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 details on page 48

Bereaved family devastated as Lismore cemetery is full

by David McPhee
 dmcph@obantimes.co.uk



A family has been left devastated after finding out there are no more burial plots on Lismore.

It had hoped to lay a relative to rest beside his family on the island last week, but had no idea the cemetery was full.

A post was shared online highlighting the issue in the hope of stopping others ending up in a similar situation.

It read: 'We had hoped to bury a much-loved family member on Lismore. After exhausting all options, it has been confirmed to us that there are no more available and deep enough grave plots on the island and no depth left in any of our existing family plots.'

'We had no idea about this. I think we assumed it would be common knowledge once the graveyard was getting full, rather than it coming as such a shock at an already difficult time.'

'We are now having to think of other options for him and

are devastated to not lay him to rest with his family in Lismore.

'If you own existing plots, it might be worth confirming with the council that there will definitely be room for a burial in them when the time comes.'

Archie McGillivray, chairman of Lismore Community Council, said the situation is quite serious.

'It is a concern, because

'Sadly, across Argyll a number of graveyards are full or nearly so.'

when something happens there is no where for folk to go,' he told The Oban Times.

'The nearest cemetery is Pennyfuir in Oban, but people on the island don't want to be taken away to Pennyfuir.'

'They want to be with their family.'

Oban councillor Kieron Green said: 'Being faced with the death of a loved one is difficult enough without worries

over whether they will be able to be buried in a place close enough that respects can be made in years to come.

'Sadly, across Argyll and Bute, a number of graveyards are full or nearly so and clearly this is something that should be being addressed.'

'For individual sites, options can be looked at including investigating whether there are lairs reserved which are no longer required, or whether land is available adjacent so that additional lairs can be created.'

'A further challenge is the depth of soil available in graveyards on existing and potential new land.'

'It is my hope that work being carried out by officers on Lismore and elsewhere will mean that in future this situation is not repeated.'

'I offer my sincere condolences and apologies to the family who have not been able to bury their relative in the graveyard.'

Argyll and Bute Council

Continued on page five

Long-service award for firefighters



Three Oban Airport firefighters received long-service medals this week. Senior Airport Fire Officer Tom Eddleston and crew commander Murray MacGregor have both served for 13 years, with fellow firefighter John McDonald notching up 12 years. For full story, turn to page seven.



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OT

Comar in new search for leading position

by Kathie Griffiths
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Mull arts organisation Comar is looking for a new leading man or woman – again.

The search is back on for a new chief executive after the preferred candidate had a change of heart and turned the job offer down.

The successful applicant, coming from off the island and with a film-making background, had been officially introduced to Comar staff and supporters in December, as well as board members.

The Oban Times understands the man's decision not to take up the post came as a 'shock' and 'disappointment' to Comar.



Alasdair McCrone.

The ability to work under pressure, to understand finances, to motivate and manage people, to make the most of scarce resources and to spot potential problems

before they materialise were just some of the ideal qualities listed on the lengthy job spec.

It was last April that Comar's previous CEO Alasdair McCrone quit his £38,000 job following 'a mutual agreement' with Comar bosses. It came almost four years after he and another director Gordon Maclean were let go because of cost-cutting measures, then were re-instated after more than 250 people gathered at a public meeting voting no confidence in the Comar board at that time and calling for the directors to get their jobs back.

Music director Mr Maclean is currently Comar's acting CEO.

A Comar spokesperson said: 'Unfortunately, we had to inform

our supporter members that we were unsuccessful in recruiting a new CE/theatre producer. Our preferred candidate took the time in December to meet the board, staff and community, but following this, we mutually agreed that he would not be taking the post. We send him every good wish for his future plans.

'We are currently finalising our plans for the coming season and beyond, but aim to have a theatre producer come in to programme the 2020 season and to have a new chief executive/theatre producer for 2021.'

As well as the main-part job, Comar also has three other vacancies to try to fill in admin, the cafe and in marketing.

POLICE FILES

■ About 8am on February 12, on the A82 near Bridge of Orchy, a white van, which was travelling south, collided with another vehicle causing damage to the wing mirror. Police are investigating.

■ About 11pm on February 14, at Victoria Crescent, Oban, a man, 24, allegedly acted in a threatening and abusive manner. The man was later traced and charged. A report was submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

■ About 11.20pm on February 14, at Victoria Crescent, Oban, a man, 33, was searched, allegedly found in possession of cocaine and charged. Another man, 32, was also charged with allegedly supplying drugs. A report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

■ About 9pm on February 15, at Station Square, Oban, an 18-year-old woman was allegedly in possession of a knife in a public place. She was later traced, arrested and charged and a report was submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

■ Between 7.50am and 3.30pm on February 16, on Lochandhu Road, Taynuilt, a vehicle was vandalised by scratching the paint down the length of the vehicle. Police are investigating.

■ About 6pm on February 11, in Main Street, Tobermory, a 39-year-old man was arrested for allegedly behaving in an abusive manner and assaulting a woman. The man was charged with the offences, held for court and a report was submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

■ About 2.20am on February 16, on Main Street, Tobermory, a BMW was vandalised by scratching the paint down the length of the vehicle. Police are investigating.

■ Between 11am on February 4 and 10.20am on Tuesday February 11, a shed at Glenegeedale, Islay, was broken into and a SGS portable petrol generator was stolen. Police are investigating the incident.

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.

Coastal erosion to be focus of public meeting

Islanders on Luing are being invited to a public meeting to discuss coastal erosion, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Storms Ciara and Dennis have sparked debate about Luing's defences against the elements.

Now a date has been set for Thursday February 27 at 7.30pm in Cullipool Hall to gauge people's thoughts and concerns, if any, says Luing Community Council chairman Mike Barlow.

The meeting, being co-organ-

ised with Luing Community Trust, will explore whether a working/action group is needed to look at ways of keeping the island safe from future storms and flooding.

Big boulders from the island, 16 miles south of Oban, have already been placed along part of the front of Cullipool village as part of a defence system and are still holding strong, but there are some signs of possible coastal erosion near the south corner of

the settlement, close to old steps leading down to the beach.

Mr Barlow said: 'It is an exploratory meeting to find out what Cullipool residents are thinking. What with global warming very much in the news and the few big storms we've had recently, and with more on the way, people have been talking about the effects they could have on Luing and we thought we should have a meeting to hear what people have to say about it. If there are

concerns, we'll look at setting up an action group to see what can be done or what help might be out there. If it's not a worry, we won't.'

Mr Barlow said as far as he was aware, Cullipool itself has never been flooded.

'We'll also be interested to hear from the history group and any long-time residents about storms and any floods from the past. People's contributions will be welcome,' added Mr Barlow.



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Oban mum-to-be wins wedding raffle

by David McPhee
dmphee@obantimes.co.uk



An Oban mum-to-be will marry her fiancé next February after winning a wedding package raffle worth £15,000.

Karen MacInnes organised the raffle to raise money for Motor Neurone Disease. She smashed her £5,000 target and has so far raised £6,500 for MND Scotland.

Tricia McLeod's name was pulled out of a bag on Valentine's Day from 615 names, but as she is already happily married, she passed on the prize to her friend Lynsey McDonald.

Lynsey said the 'unexpected' gift made her 'so happy' and she is set to marry fiancé Seamus MacCrone on February 13, next year.

Karen organised the raffle after Oban man Brian MacDonald was diagnosed with MND aged just 42.

Karen is no stranger to fundraising. In 2018, she organised the renowned We'll Walk This



Road Together charity concert in the Corran Halls, which raised more than £15,000 for Pancreatic Cancer Scotland.

Karen said she was 'overwhelmed' by the generosity and support for the raffle and thanked everyone who bought a ticket and donated a prize.

'It is a lot of their time and money,' she said. 'It was unbelievable when I saw it go up. I was sitting in work and every 10 minutes I was

checking the progress. I was getting nervous and excited watching the total roll in.'

Speaking about why she organised the fundraiser, Karen said: 'I have no idea where the idea came from. I had the bug for fundraising and I thought what can I do next. I tested it with a few people and I started with the bigger prizes - I spoke with Amanda at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls and she was delighted to do the

Winner, Lynsey McDonald and raffle organiser Karen MacInnes celebrate with a party popper.

DM_t08_
WeddingRaffle02

catering. That in itself is massive.' From there, she contacted other businesses and ended up with a package worth £15,000.

The winner was chosen just after 9pm last Friday and Claire McCuish and Laura-Ann MacDonald had the honour of drawing the raffle live on Facebook.

Speaking to The Oban Times, Lynsey McDonald said: 'I was not expecting it at all. It is amazing.'

She said that when they found out they were expecting a baby, the wedding was pushed down the priority list.

'Thanks so much to Tricia,' Lynsey added. 'It was so unexpected and I am so happy.'

The donation page will remain open until the end of the month for anyone who wishes to contribute, however, as the winner has been selected there will be nothing further to win.

To donate, visit: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/karen-macinnas4

What Lynsey won

- A venue and catering for 75 guests thanks to Argyllshire Gathering Halls, as well as table and chair covers, table centrepieces, and a wedding arch
- £350 towards wedding flowers, Thistle and Rose
- £350 towards a wedding cake, Natalie's Cupcakery
- LJF Photography will capture the event from ceremony until first dance
- Marina's Bridal has donated £500 for dresses
- £330 towards a fully-fitted kilt, Chalmers, Oban
- Bridal make-up and nails, Oro Rosa Make-up & Beauty
- Full set of lashes and eyebrow wax/tint, The Beauty Lounge
- Gents' haircut and hot towel shave, Raven Hairstyling and Barbering
- Oban Executive Car Hire will drive the bride
- Niall Jordan will pipe on day
- 15 bottles of prosecco, Soroba House
- £100 for champagne, Tesco Oban
- Humanist Shona Sharp has offered to wed them
- DJ George Noble
- Rock and Reel Band
- Facials, BOHO Brow & Beauty
- Claire MacCuish @ Spruce Bridal hair
- £100 towards honeymoon, Eric Smith World Travel
- Tina MacGillvray wedding favours
- Wee Bay Teepees offered two teepees for children

Progress made on meeting to tackle drug misuse in Oban

Further calls have been made for a stakeholders meeting to take place to help those suffering with substance abuse in Oban.

Alastair MacGregor, chief executive of Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA), is calling for a meeting with those who have the 'resources and influence' to help tackle the issue.

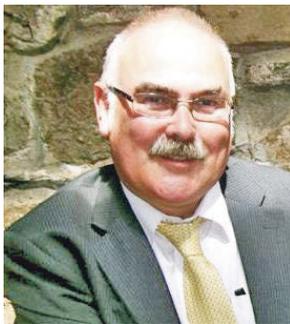
Chairwoman of Oban, Lorn, and the Isles Area Committee, Councillor Elaine Robertson, said she would support such an event and the Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership would be 'pleased to attend'.

This comes after former drugs worker and Oban councillor Julie McKenzie called for a drugs summit to discuss the issue.

