

The role of the lifeboat press officer is to build and maintain friendly relationships with local press, radio, television and online media, keeping the community informed of operational activity by promoting newsworthy rescues and lifeboat station events.

This is a good opportunity to join a motivated and enthusiastic team and have the satisfaction of contributing to saving lives at sea.

If anyone has good communication, writing and IT skills and is interested in finding out more, please contact Martin Macnamara, regional media officer for Scotland, at martin\_macnamara@rnli.org.uk



Portree's RNLI lifeboat launched 22 times in 2018, coming to the aid of 18 people.

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To enter, send separate entries (in the same envelope) with your name, address, telephone number and email address to **Scottish Field Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL** or enter at [www.scottishfield.co.uk](http://www.scottishfield.co.uk). Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is 29 February 2020. **Winners drawn from all competitions also enter a prize to win a bottle of Whitetail Gin.**

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

# SCOTTISH FIELD

## February issue

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# Call to Highlanders to take part in garden birdwatch

Prolific tweeter and Highland MSP Kate Forbes is encouraging Highlanders to participate in this year's RSPB 'big garden birdwatch', writes Mark Entwistle

From Saturday January 25-27 an estimated 30,000 people across Scotland will spend an hour watching birds and other wildlife in their garden, or nearby green space, and record what they see.

Participants can download a recording sheet from the RSPB website and the results will help the organisation get an accurate picture of nature.

Kate Forbes, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, said: 'In the Highlands, we are particularly blessed to be



Kate Forbes MSP, right, is pictured with RSPB volunteer Andrea Goddard at the RSPB Tollie Red Kites near Dingwall.

'Wildlife is drawn to our gardens, especially in winter, where it can find shelter, and often food and water. Taking part in big garden birdwatch helps us build a picture of how birds are doing across the country, and you get to be part of a huge nationwide effort that has now been going on for 41 years.

'Everyone and anyone can take part. It's very easy, you don't need expert knowledge and, whether it's your first year or your 41st year, I guarantee you will enjoy it. And you can

do it not just in your own garden, but in a local park or similar outdoor space.

'We are always amazed just how many people take part in Scotland each year, providing us with huge amounts of information, and proving just how much they care about our fantastic wildlife.

'Every effort is worthwhile, every birdwatcher counts!'

To download a recording sheet, visit [www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/packrequest](http://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/packrequest)

surrounded by amazing wildlife.

'I suspect that most people are a bit like me – running around too fast to actually

stop and appreciate our surroundings.

'That is why I'm taking part in RSPB's birdwatch, to pause for a moment and

value the many species all around us.'

Keith Morton, RSPB Scotland senior species policy officer, said:

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## MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

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In a couple of days' time, both in Scotland and across many far-flung corners of the world, the life of Robert Burns will be celebrated with traditional suppers held in his honour.

The coming celebrations reminded me of having had the honour of being asked to deliver the Toast to the Lassies for the very fine Oban Burns Club at their annual Burns Supper of 2018.

Just for novelty, I wrote the speech in verse form and in meter common to some of the works of Burns.

Here are a few of the introductory verses and I may conclude the tale next week.

*Throughout the life o' Rabbie Burns*

*With the fairer sex, he'd many turns  
And trials that made his heart a-churn  
But often smile,  
From Highland Hill to Lowland Burn  
And in Argyll.*

*A complex man of many parts  
A rake who'd riven countless hearts.  
Both took and wielded*

*Cupid's darts*

*With heedless aim.  
But seeds of many finest arts  
That joy and pain.  
His sins today are widely known  
But him without, cast first the stone.  
Then and now he's not alone  
In ways uncouth  
And stole his chance to e'r atone  
By death in youth.*

*So now to bring a lighter note*

*To the words of love this genius wrote  
And ponder on his sowing of oat  
In present day.  
How would he be through time's great moat  
With roguish way.*

*Highland Mary of Argyll  
Her beauty did his heart beguile.  
Their passion flamed for just a while  
But not for long.  
And by his word and honoured style  
She lives in song.  
But think of Rabbie and his ways  
If to Argyll he ventured nowadays.*

*Quite some questions it may raise*

*And might, a frown,  
If the bonnie lassies caught his gaze  
In Oban Town.  
So join me on this voyage where  
We follow Rabbie on the tear  
From Corran Halls to Station Square  
And much between.  
And see just how he'd maybe fare  
In 2018...*

*He swaggered down Bealach an Righ  
And spied some maidens one, two, three.  
He knew his charm would be the key  
So he did say,  
"Deep in heart young tears I'll pledge thee."  
They said, "Go away!"*

*"Just Ae Fond Kiss and then we'll sever."  
"Get out of our way, you dirty begger!"  
"But ah'm Rabbie Burns and a' sae clever."  
"Sod off, you pest!  
And go away, don't bother us! Ever!  
We're Ballet West!"  
...To be continued.*

# New anger over HIAL 'remote towers' air traffic control plan

by Martin Laing  
mlaing@obantimes.co.uk



Politicians across the Highlands and Islands have voiced renewed concern over possible changes to air traffic control.

Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd proposes to centralise air traffic control services in Inverness by using 'remote towers'.

Highlands and Islands MSP Donald Cameron is supporting calls for a debate in the Scottish Parliament on the plans to centralise air traffic control in the region, which would lead to air traffic controllers removed from island airports.

Mr Cameron has supported a motion by Shetland MSP Beatrice Wishart, which aims to hold a Member's Business debate on the changes which are being proposed by Highlands and Islands



Airport Limited (HIAL).

The Scottish Conservative MSP, a regular user of HIAL services in the region, said: 'Airports like Barra, Benbecula and Stornoway in the Western Isles, and Campbeltown, Islay and Tiree in Argyll and Bute, are crucial parts of our transport infrastructure.