Ms McKenzie previously called for a drugs mapping exercise to be carried out to best ascertain the issue in the area.

Iain Angus MacDonald, chairman of OASIS, an Oban-based addiction charity, backed that stance, stating an 'independent assessment would go a long way to identify what the problem is really like'.

Speaking to The Oban



Alastair MacGregor.

Times this week, ACHA's Mr MacGregor said: 'The Scottish Government last week announced an additional £12.7 million to tackle drug and alcohol misuse in Scotland.'

'That is welcome but in my opinion in Oban we need to ensure that bodies like the council, the health service, Scottish Government, voluntary organisations and housing associations pull together to resource the support required to take young people back from the terrible end game that drug misuse can bring.'

'I understand that while some work is going on on the ground, it needs to be resourced and supported better and there needs to be better

joined-up work between those that have the resources to make a difference.

'At this point, I am simply asking that the powers-that-be meet to talk through the reality that exists at the present time and have an honest discussion about how we move forward.'

Councillor Robertson said: 'It's a horrendous issue we are facing, not just in Oban but across the entire country.'

'I would be happy for a stakeholders meeting to go ahead. Anything that can improve the situation has to be welcomed.'

'If [Alastair] called a meeting, I would certainly support him in that and when I am fit and able, I am willing to participate in it.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership said: 'We would be pleased to attend future meetings to help develop services available to people living in Oban and surrounding communities.'

For more information on alcohol and drug support, advice and services, visit the ADP website - www.argyllandbuteadp.info - call 01546 604948 or email High-UHB. ArgyllandButeADP@nhs.net

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OT

Bonawe's Breege leads vital textile revolution

Bonawe's Breege Smyth has been installed as Deacon of one of Scotland's oldest crafts.

Breege's previous experience in fashion and on high-profile weaving projects saw her work recognised at the Incorporation of Weavers' Choosing Dinner in The Trades House of Glasgow on Friday February 14. The craft celebrated its 515th anniversary on Sunday.

Guests speakers included Clare Campbell, founder of 'rebel' Scottish design house Prickly Thistle, and SNP politician Dr Aileen McLeod, a former MEP, serving until January 31 2020 when the Brexit process was completed. She was also formerly a MSP for South Scotland from 2011-2016 and Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform from 2014 to 2016.

Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara said Grace.

During her speech to guests on Friday, Breege highlighted the challenges she hopes to address during her tenure, including the decline of traditional crafts, such as kilt making, and climate change.

She said: 'The textile industry has to respond [to climate change]. Textiles must become sustainable and the circular economy must be embraced. Smaller companies are struggling to see how they can influence change but they are best placed to adapt to change. Young people across the world have thrown down the gauntlet. We must react and we must respond.'

Breege also highlighted this year is the 200th anniversary of The Radical War of 1820 when weavers were one of the leading groups of people fighting for better working conditions and pay.

She said: 'I mention these snippets of history to illus-



Breege Smyth, front third left, with her top table guests including Brendan O'Hara MP, back row left; Dr Aileen McLeod, fourth left back row, and Clare Campbell, centre back row. Photograph: Ian Watson.

trate another radical period in our textile industry is inevitable and it has begun.

'In Dunollie Castle, volunteers learn how to weave on

a four-shaft loom under the guidance of weaver Marilyn Drummond. The loom dates back to 1853. There was weaving on a large scale in Oban at one time and it is great to see that skill being brought back to life.

'But how do we effect radical change? There are interesting times ahead, because something must change. Fortunately for us The Trades House and its 14 crafts play a major role in supporting young people to achieve - through sponsorship, scholarships, awards and funding. The well-being of our young people is crucial. My Master Court is aware of the importance of being relevant to industry. We are continually evaluating our projects, our awards and ensuring they meet the needs of today's students and their ambitions. We are not afraid of change. We might not like it but we do embrace it. That is why this incorporation is still going strong after 500 years. Our new crop of weavers and designers will rise to the challenge of climate change and we, the Incorporation of Weavers of Glasgow, will be there to support them.'

During her year of office,

Breege will attend a number of events promoting Scotland's weavers.

Following the evening, she told The Oban Times: 'I was delighted with the evening, it exceeded all my expectations. The speeches were inspiring and they hit the right note with the audience.'

'It felt like real 'girl power' at the top table and that makes a lovely change from many of the dinners I attend.'

'Climate change is not an issue, it is a crisis. The textile industry must respond to this crisis. My next move is to organise a textile sustainability seminar at The Trades House in Glasgow. This will gather small businesses to see how we can work together to create a circular economy. By that I mean when textiles are produced, we look at how they can be re-used to prevent them from ending up in landfill. I will take the seminar to Oban in the autumn.'

Breege's year in office will have a focus on the West Coast.

Next month Breege will be taking samples of Dunollie's new Lorn tweed and pioneering marine life textiles from Cuantec at Dunstaffnage to showcase at Westminster.

Youngsters recognised at awards

The achievements of Argyll and Bute's young people have been recognised at a prestigious awards ceremony in Dunoon.

Thirty-four finalists attended the 2020 Argyll and Bute Youth Awards in the Queens Hall last week.

The winners were:

■ Duke of Edinburgh Outstanding Achievement Award: Oban High School's Support Department

■ Unsung Hero Award sponsored by McLay Glass: Josh Blair, Lochgilphead

■ Youth Environment Award sponsored by ACT: Hermitage Academy Eco Schools Group, Helensburgh

■ Youth Sporting Award sponsored by LiveArgyll: Mollie Aiken, Bute

■ Youth Entrepreneur Award sponsored by SAMTEQ: Shanice Honeyman, Lochgilphead

■ Youth Volunteering Award sponsored by John Brown of Strone: SOAP, Dunoon

■ Youth Arts Award sponsored by Anne Paterson: Campbeltown Brass Band

■ Health and Well-being Award sponsored by NHS Health and Well-being: Freya Kennedy-Boyle, Bute

■ Youth Citizenship Award sponsored by Gateway: Rosie Sumsion, Helensburgh

■ Special Contribution Awards: Hannah Nicolson and Stephanie Thomas

Argyll and Bute Council's deputy policy lead for education, councillor Keiron Green, attended the event and said: 'Our children and young people are a true credit to Argyll and Bute and I felt humbled to attend the awards. Every day they are making outstanding contributions to our communities and events such as this lets them, and everyone else, see how valued they are. Congratulations to all the winners.'

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Unpaid work for Oban man who stole £400

An Oban man has been ordered to carry out 100 hours of unpaid work for stealing £400.

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

Monday January 13. The court heard Kelso was drinking and playing pool at a friend's house with one other on September 15, 2018, when £400 went missing.

After a trial, Sheriff Patrick Hughes found the 22-year-old

guilty. Kelso was sentenced on Thursday February 13.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes said: 'You come before the court as a young man with no previous record of convictions. It seems to be a spur of the moment and unplanned matter.'

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Harbour repair hopes are weather dependent

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Marooned islanders on Easdale are hoping work will start this week to remove slate blocking their harbour.

Weather depending, Argyll and Bute Council was hoping to send over a barge yesterday with excavating equipment to begin the task.

Until the council's usual ferry service can be resumed, the council had made arrangements for a stand-in boat with a local boat owner and to have a landing craft on standby in case of emergencies.

But it seems the attempt to help stranded islanders did not get everyone's approval.

Sea tour operator Seafari had loaned its dinghy to Easdale's ferrymen so people, including the resident doctor, could get off the island for essentials. But the gesture, on what was



Tumbled slate has blocked Easdale harbour after the recent storms.

officially National Random Acts of Kindness Day, was prevented by the Maritime and Coastal Agency.

A copy of an email to Seafari from an official at the MCA and posted on Easdale island community Facebook page asked the arrangement be stopped and said the vessel being used was believed to

be 'unsuitable' and could 'potentially be considered as dangerously unsafe'.

That Facebook post prompted more than 70 comments, including: 'Health & Safety gone to pot' and 'Sad times indeed when people are only trying to keep a community functioning'.

An Argyll and Bute Council

spokesperson said: 'This is a unique situation where a local business and the council have pulled together to meet the needs of the local community. We are in contact with MCA to explain the seriousness of the situation and need for this temporary solution to prevent the island being cut off.'

'The Seafari vessel is the only one suitable for taking residents from the island to the mainland while the council ferry remains locked within Easdale Harbour. This is not a paid-for service - this is simply an act of community spirit to enable local people to get to work or any other vital appointments.'

'Meantime, weather permitting, our contractor is due to take excavating equipment over by barge to remove material from the harbour entrance.'

Following the storm damage

to the harbour, questions are being asked if something should have been done sooner to strengthen the slate walls. It was about 12 years ago when the harbour was last blocked.

One resident, who did not want to be named, said: 'Some people are wondering if what happened should have been foreseen. The two sides of the harbour were visibly shifting towards each other. I'm not sure if those signs were an opportunity missed.'

The damaged harbour meant one family were unable to return home at the end of their holiday and had to be taken in by friends on the mainland. They have been warned to expect to be away from home for a week.

'These are pretty extraordinary circumstances but it goes to show just how much of a lifeline service our ferry is,' said the mum-of-one.

Oban man admits having indecent image of child

An Oban man who admitted possessing an indecent photograph of a child has been sentenced to a community payback order.

Hugh Alexander MacIntyre, of Tigh-na-Craobh, Glenmore Road, Oban, was given 200 hours of unpaid work and will be under the supervision of the social work department for three years.

The 46-year-old will also be subject to the notification requirement of the Sexual Offences Act for three years.

He was sentenced at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday February 3. He was in possession of the image between September 9, 2017 and July 20, 2018.



Coll flights ready for take off after pay row

Flights to Coll were expected to resume this week after a firefighters' pay dispute, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Problems recruiting a new council-run fire crew meant flights from the mainland had to be suspended on safety grounds.

The council's contract with Scottish Fire and Rescue Service for fire crew cover officially ended on January 29 and discussions with the service to put interim arrangements in place, in case recruitment failed, were not successful.

Islanders claimed the four fire crew roles being taken over from SFRS involved more work in return for a lower salary. Argyll and Bute Council said it had secured interest from islanders on Colonsay in posts needed for its airport and had hoped the same arrangement could work for Coll.

'The approach we are taking mirrors what happens on other small islands with airports and the rate of pay is comparable to that of Scottish Fire and Rescue,' said the council

spokesperson. However, a meeting on Friday between Argyll and Bute Council and Coll community councillors managed to agree 'some steps' forward, resulting in flights being expected to resume on Wednesday February 19.

'Alongside this, we are training a dedicated fire safety crew for the airport. This is part of our commitment to support our non-statutory air services, which includes £2 million funding over the next four years,' said council the spokesperson.

Bereaved family devastated as Lismore cemetery full

Continued from page one said it will be asking local residents across the constituency about their personal choices and views this year, so 'a new set of cemetery policies can be proposed'.

The council has revealed there are 66 cemeteries closed to the sale of spaces, which has remained 'fairly stable' since 2005.

Local authorities are only required to provide one cemetery per area, but Argyll

and Bute has 65 cemeteries available for the purchase of lairs.

There are a large number of lairs that have been sold, but 70 years have lapsed without them being used. One option in areas of most need, the council said, could be to investigate if these are still required and claim them back if not.

Councillor Robin Currie, policy lead for housing, roads and infrastructure services,

said: 'Caring appropriately for those who have passed away has been an important rite for human beings for many thousands of years - whatever our beliefs.'

'We appreciate the desire from people to be at rest with their loved ones in places with family connections. What we want to do is understand priorities and expectation so we can plan for the future and try to ensure that no areas are disadvantaged.'

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OT

Council budget cut blow

Millions of pounds will have to be cut from Argyll and Bute Council's budget after its Scottish Government funding was slashed.

The area's funding has been cut by more than the Scottish average and was slammed by Argyll and Bute council leader Aileen Morton.

The council will meet to set its impacted budget next Thursday, February 27.

Councillor Morton said obstacles have now been put in the way of growing Argyll and Bute's economy at a time

Argyll and Bute's cash slashed by more than Scottish average

when it needs to attract more people and jobs.

Argyll and Bute's capital budget for investment in roads, schools and other assets has been cut by 21 per cent, compared to the Scottish average of 17 per cent.

Its revenue budget for the day-to-day running of services has also been cut by 1.4 per cent compared to the Scottish average of one per cent.

Councillor Morton said: 'Argyll and Bute deserves as much support and invest-

ment as other council areas. This level of cut will mean more impact on our day-to-day services. It also puts obstacles in place to growing the local economy at a time when Argyll and Bute needs to attract people and jobs to the area. This is unwelcome to say the least.'

Argyll and Bute covers the second largest area, and has the highest number of inhabited islands, of all Scotland's councils making services more expensive to deliver. It also has to invest in air and

ferry services. Councillor Morton did, however, welcome news the Scottish Government is increasing its investment in ferry services by £1 million.

'We have raised the importance of investment in ferry services in Argyll and Bute with the Scottish Government and welcome this increase as what must surely be support for this area.'

The Scottish Government, via Transport Scotland, funds ferry services in other parts of Scotland. We have worked

to secure similar support for Argyll and Bute to support our day to day costs and the replacement of the Lismore ferry.

'The fact the Scottish Government has increased its budget by that amount is a positive sign at this stage for Argyll and Bute. What we need now is formal confirmation of our allocation.'

Reports outlining the council's budget outlook are being considered today (Thursday February 20) by the Policy and Resources Committee.

Pub's lifeboat supporters thanked in kind

Oban lifeboat's unlikely link to the Forester's Arms in the landlocked village of Cambusbarron, near Stirling, took another twist this month.

The pub and its regulars have been stalwart donors to the RNLI's Betty's Pots fundraising campaign and have been acknowledged by the lifeboat station for their sterling efforts.

But the support was returned on Saturday February 8 when three Oban residents – John Penny, Alex Peterson

and Elliott Wright – visited the Forester's to watch the Scotland versus England Six Nations clash.

Pub manager Kirstie Inglis said: 'They told me they had one of their best afternoons ever watching the rugby and tucking into our free soup and stovies. They said they were in the central belt and wanted to watch the game and decided to come to Cambusbarron because they had read in The Oban Times about our support for the lifeboat. And they were

good enough to send a letter and photograph of Oban afterwards thanking us for our hospitality along with a cutting from the paper.'

The letter and cutting were given pride of place on a wall in the pub. The note reads: 'To everyone at the Forester's Arms, thank you for a great afternoon spent with you on Saturday and for your support of Oban's lifeboat.'

It is signed by John Penny, Alex Peterson and Elliott Wright.



Forester's Arms manager Kirstie Inglis, second left, and some of her regulars who raise funds for Oban lifeboat. Inset: The thank you letter and cutting.

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Glencruitten Golf Club suits Oban to a tee

Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

editor@obantimes.co.uk

WHERE IS THIS?



I've been finding out a bit more about what's on offer at Glencruitten Golf Club and, as usual, I'm amazed at how much I didn't know.

It started as inquiries about what they can offer cruise passengers when they arrive for the day and it's grown arms and legs.

I've always been aware of what a fantastic place the clubhouse is for parties and events, having attended quite a few over the years, but I'm not a golfer, although it is a beautiful walk around the course – mountainous but beautiful.

I also know all sorts of competitions take place throughout the year, often ending with a few drams in the clubhouse having had to collect family members over the years after the competitions and drams.

But I didn't know you can hire clubs, trolleys and electric buggies or anything about the Junior

Golf Academy on a Sunday morning from 10.45am.

Along with opportunities to play shinty, football, rugby and other sports, it's reassuring to know there are so many ways to get youngsters out of the house and running about in the fresh air.

If you have a child or grandchild who might be interested in golf, get in touch with the club.

You never know, your offspring might be the next Robert MacIntyre who, I was delighted to see, is now advertising Martyn's Monday Club on his golf bag.

That's one way to spread the message worldwide.

The photograph last week was of our lovely new high school.

This week's photograph is of somewhere a bit older.

Inn customers keep lifeline collections going

The Oban Inn has been welcoming visitors and locals for more than 200 years and a lifeboat collection box has stood proudly in the bar for most of that time.

The current one dates back to at least 1953.

On receiving the latest donation of £776.42 from The Oban Inn, Phil Hamerton, lifeboat fundraising chairman said: 'This donation from the customers of The Oban Inn shows again just how much the community of Oban supports the work of our lifeboat crew.'

'As one of the busiest all-weather lifeboats in Scotland, with more than 80 call outs in 2019, we all value this contribution.'



From left: Ally Cerexhe, Oban Lifeboat Coxswain; Mike Robertson, Oban Lifeboat chairman; Mairi Lynch, Oban Inn; Steven Shaw, Oban Inn; Heather Smith, Oban Lifeboat collecting box secretary, and Tom Kennedy, Oban Lifeboat mechanic. Photograph: Stephen Lawson.

Search on for new Colonsay doctor

A search is on to find a new doctor for Colonsay before its current GPs retire at the end of March, writes Fiona Scott.

Married couple Dr David Binnie and Dr Jan Brooks took over the island's surgery in April 2010 under a job-share arrangement, allowing them to provide medical cover 24/7 for the past 10 years.

Their impending retirement, however, has prompted a nationwide hunt for a suitably qualified individual who has a taste for adventure and an abundance of community spirit.

The Colonsay doctors are currently on holiday but speaking about their work on the island on a video made for the British Medical Journal, Dr Brooks said: 'You do the whole care. You are the team, you're it. You have to adapt and use your initiative to make things work. It can be so varied working on an island

and you often have to tailor your service to a particular patient. It's fascinating. You always have to be on your toes.'

An online job advertisement stipulates 'remote and rural experience' is required for the role at Colonsay Surgery, situated in the island's main settlement of Scalasaig.

The successful candidate will also be expected to dispense medicines, provide house calls and out-of-hours cover for the 134 island residents.

Eileen Geekie is the founding member of the island's patient representative group, which is currently working with Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership to find a new doctor, and is confident a suitable candidate can be found.

She said: 'There has been quite a bit of interest since we re-advertised the post at the beginning of the month. It is a critical role which offers an

idyllic setting and a rewarding career. I'm hopeful the right person will come along.'

In the meantime, Mrs Geekie assured residents they would not be left in the lurch.

'Applications have to be in by Friday March 6 and our current doctors retire at the end of March,' she explained.

'It will possibly be the end of April by the time we get someone in place but in the meantime there are locums who will fill the gap.'

Particulars for the post can be obtained by contacting Joyce Robinson, Primary Care Manager, on 01436 655044 or Morven Gemmill, Locality Manager, on 07384 555697.

Details of the application process and the practice profile are available by contacting Joyce Robinson, Argyll and Bute HSCP joyce.robinson@nhs.net or visit the isle of Colonsay community website www.colonsay.org.uk

Long service honours for airport firefighters

Depute Lord Lieutenant Andrew Campbell was at the airport on Tuesday to present three Oban Airport firefighters with their long-service medals at a ceremony in front of families, friends and colleagues, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Senior Airport Fire Officer Tom Eddleston and crew commander Murray MacGregor have both served

for 13 years, with fellow firefighter John McDonald notching up 12 years.

Mr Eddleston said: 'Our small teams do everything from keeping the sites safe, to keeping runways clear of birds, making sure the planes land and take off safely and looking after travellers. We have to rely on each other and I'm proud to serve alongside my colleagues.'

For Mr MacGregor, the past 13 years have passed in a flash and he still enjoys going to work every day, while Mr McDonald said: 'I'm proud to receive my long-service medal for doing a job I love. Being part of airport staff helps to keep rural and island air services open which, for me is an important part of the job.'

For more, visit www.oban-times.co.uk

Work starts on Dunollie Castle as fundraisers launch final funds push

Work is scheduled to start next week on the third phase of a project to restore Oban's Dunollie Castle.

The planned improvements come after the castle was awarded £141,000 from Historic Environment Scotland.

The work, due to start on Monday February 24, will mean the public will get access to the upstairs of the tower. After the four walls are secured, a second flight of ancient stairs will be unveiled, leading to a new viewing platform on the second floor.

The team behind the conservation work includes Iain Campbell, principal of CP Architects, Ben Adam of David Narro conservation engineers, archaeologist Roddy Reagon and Gary Simpson of Heritage Consolidation Ltd and his team of stonemasons who worked on the first two phases of the restoration.

In 1998, Dunollie Castle

was gifted for safekeeping to the MacDougall of Dunollie Preservation Trust (DPT) by the MacDougall family. In 2013, the castle had to be closed to the public because of falling masonry. Since then, the charity has been working hard to raise funds to preserve this unique landmark.

The overall cost of this latest work is £224,000.

As well as the grant from Historic Environment Scotland, the Dunollie team has raised more than £30,000 and is working hard to hit its target.

Businesses in the area are being invited to join the Save Our Skyline campaign, where they can book an advertising banner on the fencing around Dunollie Castle for the chance to be seen by the 22,000 visitors who visit the site annually.

To find out more about the conservation work or how you can help raise funds, contact info@dunollie.org.

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OT

History societies join forces

February's Inveraray History Society meeting introduced a new, wider community concept.

An evening arranged alongside Dalmally Historical Society featured archaeologist Dr Gavin MacGregor telling the audience about his investigations into the heritage of Glen Strae and Glen Orchy.

Invitations to Strachur, Appin and Lorn Historical Societies ensured a good turnout.

Dr MacGregor spoke of the extensive excavations at Tigh Mor. Based on a hillside, looking down towards Kilchurn Castle, the Tigh Mor project has been developed over several years and has included many volunteers, including primary school pupils.

It is hoped the joint meeting will be a forerunner of future gatherings, bringing historical societies in Argyll together to share experiences.