'As HIAL is wholly owned by the Scottish Government, I wish to hear a justification directly from the minister for these proposals which have caused so much concern, not least from HIAL employees.

'It is vitally important that changes of this nature are subject to thorough scrutiny. The focus should be on providing

a better service rather than just saving money.

'The Scottish Government's track record on our ferry service has left much to be desired and I wish to ensure that it doesn't make a hash of our air links as well.'

Western Isles MP Angus MacNeil said: 'HIAL has named this high risk and

Donald Cameron MSP at Stornoway Airport.

costly option as "remote towers" when in actual fact it is the centralisation of air traffic control, meaning high-value island jobs going to Inverness.

'The Scottish Government and the Scottish Parliament committees, particularly the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee, should be scrutinising this proposal line-by-line because it has huge implications, not only for transport but for the community in the Western Isles. We know that air traffic control has a difficulty with recruitment and retention, but this is not the case in the island areas - when they recruit locally, they do retain locally.

'There is a huge risk that if air traffic control is centralised in Inverness that all air traffic controllers could be

lost from Inverness as they are in demand globally and we would find ourselves without air traffic control anywhere in the HIAL network. This is an ill-conceived proposal which HIAL has somehow taken regardless of the warning voices from everyone else.'

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell said: 'HIAL has kept elected members up to speed on the plans as they have developed and been willing to answer questions.

'None the less, it would be important that the public are fully informed and confident about what is being proposed so I would support further engagement by HIAL on a wide basis and a public discussion about whether such a change is what people want and expect in areas that rely heavily on air traffic and in which high quality employment is a vital bulwark against depopulation.'



CalMac's Robert Morrison, left, and Mark Stagg, of City of Glasgow College, right, presented successful apprentices with their certificates. Photograph: Martin Shields

## Next generation of seafarers joins ferries operator CalMac

Sixteen modern apprentices will soon be welcomed aboard by west coast ferry and harbour operator CalMac after successfully completing their training.

The Deck, Engine and Maritime Hospitality MAs will now all take up full-time positions with the company.

CalMac works in partnership with City of Glasgow College to deliver industry-tailored apprenticeships with classroom-based training

combined with practical on-board experience.

CalMac recruited its 100th MA this year and the company's commitment to training the next generation of seafarers has seen the number of apprentices recruited annually more than double since 2016.

Certificates were presented by Mark Stagg, Dean of Nautical Science and STEM Faculty at City of Glasgow College and CalMac's di-

rector of operations, Robert Morrison.

'Our training programmes are an important source of skilled labour for us. Having a pipeline of recruits ensures we are able to continue to seamlessly deliver a consistently high standard of service for customers,' said Robert.

'It also gives us the opportunity to provide well paid, high value jobs that help support the often fragile economies of the communities we support.'

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## LETTERS

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

## Climate change is a clear and present danger to all of us

We make no apology this week for providing space for Kate Willis and Andrew Squire, who are both founding members of the Lochaber branch of Extinction Rebellion, to respond to news that counter terrorism police had branded the national organisation as an extremist ideology alongside such groups as Islamic extremists and Neo-Nazis.

The Lochaber Times has been proactive for a considerable period in highlighting the crisis facing us all from climate change. We have published regular contributions from teenage activist Holly Gillibrand and the Lochaber Environmental Group.

The damage being done to the environment should be a major concern for all of us. We will continue to champion the need for action to combat climate change before it is too late.

## Perfect example of Highland hospitality

We are delighted this week to publish the heart-warming story of the actions of Katie and Megan Daynes in saving the day for actress Clare Grogan.

Katie and Megan jumped into their car in Glencoe for a dash down to Edinburgh Airport to collect Clare and rush her back to the Highlands so that the star would not miss out on a filming schedule for the movie Perfect Strangers at locations in Glencoe and Fort William.

Clare was due to join other stars at the Clachaig Inn, taken over by Katie's husband Guy and his brother Ed in 1984.

Katie and Megan said Clare was a joy to share the lengthy road trip with and that she was like 'a member of our own family'. Well done to the Daynes.

## Young Robert delighted many of us 'oldies'

I am sure many of us 'oldies' must have been absolutely delighted with Robert Robertson's old-style Hogmanay on New Year's Eve.

Robert writes your weekly Glasgow letter and I would deem it appropriate if I can offer thanks to him (and I'm sure I speak for many others) for giving us echoes of what it 'used to be like'.

Calum Kennedy, Alistair Gillies, Anne Lorne Gillies, a youngish Jimmy Shand, Bobby MacLeod and the Rev I M Jolly (Rikki Fulton) at his hilarious best, were all delivered gently, without any pomp whatsoever, by Robert, a distinguished Mòd medallist and band leader.

Robert visited our accordion and fiddle club when Skipinnish were our guest artists and was reluctant to do a solo for us because he is really a shy, gentle young man but he did sing Eilidh to our delight and then disappeared without an encore.

Thank you, Robert, and I actually found the Motherwell ceilidh to follow (also on BBC Alba) pretty good too. There were good artists including the Glenfinnan Ceilidh Band, Art Cormack winning his medal some years back and then bang up to date.

Good for BBC Alba and Robert Robertson in particular.

Niall Iain MacLean, Inveraray.

## Welcome debate on future of Dail Mhor care home

I was so pleased to see a response to my letter of December 26, 2019, from Joanne Matheson of the Joint Community Councils Working Group concerning the provision of permanent residential beds at Dail Mhor.

The reason I welcome the response is that I strongly believe that there needs to be open public debate on this vital matter and to that end I would appreciate the opportunity to respond further to the points made.