Crucial cash for Colonsay housing

A community development company on Colonsay has been awarded £390,000 from the Scottish Land Fund to buy land for affordable homes and business units.

The island, population 135, is one of the most remote communities in Scotland and the money will be used to buy two areas of land in Scalasaig as part of a project to build homes for island residents.

Caitlin McNeill, director of Colonsay Community Development Company, said: 'We are so excited to have secured this funding at what is a crucial time for Colonsay.'

'Having been born and raised on the island, I've grown up watching a com-

munity of volunteers working so hard to sustain and protect the island for the likes of myself and my brother.

'Had it not been for a community-led social housing project nearly 20 years ago, it is unlikely we would have had the opportunity to stay here as children. We know first hand the difference projects like this make.'

Shop

Among several other projects around Scotland receiving funding is Carbost Community Shop on Skye which will receive a grant of £177,500 to allow the community to buy the shop, which is close to Talisker Distillery and to the Fairy Pools.

Scottish Land Fund Minister, Cabinet Secretary for Land Reform Roseanna Cunningham said: 'The Scottish Land Fund continues to support a wide range of projects and these most recent awards – from woodlands to shops, community centres to housing – demonstrates the quality and variety of community projects across Scotland.'

'The Scottish Government will continue to support and encourage communities, urban and rural, to realise their ambitions and take control of their own futures and I look forward to community ownership continuing to grow and prosper in the years to come.'



Colonsay residents will use their £390,000 Scottish Land Fund grant to build affordable homes and business units at Scalasaig.

Sandra Holmes, Head of Community Assets at Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), added: 'Today's successful projects are all great examples of people taking control of local resources for the long-term benefit of their communities.'

'With financial support from HIE, the money will enable Colonsay Community Development to buy land at Scalasaig for a much-needed affordable housing development.'

'Ownership will give Colonsay and the other supported communities greater control over important assets and will help

ensure its long-term future.' Other projects receiving Scottish Land Fund financial assistance are: Kilmairs Community Association, £12,500; Glengarry Community Woodland, £25,189; Glen Urquhart and Strathglass Rural Community Association, £88,225; Forres Area Community Trust, £116,365; Carsphairn Community Woodland, £209,000; Arkaig Community Forest Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, £36,088; Tomintoul and Glenlivet Development Trust, £183,800, and Portree and Braes Community Trust, £55,241.



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Delegates at the Scottish Seaweed Industry Association conference in Oban.

Photograph: Iona Young

Seaweed delegates descend on Oban

by Iona Young
editor@obantimes.co.uk

The Scottish Seaweed Industry Association held its fourth annual conference at Corran Halls in Oban this week.

A variety of scientists, business people and researchers attended, all with the common interest in strengthening and advancing the Scottish seaweed industry.

The conference was split into four parts: understanding how to expand the scale of seaweed farming, integrating seaweed into existing aquaculture, valuing seaweed

cultivation in its environment and the possibilities to develop seaweed as a tool for eco-efficiency.

Dr David Smallman, from Slate Islands Seaweed at Easdale, said: 'It's amazing. The conference has gone from 40 people four years ago to 162 today. It grows every year.'

Many guest speakers and specialists attended, including people from Russia, Alaska, the Netherlands and Norway.

Seaweed boasts nutritional and health benefits and harvesting it has great commercial potential in Scotland.

Packed with minerals, protein, fibre and vitamins, and low in calories and fat, seaweed is not only good for your health but recent research has suggested a seaweed-rich diet can counter depression and potentially mitigate Alzheimer's disease.

A member of the research team at Exeter University, Sophie Corrigan, who was attending the conference for the first time, said: 'From the research side, meeting people from all aspects of the industry in particular is brilliant. Because it's such a niche industry, it is so important for us all to get together.'

Oban set for an event to take Pride of place

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



With its newly acquired charitable status, Oban Pride is set to deliver an assortment of events to boost funding ahead of this year's big day.

Headed up by chairman Phill Dexter, the organisation will be hosting its second Pride event on Saturday May 30 and is looking to make it even bigger than last year's festivities.

'We are delighted to be back with our second event this year and the team are working hard to make sure it will be as successful and popular as the last one,' said Phill.

'We were overwhelmed by the support we received for our inaugural event last year, from everyone who attended to all the local businesses that decorated windows and the



Oban Pride 2020 will be bigger and better.

many organisations which helped us get up and running.

'We are also thrilled with all the support we have received so far for Oban Pride 2020 when we are planning a bigger event in our new venue at the Corran Halls.'

As a result of the charitable

status, Oban Pride has received some of its funding for this year's event through the Lottery Community Fund, with other grant applications still being processed.

However, as the group is completely run by volunteers, more help is needed both in

the run up and on the day itself.

'We have some events and meetings coming up soon so why not come along and support your local Pride?' urged Phill.

'There are plenty of ways people can help out. We would urge members of the community or further afield interested in Pride to attend any of the events and get involved by joining our friendly pro active team.'

The events are:

■ Rocky Horror fundraiser night - Saturday February 29 at Oban Phoenix Cinema followed at Pride party at the Lorne Bar - 7.30pm showing of The Rocky Horror Picture Show, fancy dress highly recommended, but not compulsory. Oban Pride will be selling prop bags to help raise funds and raffle tickets for a raffle drawn at the Pride party

at the Lorne Bar with DJ and Dragoake with Crystal from 10pm till late.

■ Volunteer meeting - Thursday March 12 at St John's Cathedral, 7pm. Anyone interested in volunteering to help with Oban Pride in any way please come along to the meeting to find out more.

■ Business and community meeting - Thursday March 19 at St John's Cathedral, 7pm. Anyone who runs or is involved in a business or organisation within Oban and the surrounding areas who would like to help support Oban Pride please come along to the business and community meeting.

Contact the group via Facebook @ObanPride or email ObanPride@gmail.com for any more information about anything Oban Pride is doing.

Dementia learning sessions

Alzheimer Scotland is hosting a Dementia Friends session on Tuesday February 25 in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls.

The session, which takes place from 11.30am to 1.30pm with Anne McWhinnie, Dementia Friendly Scotland lead, is free to groups and businesses across Argyll, helping people to become more informed about dementia.

Dementia Learning agent Susan Rendell will give an overview of training opportunities for businesses. Sessions can be tailored to a business's needs, run as lunchtime learning or after-work sessions.

There will also be an overview of Alzheimer Scotland's work in the local community, and advice on how a partnership approach can be mutually beneficial. There will be the opportunity for networking over lunch.

To attend, email Ktaylor@alzscot.org to reserve a place.

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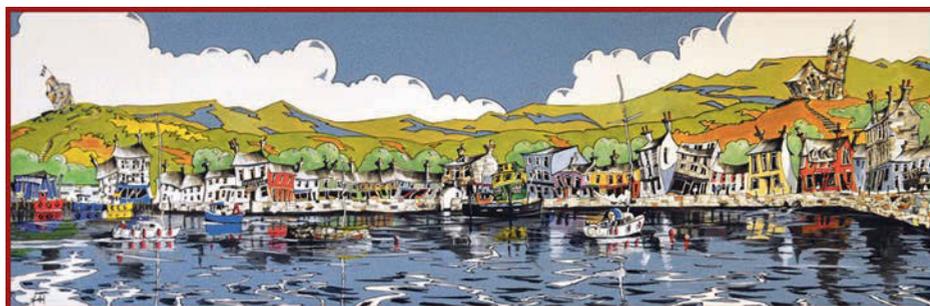
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OT

Paisley-born artist finds his

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk

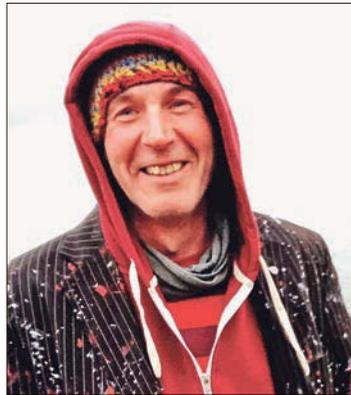


A Paisley-born artist, travelling from his home in Finland, will carry out a poignant ritual on the Isle of Seil on the completion of a musical tour he is managing.

Don McCracken has lived in Helsinki for the past 25 years but his Scottish roots run deep. In March, Don will return to his country of birth with Fenno-Swedish singer/songwriter Anna-Stina Jungerson (Nightbird) and fellow Scot Mike Lennie for a nine-date tour of the Highlands and Islands (more on this in our leisure section).

On April 5, the trio will arrive on Seil for a performance at Tigh an Truish, but, for the 49-year-old artist, the visit will mean much more than a final tour date.

'My granny Sarah (Sal) McDougall was born at 19 Balvicar, in a slate quarrier's cottage, in 1901,' he told us. 'She was the youngest of 13 children and went to school in Ellenabeich. She moved down to Govanhill in Glasgow as a teenager, and married my grandad Gilbert



Expat Don McCracken, above, puts the finishing touches, right, to the signs that Nightbird and Mike Lennie used in their tour photo shoot. Far right, six-year-old Don takes in his surroundings from the top of Barra Mor.



Watson, but they kept a connection with the house, and by the time I came along in 1971, she owned it as the last surviving child.

'Sal and Gilbert spent most of the year there and, as a child, I spent the whole length of my summer holidays there. The house has since been

demolished, but the space remains.'

Don has many fond memories of his holidays on Seil, in particular welcoming the travelling retailers. Curry the Fish on a Wednesday, Turnbull the Veg on a Thursday, and Jackie Campbell the Milk with his daily rounds from Winterton

Farm, saying: 'There were no children in Balvicar back then, and I spent a lot of time alone, though I can't remember ever feeling lonely. I'd go for long walks to Ellenabeich and Cuan, exploring all around the island.'

Don's social life outwith his

family was all with the old folks he called auntie and uncle. He'd do the rounds and get fed on tea and tablet, and maybe they'd slip him some coins for Bilton's shop.

'I didn't really notice their age, they were just my friends,' he said.

'My best pal was Mrs Bucheski, an

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MacPhail

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The Fergie MacDonald album review will have to wait for another week as I've still not managed to get a copy. I was very surprised that on our travels of the past few weeks in western USA that I've not been able to find one anywhere. From Sonoma, to Bodega Bay, to Long Beach and Las Vegas, not one of the shops we visited had it in. Perhaps Fergie hasn't finalised his trade deal with Trump yet! I'll get one as soon as I arrive back in Scotland and it will definitely be in next week.

In the absence of the album review, I'll give readers a flavour of my winter travels. Holidays, until fairly recently, were very unusual for me but, by chance, I ended up on two different 10-day excursions back to back in the past month.

The first was an activity-based stay at a resort on the north-west side of Lanzarote and the second was a long-planned trip to visit my auntie and uncle in Sonoma, California. Both were very different, thoroughly enjoyed and were a great way to escape Ciara, Dennis and their

other miserable friends who were relentlessly battering everyone at home while we were away.

Ania and I flew to Lanzarote on January 30 and not since I was fishing over 15 years ago have I done so much exercise in a week. Being a lazy musician is not conducive to living a healthy lifestyle and, now being in my forties, I can no longer get away with doing very little physical activity if I'm going to maintain any reasonable fitness.

The Lanzarote experience was a great way to kick-start a range of new activities, some of which I'll hopefully keep up. Swimming lessons, stand-up paddle boarding, jogging, yoga, Pilates, indoor-cycling and an absolute hell-like class called cross-fit were all tried. I'm not too bad at lifting or throwing something heavy once, but with this cross-fit carry on it was lifting things 30 or 40 times then running round a 400m track and doing it again and again until I was a sweating, swearing, staggering, pecking mess that could barely stand up or breathe!

To make it worse, there were

old caileachan firing away at it no bother at all.

After being back home for two days, I headed off with Andrew to California. Since I was around 15, I have been planning to visit my mother's sister and her husband, who live in Sonoma just north of San Francisco, but it took a twisting of arm from Andrew to actually get me to finally book it. Similarly, he has been wanting to visit the ocean liner Queen Mary, which is moored at Long Beach for just as long, so we decided to combine the two desires and headed off across the Cuan an Iar (western ocean).

Andrew has many talents and attributes, but one thing he excels at is travel logistics and inserting plenty of mischief and great experiences into any journey, so I left most of the planning to him.

He absolutely surpassed himself on this trip and once I get Fergie's review done, I'll give a few tales of our escapades.

Both holidays were hugely enjoyed but, as I write this in Las Vegas airport, I am very happy at the prospect of getting home in a few days!

Morningtown Ride on Seil



old Polish woman with a corgi called Bunty, who was my second-best pal. But perhaps the most interesting character lived right next door.

'He was called John Ross and he was seen as being rather special. He lived in his cottage without elec-

tricity and he certainly had his own way of doing things. When he went out to sea, he'd row facing forwards, and after his afternoon dinner he'd walk a measured mile every day.

'Nothing so strange in that, except he'd do it back and forwards outside

his door so that if it rained he could pop inside and wait for it to go off. When it was dry again he'd come out and pick up where he left off.

'He also had green glass bottles stuck on poles around his yard to ward off the fairies. When I was wee I used to sit and watch his walks with an intense fascination.'

Thinking back now on that world, from a distance of some 40 years,

'My mother also requested a ritual – that her ashes be mixed with my dad's.'

Don admits his childhood holidays seem impossibly ancient.

His clearest memories of Balvicar are of carrying heavy buckets of water back from the well, washing in a tin bath by the fire and waiting outside the phone box half a mile away for his dad to call and say hello on a Friday night.

Don also recalls collecting wild flowers with his mum in the quarry (now a golf course), fishing for crabs at the pier, visiting Highland Arts in Ellenabeich, collecting eggs from

the hens that roamed around freely, looking at Scarba to tell the weather – 'if the top clouded over you'd get rain 20 minutes later – sitting looking out to sea at the Rubha nan Ron and following sheep tracks round the cliffs without ever imagining it might be possible to fall down into the crashing waves.

'One other thing that I remember very clearly was going to sleep at night, and my mother singing Morningtown Ride by the Seekers,' added Don. 'It was one of her favourite songs.'

*Rocking, rolling, riding,
Out along the bay,
All bound for Morningtown,
Many miles away.*

'It's a night-night song, and this brings us to my connection with the tour, specifically in connection with playing on Seil,' he added.

'Mike and Anna are my friends, and the two musicians I love most in the world. The idea of touring Scotland has been batted around between us for a number of years before finally becoming reality.

'I wanted to do this now because my mother died in summer 2018, and I feel that the time for grieving

is over and it's time to get back to living life. Much of my art deals with ritual and I have come to realise some of those roots lie in our old neighbour, John Ross, with his ritual walks and glass bottles.

'My mother also requested a ritual of her own – that her ashes be mixed with my dad's when he dies, and scattered at the top of the Barra Mor, looking over the sea to Easdale and Mull.

'The Tigh an Truish is the very last date on the tour, the end of the line. When we get there, we'll head towards Ellenabeich, and down by the sea, at the foot of the Barra Mor, we'll carry out a ritual of our own.

'I'll hold a slate from the shore while Mike and Anna-Stina sing Morningtown Ride. That slate will retain the vibration, and I'll carry it back to Finland. And when the time comes to scatter the ashes, I'll place the slate on the mountain, and that will be the song that's playing through the ether as they blow away on the wind.'

*Somewhere there is sunshine
Somewhere there is day
Somewhere there is Morningtown
Many miles away.*

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OT

Storm Dennis vents its fury on the region

by Iona Young
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Storm Dennis caused disruption across the Highlands and islands at the weekend and into Monday with strong winds and heavy rain and hail storms.

A number of incidents were reported over the weekend, with PoliceScotland confirming the death of a man following an incident in Glen Nevis.

Police were called shortly after 1pm on Sunday February 16 after the 42-year-old suffered a fall from the path for Stob Ban on the south side of the glen. The man was pronounced dead at the scene and his body was recovered by the Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team (LMRT).

A spokesperson for the team said: 'It took an extraordinary effort from 19 members of LMRT to extricate and then evacuate the casualty off the hill which all in all took around six hours.'

Easdale islanders could be without an official ferry service for up to seven days after

Storm Dennis saw their only harbour blocked with rubble.

The 60 residents will have to wait for a break in the weather, with one concerned islander saying: 'Easdale is currently cut off. The harbour has been closed. If the council gets a digger down here on Wednesday, it is possible we might get a service on Sunday. We will be without a ferry service, apart from private boats, until Sunday or Monday.'

Islanders on Luing were also without a ferry on Sunday as Storm Dennis vented its fury. Despite the cancellations, the shelves of Luing's only store, run by Norman Bissell, were well-stocked. He told The Oban Times: 'It would take weeks of ferry cancellations for the good people of Luing to go hungry.'

On Monday all ferry services from Oban to Tiree, Coll and Barra were cancelled, with services to Colonsay, Lismore and Mull on alert.

The region is now bracing itself for another windy weekend, with the expected arrival of Storm Ellen.

Public to have say on health and social savings

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Health and Social Care bosses are asking the public to help them make difficult budget decisions by having their say.

Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership's head of finance and transformation Judy Orr has warned resources available to the authority are declining in real terms year on year and it 'cannot simply continue to provide the same services in the same ways'.

'We have to find efficiencies and transform how we operate and we know there will be difficult choices with no easy options left for savings.'

'The HSCP would therefore really value the views from the public, staff, stakeholders and other partners to help us make the best decisions,' she



Judy Orr, head of finance and transformation.

added. The Integration Joint Board needs to set a balanced budget for 2020/21 at its next meeting on March 25 and by now it usually has an indication of the funding to be provided by Argyll and Bute Council and NHS Highland.

But due to the surprise resignation of former Chancellor Sajid Javid, the UK Government budget could be delayed beyond the expected date of March 11. The Scottish Government set its own budget on Thursday February 6.

This means there is still uncertainty about future levels of funding and it is expected the proposed level of funding will not cover the level of increased costs which need to be borne by the HSCP.

The HSCP lists some of its main pressures as the cost of new drugs expected to outstrip funding made available, costs for GP out of hours services and demand growing for both older people and younger people services.

All significant service changes will have specific detailed community engage-

ment plans to involve staff, patients, carers, partners and the wider community. This will happen throughout this month, in parallel to an overall broad consultation about the HSCP's budget priorities for 2020/21.

'This current consultation is about the HSCP's total budget plan and where we should look to find efficiencies. These are very hard choices and there are no obvious areas where money can be saved easily.'

'It is important, however, that we involve the people of Argyll and Bute who will be affected by exploring every option for savings so they can express their priorities about where savings should be focused,' said Ms Orr.

To take part in the budget consultation go to bit.ly/abhscpbudget or email us at nhs.abhscp@nhs.net

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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. Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is 31 March 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 5 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.

Scotland's financial powerhouse, no more as RBS becomes Natwest

by Angus MacDonald
editor@obantimes.co.uk

So Royal Bank of Scotland Group is changing its name to Natwest Group.

It doesn't matter to us really does it? Us customers up here won't tell the difference will we? We will still have RBS on the buildings, the same staff.

Actually it matters a lot. Historically, Scotland was a leader in the financial sector, our insurance companies straddled the globe, General Accident, Scottish Amicable, Scottish Widows, Scottish Provident, Scottish Life, Scottish Equitable - to name but a few. Only Standard Life, now Aberdeen Standard remains Scottish.

In investment management Ivory and Sime, Martin Currie and Murray Johnston were hugely respected globally. Only Aberdeen Standard, which has struggled recently, and Baillie Gifford, still owned by its partners and with £200 billion of investments under management from all over the world remain globally important and firmly rooted in Scotland.

Baillie Gifford and



Alison Rose.

Aberdeen Standard will together pay a significant percentage of the Scottish tax receipts. As Boston is runner-up to Wall Street, Edinburgh used to shadow London as the second most important financial centre in Europe ... and this only 25 years ago.

TSB is now Spanish owned, Bank of Scotland became a subsidiary of Lloyds after the financial crash of 2008 and our own Clydesdale has been rebranded as Virgin Money.

Royal Bank of Scotland was run by Scots, Sir George Mathewson as chairman, the now disgraced Fred Goodwin as chief executive and Johnny Cameron, a Lochaber man, was head of corporate banking. At Natwest Group today the chairman is English and

the new chief executive Alison Rose is too. She has decided to base herself in London, thus denying more than £300,000 of income tax to the Scottish Treasury and, incidentally, saving herself £12,000 per year of the higher rate Scottish income tax.

I'll bet the next step will be the re-designation of Natwest Group's headquarters from Edinburgh to London, as they need to know what currency they will operate in, who the regulator will be and have the support of the Bank of England.

Even with its much reduced size, RBS is simply too big to be based in an independent Scotland, so the board are taking precautions now.

When headquarters move away, we lose the beating heart of the business, the influence the company has and many better paid jobs along with their tax receipts.

Frankly, this is a disaster for our country's financial viability.

What has happened to our whisky industry is now nearly complete in our financial sector.

More business, page 14.

Does your partner or ex-partner put you down all the time?

Do they make you feel like everything is your fault, control what you wear, who you see or what you spend? Do they physically hurt you or make you do things you don't want to do?

If you recognise any of this, Scotland's Domestic Abuse and Forced Marriage Helpline is available 24/7 to talk to you.

Domestic abuse can start at any point in a relationship, or after a relationship has ended. The person abusing you can try to control and dominate you by creating fear and undermining you. They choose to behave this way and it is never your fault.

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believed if you tell anyone. We will always believe you and listen to you. The Helpline is free and 100% confidential. The team will not pressure you to make any decisions.

You can call us on 0800 027 1234. You can also email us at helpline@sdaafh.org.uk or chat to us on webchat at www.sdaafh.org.uk.