Ms Matheson avers that I am well aware that the 'working group' is fully committed to reinstating full-time residential care facilities. Well, she has now stated that to be the case but in the absence of any mention of full-time residential facilities in any of their press releases or any published minutes, members of the community might be forgiven for having no knowledge of this 'commitment'.

It is also claimed that I am aware of statutory

changes which make it currently impossible for Dail Mhor to deliver this service. I am not aware of any such changes but it would be very disappointing if the working group is permitting NHS to hide behind such a claim.

Local people are not interested in the details of the challenges faced by NHS in meeting their statutory obligations, only that they do what's necessary to overcome the challenges and provide the vital service. I think the aspect of Ms Matheson's letter which will give local people most concern, however, is the statement that the working group continues to work towards a viable way to provide full-time residential care, but follows that with the statement that 'small-scale, dedicated residential care facilities are no longer viable'. Which is it?

By virtue of our geographical situation and demographics everything in this remote area is going to be 'small-scale', but that doesn't mean essential services should not be provided or should have to pass some arbitrary test of viability. All our facilities (schools, fire service, police, ambulance and medical care) are 'small-scale' but the provision is judged on need not viability.

It is widely perceived in the community that the interests of NHS would be best served by ignoring the need for permanent residential beds at Dail Mhor on the basis of viability. Ms Matheson states that the working group 'would not like that (permanent beds) to come at the expense of these other services', but almost without exception, members of the community regard the provision of permanent residential beds as by far the most important service that Dail Mhor should provide and if they had to choose, I'm certain they would choose permanent beds. If the working group is unable to persuade NHS of this then it should be changing tack from persuasion to campaigning. It's that important.

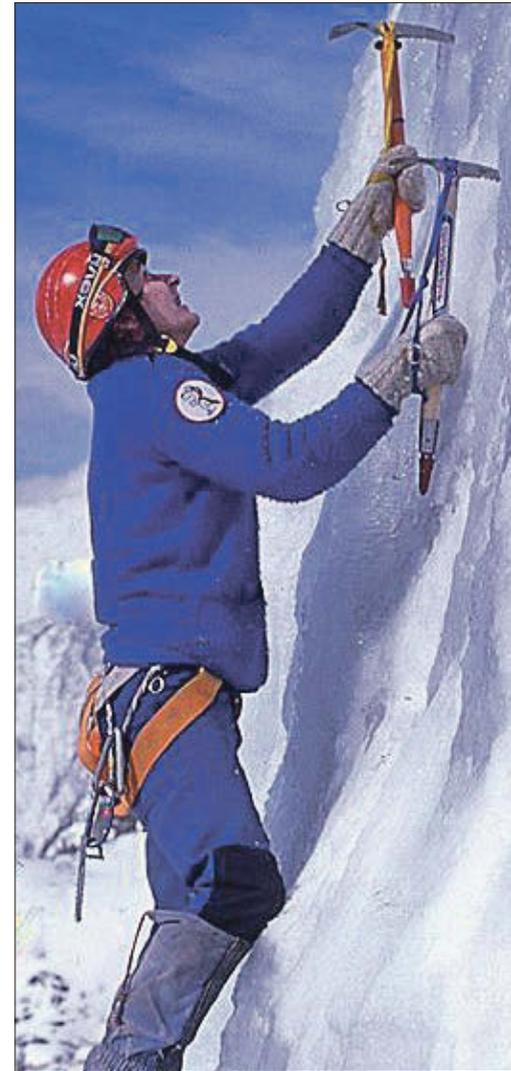
Alan Thomson, Strontian

## Referendum should only be after Holyrood election

I had a dream after the general election that there may be a more co-operative way forward between the SNP and Unionist viewpoints. Some dream!

In order to avoid the endless grievance and victimhood taking root any further, I believe the UK government needs to adopt a slightly different approach. An independence referendum absolutely should be refused until the

## YOUR PICTURE



next Holyrood election is over.

Despite the fact that some 55 per cent of Scottish residents voted for Unionist parties, it must be addressed that the SNP has dominated in the number of MPs. I suggest that if a similar result occurs in the Holyrood election, the UK government should agree to a referendum.

As someone with a Scottish mum and

  
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# DISTRICT NEWS

## ARDNAMURCHAN

With the return to school of pupils, Ardnamurchan High has sent a report on the various festive events that took place just before the Christmas break:

Mid-December saw the school's biennial Christmas concert, with a fantastic mix of traditional, contemporary and festive Christmas music and a bit of traditional dance.

■ The annual AHS Christmas dance was also once again a huge success, with 110 pupils attending. This year's band was Trail West. The dance was organised by this year's S6 and the amazing effort with the decoration and the months of planning definitely paid off.

■ Congratulations to Alistair Tait, who successfully took part in the United Kingdom Maths Challenge (UKMT) 2019. In the first stage, Alistair achieved a gold medal place, making him one of the top 10 per cent of pupils from among the hundreds of thousands of school pupils across the UK each year who take part.

Following on from this success, Alistair was invited to participate in the Senior Kangaroo Competition which took place in December. Out of the 1,500 invited to take part, Alistair was one of the top 25 per cent and received a Certificate of Merit.



Alistair Tait took part in the UK Maths Challenge 2019.

## Lundavra pupils and staff bid farewell to long-serving janitor



Lundavra Primary pupils bid a happy retirement to janitor Euan MacGillivray.

This month saw Lundavra Primary School's longest-serving member of staff hang up his janitor's uniform for the last time after almost three decades.

At a special assembly at the Fort William school recently, Euan MacGillivray was presented with retiral gifts by the pupils. He has

worked at Upper Achintore and then Lundavra Primary for 28 years.

Later that same day, at the Fort William Shinty Club, Mr MacGillivray attended a special event that saw his fellow members of staff at the school make presentations.

The school stated: 'Mr MacGillivray's whis-

ting and quick wit will be missed by all of the staff and pupils. Lundavra will be a much quieter place without him.