If you are looking for one-to-one support in your local area, Argyll and Bute Women's Aid are here for you. Sandra Paton, Manager of Argyll and Bute Women's Aid, says:

"Our support workers can offer you practical and emotional support and information on issues like personal safety, housing, benefits and legal issues. We also have children and young people's workers available to offer specialist support. Our service is available for one off telephone calls, or ongoing telephone or face-to-face support and we will always listen, understand and believe what you tell us. Regardless of your local area code, you can contact us on 01369 706636."

Reaching out can be difficult, but we are here for you and you are not alone. One caller to the Helpline, when asked what they would say to someone else thinking about reaching out, said:

"Don't worry - there are good people behind that phone. They are ready to help and support you at any time."

Help is available. We're ready when you are.

DOES YOUR PARTNER CONTROL WHAT YOU DO, WHERE YOU GO OR WHO YOU SEE?

Call Argyll and Bute Women's Aid on

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For anyone experiencing domestic abuse or forced marriage, or for those worried about someone else.



BUSINESS NEWS

Food from Argyll shines at speciality show in Glasgow

Contacts were made and orders generated when members of Food from Argyll showcased the area's exceptional food and drink and the benefits of living and working in Argyll and Bute at Scotland's Speciality Food Show at Glasgow's SECC in January.

The show attracts buyers from delicatessens, farm shops and specialist food retailers from throughout Scotland and the north of England. More than 4,500 visitors attended the show over three days.

Virginia Sumsion, of Food from Argyll, said: 'The Speciality Food Show was an ideal platform for the group of Argyll producers, all of whom were relatively new to the market.'

'Buyers were interested in them individually and as a group and the visitors and other exhibitors provided valuable feedback and information for the producers.'

'We spoke to media representatives about Food from Argyll and they were keen to find out more about us and come and visit in 2020. It was three days well spent and, thanks to support from Argyll and Bute Council, we made the most of the space available which enabled the producers to achieve their aims without having to outlay excessive time and funds which trade shows often require.'

Councillor Jim Anderson said: 'The quality of Argyll and Bute's food and drink offering is second to none. We recognised the valuable role this sector plays in growing the local economy and we want to do all we can to support businesses looking to introduce their products to new markets.'

Eve MacFarlane, of Argyll Coffee Roasters, added: 'The support towards the cost of the stand gave us the opportunity to increase our profile on the food scene. I got so much from talking to other producers and got several good, new customer leads.'

Wonders of the west coast to be unlocked in Oban

Oban businesses in Oban are being offered support to help them make the most of their natural environment and reach new and growing markets.

In partnership with Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), West Coast Waters is hosting two free business engagement events to help companies understand how to get involved with the initiative and grow their international reach. On offer is a one-day information session, followed by the option to attend a workshop on day two to explore international market development.

A collaboration of 22 west coast destination groups, West Coast Waters has been set up in conjunction with the Year of Coasts and Waters to entice more adventure seekers and travellers to this remarkable part of Scotland.

It plans to do this via six different partnership initiatives throughout the year which includes a 20-week community-based baton relay, a maritime storytelling programme and the creation of new nature trails.

The information session, open to anyone involved in tourism interested in discovering more about the opportunities on offer from West Coast Waters, is being held on Wednesday February 26 from 10am to 4.30pm in the Corran Halls, Oban.

The session will highlight ways to get directly involved with West Coast Waters. Partners will be in attendance to explain the initiative, providing interactive sessions and one-to-one meetings. With speakers from Wild Scotland and University of the Highlands and Islands Centre for Recreation and Tourism Research, there will be plenty of chances for attendees to gain valuable insights.

A separate workshop is taking place on Thursday February 27, delivered by HIE's International Trade team. This will provide practical advice on how to reach new global markets and tap into the high-end tourism industry.

Overseas visitor analysis will help inform product development, while the power of the



The two-day event is aimed at businesses operating in the tourism sector.

internet and social media to maximise routes to market will be discussed. It takes place at Corran Halls in Oban from 9.30am to 5pm.

Steven Dott, senior development manager for tourism at HIE, said: 'Tourism is one of our most important rural industries, providing valuable employment and contributing to community resilience.'

'The west coast of Scotland is a huge draw for many visitors from within the UK and across the world and there is potential to build on this.'

That's what these West Coast Waters sessions are about. They will help firms identify and pursue new emerging markets through workshops and one-to-one sessions on tailored action plans.

'We hope many businesses will take advan-

tage of these free sessions and look forward to welcoming people at the events.'

Carron Tobin, co-ordinator of West Coast Waters 2020, added: 'The Year of Coasts and Waters 2020 dovetails perfectly with our mission at West Coast Waters 2020 to encourage visitors and residents to immerse themselves in the sights, sounds, tastes, textures and aromas of the west coast of Scotland. The planned information days and workshops will shine a light on the six major initiatives in 2020. This is a great opportunity to network with like-minded people and we are urging businesses, organisations and individuals to come along.'

For details of how to register for the events in Oban on February 26 and 27, visit hie.co.uk/jcw2020



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Whisky exports rise despite backdrop of tariffs

The Scotch Whisky Association (SWA) has revealed 2019 industry export figures showing worldwide growth.

The figures, compiled from HMRC export data, show the export value of global Scotch whisky exports grew by 4.4 per cent to £4.91 billion, with growth in more than 106 of its global markets. The number of 70cl bottles exported also increased, growing to the equivalent of 1.31 billion, up 2.4 per cent.

Export growth was driven, in particular, in Asia and Africa, with value increases of 9.8 per cent and 11.3 per cent respectively.

However, a 25 per cent tariff on the import of single malt Scotch whisky and Scotch whisky liqueurs into the United States means the outlook for the industry remains uncertain.

The SWA warned in August that exports in 2019 had been affected by changing trade conditions in key export markets and did not



Rural Economy Secretary Fergus Ewing.

reflect 'steady-state' trade for the Scotch whisky sector.

This continues to be the case, with significant pre-shipping ahead of Brexit 'no-deal' deadlines in March and October 2019 and ahead of the imposition of a tariff on exports to the US on October 18.

While the US remained the Scotch Whisky industry's most valuable market, increasing in

value by 2.7 per cent to £1.07 billion, export volume fell by seven per cent to 127 million 70cl bottles. There was a marked difference in the final quarter of the year when exports to the US fell by 25 per cent.

Chief executive of the Scotch Whisky Association Karen Betts said: 'These figures show that Scotch whisky remains at the heart of a dynamic, competitive,

international spirits market and continues to attract consumers.

'However, the imposition of a 25 per cent tariff on exports of single malt Scotch whisky and Scotch whisky liqueurs to the United States is very concerning and the 25 per cent fall in exports to the US in the fourth quarter of 2019, immediately following the implementation of tariffs, is stark. The tariffs are hitting producers hard, particularly small distillers.'

Scotland's Rural Economy Secretary Fergus Ewing said: 'It is exciting to see the Scotch whisky industry evolving and continuing to go from strength to strength.'

'The Scotch whisky industry is a major employer in Scotland and we will continue to do everything we can to protect it. This includes keeping pressure on the US government and UK ministers to end the damaging increase in tariffs on exports of whisky and whisky liqueurs.'

Union warns industry has been left exposed

The UK government has repeatedly ignored warnings and left the Scottish whisky industry exposed, according to the union GMB Scotland.

GMB is calling for an end to the US whisky tariffs that threaten 22,000 whisky and spirit industry jobs.

New analysis from GMB shows the spirit industry in Scotland employs 9,000 people directly and a further 14,700 jobs in the supply chain across the UK.

The figures also show Scotch whisky exports were worth £4.7 billion in 2018 and average earnings in the spirits industry are 19 per cent higher than the average for manufacturing in general.

A 25 per cent tariff was imposed on imports of US whiskey into the EU in June 2018, in response to US tariffs on European steel and aluminium.

Keir Greenaway, GMB Scotland organiser, said: 'The Conservative government has repeatedly ignored GMB warnings and left the Scottish whisky industry exposed to attacks from the US.'

'These tariffs constitute a direct threat to the Scottish economy and to more than 20,000 jobs across the UK.'



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Fascinating history of Dunollie Castle

by Valerie Forsyth
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Just outside Oban, on a promontory, sit the ruins of Dunollie Castle.

It is unknown how it came by this name, but it is possible it comes from the Gaelic Dun Dhughallaich, meaning MacDougall's Fort.

The castle is thought to have been built in the 12th century, although parts possibly date to the seventh.

Somerled granted the lands to his son Dougal, who founded the MacDougalls, and the Stewarts of Appin. It is recorded Dunollie was either attacked or burned at least three times between 686 and 701 but was rebuilt in 714 by the king of Dalriada, Selbach mac Ferchair.

Abandoned in the 10th century, further building took place in the 13th century, but the remains today date mainly from the 15th.

They consist of a tower house standing at four stories, a barrel-vaulted cellar and a courtyard. The wall on the vulnerable north-east flank is thickest, measuring more than six feet.

During the Civil War in the mid-17th century, Cromwellian troops lay siege to the castle in 1647 under General Montgomery but he was forced to retreat and it was restored to the family in 1661.

The MacDougalls were strong Stuart supporters and at the Battle of Sheriffmuir fought against the Hanoverian troops. The battle was a draw but the MacDougalls, like so many others, were forced to forfeit their lands in retribution.

In 1746, MacDougalls were present at the Battle of Culloden, again to try to restore the Stuart monarchy.

That same year the castle was abandoned and the family moved into the mansion built close by. Mary MacDougall was the last baby born at the castle in 1741.

In 1814, Sir Walter Scott visited Dunollie and wrote a note to his poem Lord of the Isles that nothing 'was more wildly beautiful than the situation of Dunolly'.

Milestone inspector

Morvern Lines

IAIN THORNER

ian.thorner@btinternet.com



When I was working in the wonderful Oban Times archives a few years ago, I found an interesting and unusual report by the Strontian correspondent dated June 18 1881, which I thought worth recording, not only for its content but the style in which it was written.

'Tramps. On Saturday last the usual stillness of the place was broken by the appearance of a number of these obnoxious visitors, who created quite an uproar here. After refreshing the inner man at the hotel, they commenced swearing and fighting amongst themselves, to the alarm, perhaps danger, of the lieges. After indulging in such unruly pastimes for some time, one of the gang, inflamed by a spirit of bravado, entered the village smithy, and began to threaten all and sundry; but the brawny knight of the anvil and hammer made his appearance and the fiend decamped. The whole party soon afterwards disappeared, to the great relief of the inhabitants of the place. These tramps are growing quite a pest here of late.'

On another occasion, which was not recorded in The Oban Times, the same gang started fighting with the locals outside the Strontian Hotel, or the London Inn as it was called then. It must have been quite a punch-up as the bystanders started putting bets on who would win. The hero, who was chased out of the smiddy by the blacksmith, even although he was on the ground, was so sure of himself, he began shouting to his mates: 'Put your money on me boys, I'm winning on points.'