'We would like to wish Mr MacGillivray all the best in his retirement and thank him for all his hard work and commitment to both the school and wider community over the years.'

## FORT WILLIAM

Temporary traffic lights have been installed on A82 south of Fort William at the Croit Anna Hotel following storm damage to the sea embankment.

A stretch of the embankment around 500m long contains multiple sections which have been washed-out or damaged following high sea levels and coastal flooding

experienced as a result of Storm Brendan.

The temporary traffic lights have been installed as a precaution to help direct motorists away from the edge of the carriageway until a temporary road barrier can be installed next to the road, expected to take place next week.

Further inspections are being carried out to assess the full extent of the damage to the stretch of

embankment and, once complete, repairs for the damaged areas will be designed with work expected to take place later this year.

Storm Brendan brought high winds and coastal flooding earlier this week to sections of the west coast of Scotland and BEAR teams have been assessing sections of the network for any damage.

Eddie Ross, BEAR Scotland's north-west representative, said: 'The

traffic lights have been installed to help keep people safe until we can install a temporary road barrier along the top of the embankment south of Fort William.

'We're carrying out further geotechnical assessments to determine the full extent of the damage to the embankment, and once these are complete we'll begin work to design a full repair to address any areas as required.'

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Zain Sehgal said: 'I have a few photos of him and his VW campervan.'

## Mystery of trip from Lochaber to Lahore

The Lochaber Times has been contacted to try to help solve a bit of a mystery concerning a man's trip from Lochaber to Lahore in Pakistan in a VW campervan in the 1960s when apparently the story featured in the pages of The Oban Times.

Zain Sehgal writes: 'This is a long shot. I am trying to retrace my grandfather's steps and remember an article in the late 1960s written about him whereby he travelled from Lochaber to Lahore in his VW campervan.'

'I have a few photos of him and his VW but cannot seem to find the actual newspaper cutting from back then.'

'A friend of mine suggested to contact yourselves to see if you

could help locate this in any of the archives.

'As a family, we are sorting out his affairs and found a few pictures and would love to know more about his journey in the article that was written then.'

Mr Sehgal goes on to explain that the story of his grandfather's journey made headlines in the local papers at the time.

He added: 'And as far as other family members recall, the headline was along the lines of "Lochaber man drives to Lahore" or similar.'

If anyone can remember this story or perhaps has a copy of the actual newspaper from back then, get in touch with the Lochaber Times office in Fort William, which will pass on the information to Mr Sehgal.

## Retro Roamer

fort@obantimes.co.uk

### More Roamerisms from the early 1990s

■ 'Tell the press you were rescued by the three most gorgeous men you've ever met.' That was the greeting from Terry, George and Brian when they made the breakthrough on Saturday morning in reaching two female students who had been cragfast and snowbound overnight on the Ben. Now, I wonder which of the Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team trio spoke those words of welcome – if not wisdom.

■ I mentioned in despatches one Samuel Montrose Horner of the Road to the Isles Filling Station. And I conjectured how Sammy had come by his middle name. Sister Mary lost no time in letting me know. And a neat little tale it is. Sammy was the first baby to be born in Montrose Square in Inverloch at Number 8 – on the same day that the primary school opened in The Village.

■ If you're in the Plantation, please listen to Stormin' Norman Johnston's plea that everyone must remember that bin day is Thursday. So have your bins standing to attention on Thursdays – and no other day.

■ Betty, who used to live at Camas Inas in Ardnamurchan, can surely claim a penpalship record. Betty has been corresponding with Kirsty, from Helsinki, since 1931 when both were in school. Fifty years later they met – in the Peninsula. And now their respective granddaughters have become penpals too.

■ The polis are inviting local cyclists to have their bikes security marked at the police station. However, judging by the hassle the officers are having in finding the owner of the stray goats in Roy Bridge, it might be a good idea to have these escapees security marked as well.

■ Meanwhile, it's getting a bit difficult for road users too. For

example, have you seen the signs at the turn off for Kinlochleven at Bail Ur? 'Kinlochleven – 10 miles' proclaims the Scottish Trunk Roads Authority notice board. Alongside it the Scottish Tourist Board sign states 'Kinlochleven – seven miles'.

■ Thanks to the postmen's local knowledge, a letter from Invergarry – addressed to Roamer, Fort William – reached me on Monday. Meanwhile, the 'Garry's own popular postie got himself a new 'coming and going hat'. All was well 'til he put it on. Then all the dogs in the Crescent started barking at him – because they didn't recognise him. Then, one day, the postie set off for Kinlochhourn. While he ate his piece alongside the loch, he took off his deerstalker and placed it on the heathery bank. A seagull then swooped on it. And laid an egg it.

■ 'What weather!' That's the daily greeting just now, from under the banks' giveaway umbrellas, the anorak hoods, and the assorted Lochaber bunnetry of everyone you meet. But, well, it is January!

■ Did you see Smokin' Simon on the telly on Monday's Good Morning programme? Simon, resplendent in multi-coloured waistcoat, was talking to presenters Anne Diamond and Nick Owen about his smoked produce. And, in the kitchen demonstration Anne plumped for Lochaber Smoked Cheese, while Nick got his teeth into – smoked alligator. Afterwards, in the departure lounge at Birmingham Airport en route for Glenuig, Simon felt a tug at his sleeve. A small boy was standing there, looking up at that multi-coloured waistcoat. 'I saw you alive on the television this morning, mister,' the young lad announced. 'I'm pleased about that,' rejoined Simon. 'It's good to be alive!'

■ Dear Roamer, Reference the

demolition of the Distillery Cottages footbridge. We had been using the bridge regularly for many years having walked over from Annat and, latterly, enjoyed the challenges posed by the bridge and its approaches as they were being converted into an assault course. We are so sorry to see its demise. Yours etc, Roger Boswell, Banjo and Toby.

■ A gentleman knocked at the door of a well-known family in Caol. The lady of the house went to see who was there, and shouted back into the living room: 'There's a fella at the door with a bald head!' Her husband's retort? 'Tell him I've already got one, but wish him a happy new year.'

■ Bonnie Prince Charlie may not have reached London, but now, two and a half centuries later, the Gaels have indeed landed there. A full-time Gaelic-medium community hub is due to open in the Metropolis later this year. But that's not as strange as it might sound. There are an estimated 300,000 Scots living in the London boroughs.

■ Mention of London's Scottish connection reminds me of a statement made in the council chambers by Provost Margaret Murphie in the late 1950s: 'The Postmaster General's confirmation of the downgrading of Fort William Post Office has me thinking that the decision was initially reached by someone in London looking at a map.'

■ How's this for a piece of combined arithmetical genius by the sub-editors of a Scottish tabloid? I quote: 'Scotland's two sweetest smelling towns have been named as Bearsden, Clydebank and Milngavie – the only urban areas in the country with no industrial pollution.' Can I presume from this statement that we perm any two from three?

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# National coach puts Oban players through their paces

Squash royalty was welcomed to Atlantis Leisure on Saturday in the form of Scottish national coach Paul Bell.

A fantastic day was had by all as the high performance trainer spent the morning with the Oban Tennis and Squash Club juniors before turning his attention to

the senior players in the afternoon.

Lesley Fraser, who along with Kenny Drummond and Grant Addison coach the juniors every Saturday, said: 'I am super proud of our junior squash players today.'

'Apart from the tots, all the juniors had a session with Paul who put them through

## SQUASH

their paces on the courts. They all demonstrated great manners, respect and ability to follow instructions to the mark.

'I also feel very proud of our coaching team which consists of Kenny



Junior members.



National coach Paul Bell put the Oban Squash Club members through their paces on Saturday morning.

Drummond, Grant Addison and myself. The kids proved that what we are doing every Saturday is working.'

The afternoon saw the turn of the adults as 30 club members took part in five different group sessions with everyone enjoying every second of their court time with Paul.

Oban Tennis and Squash Club convener Jackie Kersley commented: 'It's the first time we've had the Scottish Squash national coach at the club and, hopefully, it won't be the last.'

'His knowledge, coaching skills and coaching technique were invaluable to everyone.'

'Many thanks to Oban's own Martin Heath, former squash world number four, for helping to organise this event for our club. A fantastic day was had by everyone.'

Anyone wanting any information on the squash club should get in touch with Jackie on 07816 459503.

## Funding boost will help attract elite squash players to Oban



Ethel Johnston (right), Scottish Sea Farms HR administrator, presents Oban Tennis and Squash Club convener Jackie Kersley with a cheque for £2,000.

Oban Tennis and Squash club's PSA (Professional Squash Association) Satellite competition received a major boost this week when South Shian-based Scottish Sea Farms came on board as the main sponsor.

Oban Tennis and Squash Club convener Jackie Kersley said: 'Scottish Sea Farms sponsorship of £2,000 will help bring elite squash players from all parts of the country to compete, putting Oban firmly on the professional squash circuit map.'

A Scottish Sea Farms spokesperson added: 'Scottish Sea Farms are delighted to support the Oban Open - what an exciting time for the Oban Tennis and Squash Club and for the town.'

### Inspired

'It's great to attract top squash talent so that youngsters and adults alike can be inspired.'

The event will be held at Atlantis Leisure on March 27-29.

## Scotstoun success for ladies' squash team

Eleven ladies from Oban Ladies' Squash Team travelled to Glasgow recently to compete in the annual Scotstoun ladies' bronze event.

This year's event was bigger and better than ever with a record entry of 40 women from Central and West Scotland competing. Due to the high level of participation the event was split into A, B and C grades with a main and subsequent plate section.

There were good performances all round for the Oban team with Nicola Morgan finishing fifth in the main A draw, only losing one game to a former World Masters champion from Bridge of Allan.

Congratulations to Laura Tulip who finished second in the C grade main draw and Carrie Craik who won the C grade plate.

The team would like to thank coach Colin MacNiven for his support on the day. The team are back in action in March where they are due to play Western Squash Club in a friendly match in Glasgow.



Carrie Craik won the C grade plate at Scotstoun.

# Mallaig FC holds awards ceremony

Mallaig FC held the last of its end of season awards in the Steam Inn recently. The awards, which were all presented by club committee member Kriss Gray, were spread out over the past few months as time allowed.



Mallaig's player of the year, David Currie, who also scored the goal of the season, receives his award from committee member Kriss Gray.

## Player of the year and goal of the season – David Currie

Player of the year was David Currie, who was a unanimous pick for the award. He returned to play for Mallaig last year after a spell down under in Australia which was a massive boost to the team as Currie's quality has always been undoubted.

After a slow but steady start to the season, he hit form at the right time and ended up being a real talisman for Mallaig.

Big goals in big games

from Currie proved to be the difference as Mallaig retained the league title.

On the decisive final day away to Sleat and Strath, Currie's class shone through as he scored a double to help power Mallaig to the title. His first goal that day was a thing of beauty that also helped earn him the Mallaig goal of the season award.

(Thanks to Mallaig FC for the photographs and to David Buick for the words.)



Andy Cunningham, Kriss Gray and David Currie.

## Top goal scorers – Andy Cunningham and David Currie

Both players had outstanding seasons – Currie in his debut season and Cunningham picking up where he had left off last season. Both finished on 23 goals for the season, which is a phenomenal

achievement to have two players so even. Both players were hugely influential in the Mallaig team this year leading to them both being named in the West Highland Free Press team of the year.