The report was unusual because tramps, or milestone inspectors as they were sometimes called, were generally welcomed. From spring onwards their arrival was anticipated and eagerly awaited, not only for the news they brought from the outside world, but for the help they gave making hay, planting potatoes or cutting and carrying peats home at the backend.

There is always something to be done about a croft or a holding, as many readers will know. In return they got at least one square meal a day, a roll of tobacco if they smoked, and a doss in the hay-loft or barn at night. Some carried small articles of haberdashery, buttons, needles, thread, bootlaces and rib-



bons, others were tinsmiths and mended pots and sharpened knives and scissors. One or two were poets or musicians who played the mouth organ, tin-whistle or Jew's harp. Many a croft house ceilidh they enriched with their tunes and stories long before the arrival of the wireless.

No-one quite knew who these itinerant folk were or their real names. It was said of one or two that they had broken the law and were on the run, or escaping from family problems. One was believed to have been a doctor who had taken to drink and had been struck off the General Medical Register. A lot of ex-service-men took to wandering after the end of the Great War of 1914-18, probably suffering from

what was then known as shell-shock but today called Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. First, or nick-names, were often their only identification. The following is a selection of those who frequented Ardnamurchan, Mull, Sunart, Ardgour, Mull, Lochailort and Morvern: Wandering Wattie; Steenie the Warlock; Jimmy the Tramp; On Tour; Kelly; Watters; MacInally and Bodach na Fluraichean (the old man of the flowers) because he always had flowers in his cap, real ones in the summer and artificial ones in winter.

They all had their favourite bolt-holes depending on how well they were treated in the neighbourhood. Wattie and Bodach na Fluraichean usually occupied a fairly



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s of long ago



The Strontian smiddy visited by tramps and the blacksmith who chased one.

Photograph Duncan Cameron, Strontian.

in Augustus Muir's book 'Scotland's Road of Romance - Travels in the Footsteps of Prince Charlie', Methuen & Co Ltd, London 1934.

Muir, who was travelling with a companion from Lochailort to Acharacle, wrote: 'At the foot of the crags on our left there was a deep hollow under the rock and from it a wisp of grey smoke curled out and was being quickly dissipated in the rain. We went forward to have a closer look. 'It's a tramp,' cried Gillespie. 'Come on.' And he raced for the shelter of the overhanging rock, while I limped after him.

'Gillespie's guess was correct. It was a tramp's fire, for the startled face of a man shot up from behind a low rampart of sacking hung on sticks. He had a fair bushy beard which grew high on his cheeks and wore one of those small narrow-peaked cloth caps that you sometimes see in the photographs of our grandfathers. The hollow below the crag went three or four yards into the rock and a fire of birch wood was spluttering in the farthest corner. The smoke clung to the sloping roof as it wavered upward and its smell was homely.

'I looked down at the tramp, who was throwing aside some sacking and scrambling to his feet. He had deep-set blue eyes which were friendly enough after he had recovered enough from his surprise at our hasty assault on his lodgings. I saw he wore an old short fawn-coloured overcoat, very much tattered at the button-holes and sleeves, and the knees of his trousers had been often and ingeniously patched, but his boots were good, his face and hands were clean and his soft Highland voice, as he told us to sit down on a pile of bracken, had no suspicion of a mendicant whine.'

Wattie was from the Borders and although he had been in the Highlands for many years he had, as he said, 'Only a wee bit of Gaelic', picked up from his long contact with Gaelic-speaking country folk. Some of his songs were printed in The People's Friend.

Wattie's stamping ground was generally south of the Great Glen and took in Appin, Oban, Lorn and Kintyre, whereas Steenie the Warlock kept to the north-west with occasional forays into Sunart and Morvern as he grew older.

Continued next week.

commodious cave on the northern shores of Loch Moidart, a few yards away from the old footpath leading over the hill from Kinacara to Glenuig - but not at the same time. The cave is there still but less visible than it used to be since the 1966, A861 extension linking Moidart and Lochailort passes between it and the shore. As its nether regions were relatively dry it was popular with all types of walkers. So much so, there used to be a notice outside advertising it as The Kinlochmoidart Hotel.

It achieved some fame by being the subject of an article in Scottish Studies (Vol 1, 1957) called 'A Packman's Bivy in Moidart' by Stewart F Sanderson. More revealing is a chapter about it and Wattie, which appears

DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



This great photograph dates from August 1995 and shows Andrena MacKinnon of Oban Ladies Circle painting the face of seven-year-old Peter Howe from Oban like his superhero Spider-Man.



This photograph also comes from our August 1995 archive and shows two unnamed Glen Nevis River Race competitors in fancy dress.

What's your favourite recipe? Slimming World beef stroganoff?

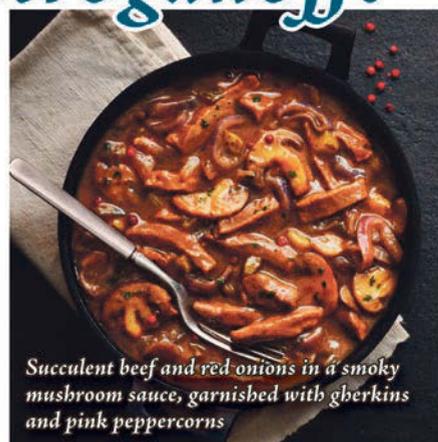
Syn FREE + Takes 40 minutes + Serves 4

Method:

1. First, put all the sauce ingredients in a medium-size saucepan. Add 450ml boiling water and bring to the boil over a high heat. Cover, reduce the heat to medium-low and simmer for 15 minutes or until the vegetables are tender. Remove from the heat and, without draining, whizz until smooth using a stick blender or food processor.
2. Spray a deep, non-stick frying pan with low-calorie cooking spray and place over a high heat. Add the mushrooms and red onion and fry for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally.
3. Add the steak and stir-fry for a further 5 minutes, then add the gherkins, peppercorns and sauce. Bring to a simmer and cook for 2 minutes. Remove from the heat and stir through the quark. Season to taste and serve with your favourite Speed vegetables.

Ingredients

- Low-calorie cooking spray
 - 300g mushrooms, sliced
 - 1 red onion, sliced
 - 600g lean sirloin steak, visible fat removed, thinly sliced
 - 60g small gherkins, finely chopped
 - 2 tsp pink peppercorns
 - 100g plain quark
- For the sauce:
- 1 large onion, roughly chopped
 - ½ x 400g can cannellini beans, drained
 - 150g cauliflower, cut into small florets
 - ½ tsp Marmite + 1 beef stock cube
 - 2 large garlic cloves, peeled
 - 1 tbsp Worcestershire sauce + ½ tsp paprika



Succulent beef and red onions in a smoky mushroom sauce, garnished with gherkins and pink peppercorns

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LETTERS

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We are all rooting for Dee during her mountain challenge

Oban woman Dee Bradbury is often in the headlines these days, given her high profile role as president of Scottish Rugby.

This week, however, she has made the news for a different reason. Dee is about to head off to the Atlas Mountains to take on a gruelling 50km hike to raise money for charity, specifically for the My Name's Doddie Foundation, the fund set up by former Scotland lock forward Doddie Weir, who revealed he was suffering from MND in June 2017.

Dee says she felt compelled to sign up for the #MarchForDoddie after watching some emotional footage featuring Doddie at a lunch she was attending.

Joined by 25 other individuals on the challenge over three days, Dee will have to endure freezing night temperatures under canvas, and steep ascents and descents.

Dee says she is 'terrified' of what is in store for her. However, she is made of stern stuff and will be inspired by this wonderful cause. We are rooting for her.

Deserved recognition for Bonawe's Breege

Bonawe's Breege Smyth was honoured last week by being installed as Deacon of one of Scotland's oldest crafts during a grand ceremony.

Breege's previous experience in fashion and on high-profile weaving projects saw her work recognised at the Incorporation of Weavers' Choosing Dinner in The Trades House of Glasgow on Friday February 14. The craft celebrated its 515th anniversary on Sunday.

It is a significant achievement for Breege, and one of which she can be justifiably proud.

Well done, Breege.

True cost of independence?

As someone who has travelled widely in Scotland and who values the advantages of living in the United Kingdom, I wonder if the extensive costs of independence have been fully taken into account?

The polished performances of SNP leaders Nicola Sturgeon in Edinburgh and Ian Blackford in Westminster fail to clarify the true cost of independence for Scotland.

The estimated population of Scotland is 5.5 million. One assumes the costs of public services, including defence expenditure, would be borne by the Scottish exchequer. In this event, it would be reasonable to compare Scotland with a country of a similar size, such as Denmark, which has a population of 5.8 million.

Denmark's gross domestic product (GDP) is \$330 billion, giving a GDP per head of \$60,000. In contrast, Scotland's GDP per head is in the region of \$42,558.

In Denmark, 10.4 per cent of GDP is spent on health provision and 7.6 per cent on education.

The cost of defence in Denmark is approximately \$4.7 billion, which is below the two per cent target of NATO nations. However, Denmark, like Norway and other NATO countries, maintains an army, navy and air force which can only be adequately manned by compulsory conscription.

Finland and Switzerland, which are not members of NATO, also resort to conscription. How could an independent Scotland avoid these implications? Non-nuclear nations have proportionately larger conventional forces.

The average Dane pays 45 per cent in income tax to maintain its current budget. Denmark does not have another neighbouring population, like the rest of the United Kingdom, of 61 million, to contribute significantly towards its public finances.

Before we are enveloped in further rhetoric, is it not incumbent on politicians and economists to point up the true costs of Scotland going it alone? The Scottish Parliament has been granted the right to raise taxes. How would the Scottish population greet a drastic increase in income taxes and the introduction of military conscription? Is it not time for all the relevant issues to be debated?

Thomas Morris, Coventry.

Admiration for campaigner

I read in The Guardian – I live in France so don't get to read the Lochaber Times that

YOUR PICTURES



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

editor@obantimes.co.uk, 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

much – that Holly Gillibrand, 15, has been striking to raise people's awareness of the climate crisis for more than a year.

For any person, irrespective of age, to choose to strike week after week in all kinds of weather demonstrates a level of commitment most of us never achieve. It's true, every year millions

of people commit to improving their health, fitness, whatever but by the end of February those commitments have been long forgotten. But Holly hasn't forgotten. She has stuck it out week after week, possibly even experienced ridicule by others, but has continued, no matter what.



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Street, Fort William. This week's wintry photograph was captured by Erin MacFadyen, 16, from Appin, who said the snowy scene was taken at Fasnacloich.

Holly has demonstrated the utmost resilience and tenacity. I do not have the words to express how courageous she is and what an inspiration to millions of people all over the world. I would like her to know millions of people around the world respect and admire her, and say thank you for being such a brave

person. We may be far away, but Holly gives us hope to strike out in our own little way, in our small villages and towns.

Thank you for being so strong and leading the way.

Christine Homer, France.