## Young player of the year – Ryan MacDonald

From starting the year as under-18s captain to getting injured, signing for semi-professional side Fort William, coming back to Mallaig and having to break into the first team all over, the flying winger finished the season in red hot form, chipping in with six goals on the way to a second successive title.



## Clubman of the year – David Buick

Although not as much of an influence in a playing sense this year, Buick has had plenty of work going on in other areas of the club. He became the first Mallaig Under 18s manager last year as he guided them through the very first season. He has also taken up being Mallaig FC cameraman making sure the club gets highlights most weeks to be shared all over the world and has been an all-round positive influence on the sideline at every game home and away.



## Most improved player of the year – Archie Gillies

Hugely impressive season from Archie Gillies as he continues to improve. Gillies is a striker who moonlights as a defender on occasion and who loves a tackle just as much as scoring a goal. Brilliant season as he hopes to continue to improve for seasons to come.

## SAILING



Murray MacDonald.

## Argyll sailors celebrated at RYA Scotland Awards

The Royal Yachting Association Scotland Awards are an annual celebration of the people who make a difference across the recreational and competitive boating community in Scotland. The 2019 awards take place at The Falkirk Wheel on Saturday January 25 when the winners will be announced.

Two notable nominations based in Oban include Murray MacDonald of Autism on the Water and the Monday Mayhem team from Oban Sailing Club.

For Murray MacDonald, the autism spectrum which he was diagnosed with has provided an opportunity as he founded Autism on the Water (AOTW) in 2016 to raise awareness of the condition and share his passion for sailing. The idea has now become an official charity which has received international support and enabled others with the condition to experience time on the water. This inclusive approach has gained Murray a nomination for the Elizabeth McKay Award.



Oban Sailing Club's Monday Mayhem team.

A team from Oban Sailing Club who enable the Monday Mayhem sessions is led by Richard Home and has revolutionised sailing opportunities in Oban. In ensuring the night is not all about racing, the team have delivered a regular social sailing night with shoreside activities continuing through the winter to maintain the momentum, cohesion and the fun of the group. Crucially, it engages with local families and brings a breadth of involvement to the club. The distinctiveness of Monday Mayhem has changed perceptions within the community about sailing. Despite being told it would not work, they believed and made it happen.

Ruairidh Scott, originally from Tarbert, Loch Fyne, has been nominated in the Performance of the Year category as he became the J70 World Champion and second at the Dragon World Championships in Freemantle alongside significant victories including the overall winner of the J Cup, the J70 Nationals and the HM King Juan Carlos Trophy. Ruairidh has gone on to become one of the world's most successful one design sailors and now works for North Sails UK, based in Southampton.

Ruairidh managed the whole 2019 J70 campaign including the J70 Europeans in Lake Garda and the Worlds in Torquay. The team based themselves in Torquay for a total of two and a half weeks for the Worlds and set out a strict regime of training, racing and rest. As a result they felt confident going into the Worlds with a second place at the pre-Worlds ultimately resulting in winning the 2019 World Championships.

LT

## NETBALL



The victorious Falcons side, left, with their Ospreys opposition from Sunday's league game.

Photograph: Grantown Ospreys.

## Falcons off to a flying start

Fort William Falcons got off to a flyer in their first netball league match of 2020, scoring a 57-44 win against Grantown Ospreys in Inverness on Sunday.

This was a fast-paced game from the start, but the Falcons steadily built their lead throughout the game to take the win.

The Falcons' defence worked hard to keep the Ospreys behind. Chrissie-Leigh Felgate from Oban made a fantastic debut for the west coast side, and another Oban-based player, Sarah Congdon, secured player of the match.

## FOOTBALL

## Rusty South Lochaber given harsh lesson by Cambria

Cambria	5
South Lochaber	2
GGPL – Division One	



A rusty South Lochaber Thistle travelled to Stepps for their first game since November 23 and were given a harsh lesson in shaking off the festive rust, writes Peter Newman.

The Jags had begun the day top of the league despite the long lay off, but it was the home side who began stronger, opening the scoring after 15 minutes as a home side striker took advantage of hesitation in the SLT defence to bundle home.

Things got worse 16 minutes later Cambria as doubled their advantage.

Thistle were creating chances – flying winger Sean Noble and Lewis Morrison both went close with decent chances before skipper Martin Munro halved the deficit with a trademark finish just before half-time.

The second half kicked off and the Jags were pegged back to 3-1 down after seven minutes.

Things went from bad to worse for the visitors as Cambria struck again for 4-1 and fullback John Ferguson was forced off with damaged knee ligaments.

Six minutes later, rightback Shane Gillies drove forward and unleashed a thunderbolt for 4-2 but the home side weren't done yet as Cambria fired home for a final score of 5-2.

SLT player/manager Alan Gray said: 'We're obviously very disappointed with the result and, frankly, we are better than we showed today. It's been a long time without a fixture but I believe we can play much better.'

'Although there are many positives, we are struggling with injuries and it was very sad to see John forced off today.'

'Next week we head to undefeated league leaders East Kilbride so we will be working very hard on the training ground during the week to try to improve on this result.'

# Alleycats stay top after beating Peaky Bowlers

After week eight of the Lochaber Building Supplies ten-pin bowling leagues at the Nevis Centre in Fort William, Alleycats still remain at the top of the scratch division as the only team with the maximum 40 points after beating previous second place team Peaky Bowlers 5-0.

Team With A Bowling Problem are the new second place team with 26 points followed by Peaky Bowlers and British Legion Fort William next on 25 points.

Also this week, Gutter Girls celebrated their first scratch points of the season after beating Rotavators 5-0. The handicap division is still very close at the top where Alleycats are the new leaders with 27 points followed by Peaky Bowlers on 26 points and Team With A Bowling Problem third on 24 points.

Individually this week, the best scratch game came from Gus Fraser (Council) with a 163. Iain Gregor (British Legion Fort William) had the top two-game scratch series of 306, while Colin Pinkett (Council) had the top handicap game of 228 and Gaynor



Nevis Centre.

Weldon (British Legion Fort William) had the top two-game handicap series of 423.

The best team scores this week came from Alleycats with the top scratch game of 582 and the top two-game

scratch series of 1090 while Council had the top handicap game of 758 and the top two-game handicap series of 1509.

The top scratch averages are currently held by Pam Weller (Alleycats) with 161 followed

## TEN-PIN BOWLING

by Steve Day (Team With A Bowling Problem) with 147 and Tony Whitelocke (Alleycats) with 146.

# Hebrides athletes are to benefit from travel awards scheme

The Islands Athlete Travel Award Scheme allows up to eight elite athletes from the Outer Hebrides the opportunity to benefit from the programme designed to support travel costs in the islands.

The aim of this scheme is to help the elite athletes of the Outer Hebrides, Orkney and Shetland to gain better access to competitive and developmental opportunities available on the mainland.

The eight individuals will receive £1,500 per person and awards will be allocated through an application process, with athletes required to show evidence of how the grant will improve their performance, provide them access to quality training op-

portunities and improve their sports or club environment.

The sportscotland organisation has allocated each of the three local authorities £10,000, with the councils then required to top this up with £2,000 of their own funding plus the equivalent of £3,000 of management and administrative time.

Stewart Harris, chief executive of sportscotland, said: 'At sportscotland we recognise the specific challenges faced by island athletes.'

'That's why we are delighted to continue support for the Island Athlete Travel Scheme, in partnership with the island councils.'

'By working together we can deliver services locally

**sportscotland**  
the national agency for sport

through the sportscotland institute of sport in the Outer Hebrides while providing additional support to allow talented athletes to travel to competitions and progress in their chosen sport.

'It's fantastic to hear that the athletes who received awards last year have benefited and we look forward to working with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to support more island athletes.'

Councillor Angus McCormack, chairman of the Education, Sport and Children's Services Commit-

tee, added: 'The Athlete Travel Award Scheme has been a fantastic addition to the support the comhairle is able to provide our elite athletes. The feedback from the first year has been very encouraging and I would anticipate a high level of applicants for this year's grants.'

'Sportscotland has become a valued partner over the years in our efforts to encourage our young people to get involved in sport and activities, and we are delighted that they have agreed to continue their support of this scheme.'

# Youth climbers hitting the heights in competitions



The Ice Factor at Kinlochleven recently hosted the first of its OnSite Masters Competition Series involving six top rope routes, with four climbers from Three Wise Monkeys at Fort William took part.

Results were: 1 (senior), Jamie Johnston; 1 (youth 14 years), Archie MacIntyre; 4, (youth 15 years) Hamish MacKay; 6, (youth eight years), Aaron Tresidder.

Ice Factor's second round of the OnSite Master Competition Series was held earlier this month.

Results were: 1, (senior, 16 years old), Craig Allott; 2, (senior 14 years old), Archie MacIntyre; 3, (senior adult), Es Tresidder; 3, (senior 15 years old), Hamish Mackay; 1,



Some of the climbers taking part in competitions at the Ice Factor.

## CLIMBING

(youth eight years old), Aaron Tresidder.

Three Wise Monkeys also hosted one of the National Boulder League Series on January 4, featuring 20 boulder problems. The local climbers did exceptionally well.

There were also 20 boulder problems plus three top rope routes for January 5 winter league event.

Three Wise Monkeys second round is on Sunday February 2 from 9am-8pm.

Ice Factor's third round of the Onsite Masters is on Thursday February 13, from 5pm-10pm.

# Bad weather hampers action in Mallaig's win over Kinlochleven

Mallaig	3
Kinlochleven	1
Challenge match	

The newly reformed Kinlochleven team travelled for their third fixture to Mallaig in the sort of weather which wrecks fishing trawlers, writes Peter Newman.

With half the home side's floodlights being out of commission, the visibility and the weather soon put the visitors to the test.

A penalty was awarded against Ally Banks when a ball was cannoned into him at point blank range. David Wilson in the Kinloch goal was in fine form to stop the spot kick.

However, 10 minutes later, he was not so lucky as Banks was again adjudged to have infringed as the rangy Mallaig winger went down

in the box. Mallaig's striker Archie Gillies slotted home from the spot.

The game moved into an end to end fashion as the ball was taken by the wind. Kinlochleven played some nice football with Mikey Maclean and Matthew Prosser combining with William Taylor on the left to work their way through the Mallaig ranks.

Gordie McCredie was powering up from the back and proving to be a thorn in the home side's defence. A whipped free kick was the result after McCredie was savagely hauled down after powering into the centre of the park.

Sam Moffat fashioned a snapped shot from nowhere which skimmed through but Mallaig were also creating chances, exploiting centre half Peter Newman's vulnerability under the swirling

high balls of the typhoon winds.

In the second half, Kinlochleven continued to press forward and were given their reward as Baljit Singh took advantage of a well worked move to steer the ball into the net to level the scores.



The visitors lost McCredie to a shredded hamstring sustained under the previous scything challenge and Banks shifted into midfield.

Ross Maclean moved back to defensive midfield and found a new lease of life moving the

ball with crisp precision and combining well with Mikey Maclean.

Sadly, the second goal came as Mallaig attempted to return the ball after Kinloch had kicked it out for a home side player being felled with cramp. Fraser Davis's kick was hit too hard and, as the ball was carried by the wind, the unfortunate Wilson was left stranded.

James Laing was continuing to have an outstanding game at left back, tackling hard and playing the visitors back into the game.

However, as Kinloch pressed up in search of another equaliser, substitute striker Ewan Richmond drew the luckless Newman tight to him, laid the ball off to Gillies and – as Wilson parried his shot – Richmond, having slipped his marker, fired the rebound into the roof of the net for a final score of 3-1.



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## WEATHER

**Thursday**  
Light rain showers and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures  
7°C to 9°C.

**Friday**  
Light rain showers and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures  
6°C to 8°C.

**Weekend Outlook**  
**Saturday**  
light rain and a moderate breeze  
**Sunday**  
Hail showers and a fresh breeze  
Temperatures  
4°C to 7°C.



## TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday January 23, 2020 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

<b>Thur</b>	04.42	3.6	11.00	1.2
	17.07	3.6	23.23	1.2
<b>Fri</b>	05.21	3.8	11.46	1.2
	17.41	3.7	***	**
<b>Sat</b>	00.01	1.1	05.58	4.0
	12.27	1.1	18.14	3.7
<b>Sun</b>	00.39	1.0	06.34	4.0
	13.05	1.1	18.47	3.8
<b>Mon</b>	01.16	1.0	07.10	4.0
	13.41	1.2	19.19	3.8
<b>Tues</b>	01.51	1.0	07.44	4.0
	14.15	1.3	19.51	3.7
<b>Wed</b>	02.25	1.2	08.18	3.8
	14.49	1.4	20.22	3.6

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

## Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

**Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd**

Heavy rain fails to dampen spirits at Glenfinnan shinty match

Dalgety named Glengarry Shinty Club players' player of the year

# League points and trophy win for Fort

Clachnacuddin	0
Fort William	1
Highland League	

The long trip to Inverness's Canal Park turned out to be more than worth it for Fort William FC on Friday night, when a 65th-minute strike by midfielder Iain MacLellan secured three league points and the Simon Shields Memorial Trophy 2020.

This was the second league win of the season for Fort after beating Clach 1-0 at Claggan Park in September.

This time, it was Clach goalkeeper Jake Williamson who was left rueing a poor pass from his box after it was pounced on by the prowling figure of MacLellan, who

charged forward and fired the ball into the net.

The 0-1 win saw Fort do the double over the home side, as well as posting a win in only his second game in charge in this, his third incarnation as Fort manager, for a delighted Calum MacLean.

'I'm very pleased with Friday night's result. We dominated the first half and we had a couple of other good chances but just didn't take them,' MacLean told the Lochaber Times.

'Slowly, Clach came back into the game before we scored in the 65th minute and hung on to see out the game for the win. Those three points are very important to us.'

An estimated 700 fans were at Highland Rugby Club's



The Fort William FC team with the trophy. Photograph: Duncan MacPherson.

Canal Park ground for the game - relocated there as repairs continue to Clach's Grant Street Park following a Christmas Eve fire.

In the first five minutes of play, Fort were denied three times with shots from MacLellan, Donald Morrison and Roddy Kennedy all blocked by the home keeper.

Clach's best chance of the half came on the 24th minute mark when Martin Callum's 25-yard strike forced a top drawer save from Fort keeper Mateusz Kulbacki.

Two minutes later, Fort's Aidan Taylor gave the home fans a fright when his attempt from 25 yards out was just millimetres over the bar.

Kulbacki and Williamson were both called into action in their respective goals sev-

eral times each before the end of the half, but the half-time score remained at 0-0.

After the interval, Fort soon had Williamson under pressure with both Ross Gunn and Donald Morrison forcing him to make stoppages.

But it was the goalkeeper's error midway through the second half that gave Fort the opening they had been waiting for and that saw MacLellan find the back of the net for the game's solitary goal.

Fort nearly notched their second goal in the 83rd minute but Ryan Fyffe's cracker of a free kick was brilliantly saved by Williamson.

It made for a nerve-wracking final period and Fort hearts were in mouths when Clach's Blair Lawrie came

## FOOTBALL

close to heading in an equaliser, but was luckily denied by the fingertips of Kulbacki, who tipped the ball onto the crossbar.

Looking ahead to this Saturday's league clash and Fort's first home game of 2020 against Buckie Thistle, MacLean says it will be another stiff test.

'All games in this league are tough and Buckie won't be any different. They're flying high at the moment, but hopefully we'll have a couple of players back who we were missing the other night due to flu,' he said.

Fort William FC v Buckie Thistle, at Claggan Park, Saturday January 25, kick-off 3pm.

## Cross country running event was muddy brilliant

The inter-district cross country races, including home nation competitions, were held at Run Stirling earlier this month.

The demanding course at King's Park was wet and very muddy which gave ideal cross country conditions.

In the under 13 boys race, Sorley Swabey of Lochaber AC had an excellent run, taking 13th place from a high class field of 73 runners.

He was first placed runner for the 12 strong North district team and covered the 3km in 12 mins, 42 secs.

## Lochaber Club Lotteries

Ballachulish Shinty Lottery: numbers for 19/1 were 5, 9 and 15. No winners again this week, so it's a £600 draw next week.

Caol Community Centre Bingo Club Lotto: numbers for 19/1 were 2, 3 and 20. No winners so £600 next week.

Caol Regeneration Lotto: numbers for 16/1 were 2, 6 and 9. Winner of £400 jackpot was Jean Holmes. Next draw is 23/1 for £100 jackpot.

Fort William Golf Club Lotto: numbers for 16/1 were 3, 10 and 17. No winner so £500 available for draw on 23/1.

## GET INVOLVED

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



Fort William chairman Peter Murphy and captain Robert Nevison with the Simon Shields Memorial Trophy.

Photograph: Donald Cameron

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