No evidence for fish claims

Alastair T Aitken asks, The Oban Times Letters, February 6, whether the undeniable, yet largely unqualified, effect marine farming has on migratory fish stocks been explored. He says he doubts it.

Unfortunately, Mr Aitken is wrong. The impact of salmon farming on wild fish populations has been widely studied. However, the results are rarely discussed, simply because they don't support the wild fish sector's narrative that salmon farming is damaging to migratory fish stocks.

One large-scale study from Ireland involved the release of more than 350,000 smolts over several years. Half the smolts were treated against sea lice, the parasite usually blamed for the death of wild fish. The other half were untreated. The study found the mortality of these wild fish due to sea lice was around one per cent. By comparison, about 97 per cent of migrating smolts now fail to return to their home rivers irrespective of whether they are close to salmon farms or not. The reasons for this high mortality are largely unknown.

Since 2017, the Scottish Government has been grading rivers according to their conservation limit. Thirty five rivers in Scotland have been given the highest grading, of which 13 are located in areas where salmon are farmed. Another 35 rivers have the second-tier grading of which 19 can be found close to salmon farms. If salmon farming was having a negative impact on wild fish, all the rivers on the West Coast would be grade 3, which is the worst conservation level, but they are not.

Sea trout catches have been in decline since they were first recorded by the government in 1952. This includes the 30 years prior to the arrival of salmon farming to the West Coast. There was no concern expressed at that time. It is only since the arrival of fish farming that wild fish people have found someone to blame.

Salmon farming has become a convenient scapegoat for the decline of wild migratory fish on the West Coast, but the reality is different. Mr Aitken would do well to read 'Loch Maree's Missing Sea Trout', which details the interactions between salmon farms and wild fish using the Loch Maree sea trout fishery as a case study.

Dr Martin Jaffa, Manchester.

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk



Is cliùitiche an onair nan t-òr! Thèid neart thar ceart! Chan iongnadh abairtean den t-seòrsa tighinn thugainn a' faicinn an dùbhlain a chaidh a chur air Sajid Javid, agus mar a dhèilig e ris an t-suidheachadh.

'S neònach gum bi fios a-chaidh an robh innleachd sam bith eile air chùl na thachair a bha ag amas air neach ùr a chur an dreuchd Seansalair na dùthcha, ach mar a thuirt Javid cha d' fhàg tairgse a' Phrìomhaire roghainn aig Ministear onarach sam bith ach a dhreuchd a leigeil dheth.

Choisinn an co-dhùnadh sin spèis agus aithne thar-phàrtaidh dha Sajid Javid agus gu cinnteach bidh an gnìomh sin am measg nan teisteanasan as làidire a bhios ga leantainn.

Bidh feadhainn 's dòcha a nì coimeas ris mar a dh'fhàg Robin Cook a' chaibineat aig Tony Blair gann seachd bliadhna deug air ais is esan mì-riaraichte le mar a bha Breatann a' dol an sàs ann an Iraq.

Ge b' e dè an taobh de phoilitigs air am bheil daoine tha fhios gum bheil sinn uile,

a tha a' bhòtadh, a' dèanamh sin le dùil gum faigh sinn riochdachadh cothromach anns an bi èisteachd ga thoirt dha beachdan na h-uile. 'S neònach gum bheil cus taice feadh na dùthcha airson siostam sam biodh cumhachd cho-dhùnaidhean riaghlaidh a' tighinn fo smachd nas lugha de dhaoine is cothroman ceasnachaidh agus dùbhlain gan lùghdachadh. 'S i ùine a dhearbhas mar a thachras.

Tha mi a' creidsinn gum biodh mòran a' ceasnachadh ciamar a bha iad fhèin air a dhèanamh ann an suidheachadh Javid, cùl a chur ris an dàrna dreuchd as cumhachdaiche san Rìoghachd neo còraichean an luchd-taice aige a sheasamh.

Abair gum bheil eisimpleirean gu leòr againn air onair agus dilseachd ann am feallsanachd, ach nuair a thig e gu àm taghadh a dhèanamh tha iomadach buaireadh brathaidh a' feitheamh.

Tha miann-adhartais nàdarra, agus ga mholadh dhuinn mar amas deatamach dha leasachadh na coimhearsnachd agus na dùthcha, cho math ri ar suidheachadh pearsanta. Cha dèan duine

a' chùis gun airgead agus mur eil sin agad bidh e doirbh dhut ruigheachd air adhartasan a tha thu a' miannachadh.

Nar cuairt thig a' mhòr-chuid againn an lùib dhaoine a chuireas taic rinn agus air am fàs sinn earbsach a' toirt comhairle agus neart dha càch a chèile.

Mar mhac teaghlaich a rinn in-imrich gu ruige Breatann, agus a dh'fhàs suas ann an coimhearsnachd bhochd, tha Sajid Javid na shàr eisimpleir air fear a rinn fèin-adhartas agus bha uimhir aige ri chall is nach b' iongnadh suileachadh gun gleidheadh e na bha e air a' bhùinnig.

Cha d' rinn e sin, fiù 's ged a bhiodh fios aige gur neònach mura cailleadh a chuid taice an dreuchdan taobh seach taobh.

Cha chaomh leam a chuid poilitigs, ach tha mi uasal a' onair Sajid Javid!

Sajid Javid's CV is unquestionably stronger following his response to the condition attached to Boris Johnson's offer to continue as Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Ailean Caimbeul
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



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KILLIN

Drones were the subject of an interesting talk at the recent meeting of Killin Scottish Women's Institute.

The talk was given by village resident Gregor Mackenzie who is enthusiastic and well-versed on the flying machines and the regulations surrounding them.

Gregor finished his talk by showing an amazing portfolio of photographs from the air, mostly of Killin and the surrounding area.

Competition winners: two cheese scones: 1 Jenny Huntley; 2 Fiona Boath and 3 Ellen Stewart. Photograph of a wild animal: 1 Cathie Reid; 2 Anne Rose and 3 Ellen Stewart.

Current business was discussed and the meeting closed.

ISLAY

People in Islay can get free support and advice on issues including health, money, benefits, pensions and scams at an information event on Tuesday March 24.

It will be held in the Howat Room of the Mactaggart Leisure Centre from 9.45am until 3.30pm.

Sandra Staniland from the Armed Services Advice Project will be helping people with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, benefits, Department of Work and Pensions appeals and reconsiderations, debt and money advice, relationships, employment and housing.

Sandra will also have advice on how to avoid telephone and letter scams.

To book an appointment, contact sandra.staniland@abcab.caonline.co.uk or call 0146 605555.

Claudia Albrecht from Pension Wise will also be there. She will be helping people get to know their pension options and explain how each option is taxed. She will also be explaining how pension money could affect benefits, as well as how to take your pension out early if you are too ill to work. Claudia will also cover pension scams.

To book, phone 08001 283944 or

New library for Port Charlotte Primary School

Parents, grandparents and other members of the community joined Port Charlotte Primary School staff and pupils to celebrate the official opening of their new library.

After the ribbon was cut by award-winning children's author Alan Windram – who had been invited to the Islay school by parent Hillary Epps to run two events with pupils – head teacher Maggie Crawford invited the assembled guests to 'wander around and have a proper look'.

And when they did, they were impressed.

Parent Emma Crawford said: 'The library is wonderful. You can see how much the pupils like it. It's a really great resource for all the children at the school.'

Catherine MacArthur, grandmother of two pupils, said: 'I am absolutely delighted to see the library finished. It is such an improvement on what we had before and will certainly encourage more to read.'

Author Alan said: 'I was delighted when Hillary invited me to the school for an author visit. The children were fantastic and it was a privilege to open the new library. This is a fantastic resource and the



Alan Windram opens Port Charlotte Primary School's new library.

parent council should be proud of all its hard work.'

Construction of the new library was made possible after a fundraising effort by the Parent Council.

Graham Izat, council chairman, said: 'The teachers identified they needed an improved library so myself, the rest of the parent council and other parents decided to fundraise, apply for grants and

appeal to businesses for help. We have put together what we think is a pretty decent library which will hopefully do for the foreseeable future.'

The fundraising efforts attracted interest across the globe. When a Friends of Bruichladdich Facebook group heard about the project members decided to help and funds poured in from as far

away as Germany, Switzerland and Australia. A single auction on the fan page raised more than £1,000 and was a welcome addition to money raised on the island.

The construction of the new library was managed by Lawrence Vellam. A friend of the school, he volunteered his services from the outset.

'Initially, I got together with the teachers and we decided to involve all the children,' he said.

'I already had some ideas of what we needed to do and how it would work but all the students got together and produced some really good ideas, like a woodland theme, and where the seating should be.

'The good thing was there were ideas from every single plan we could incorporate so they could all have a sense of ownership.'

The shelves were designed with safety in mind but can be moved if space is required, for example at the school's annual nativity show.

Head teacher Maggie MacLellan said: 'Thank you to everyone who contributed to the library.'

Many members of the community have given us money, donations and their time to build this resource.'

go to www.pensionwise.gov.uk to book an appointment. Alternatively, people can go along on the day to see what is available or get in touch with Karen at the leisure centre by calling 810767 or emailing karen@mactaggartleisurecentre.co.uk.

TAYNUILT

A host of events is taking place in Taynuilt on Saturday March 7 to celebrate International Women's Day 2020.

A bra recycle scheme, tai chi, arts and crafts, friendship cafe and lunch, yoga and a social evening

are among the many events taking place in the Village Hall and Sports Pavilion.

International Women's Day is celebrated globally on March 8 every year in honour of the remarkable contribution women make to society.

The day also commemorates the inspiring role of women around the world to secure women's rights and build more equitable societies.

Taynuilt International Women's Day events have been designed to offer everyone a chance to try something new, have fun, feel good, and celebrate the contribution women

make to the village community. Some of the workshops are tasters of activities that already run in Taynuilt.

The event is free to attend thanks to funding from Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund, Carraig Gheal Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund and Taynuilt Medical Practice Charitable Fund.

Organisers, tutors and helpers are all giving their time for free.

For more information and details of individual events go to the Taynuilt International Women's Day Facebook page.

APPIN

A ladies leap day bingo night is being held in Port Appin Hall on Saturday February 29 in aid of Appin playpark.

Entry to the event, which starts at 7.30pm, costs £10 per book, which includes a strip of raffle tickets and a glass of Prosecco. Tea and coffee will be provided. Bring your own bottle.

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At random

MARTIN LAING

mlaing@obantimes.co.uk



Pupils dive in to Under the Sea event



Pupils from across Oban and Lorn attended the event at the Ocean Explorer Centre in Dunbeg.

More than 90 young people from across Oban and Lorn had an informative and fun day out when they attended an Under the Sea science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) event at the Ocean Explorer Centre in Dunbeg.

Primary five pupils from a number of schools in the area joined secondary pupils from Oban High School for the event, where they experienced a range of fun STEM activities including boat-building, seabed sampling, learning about microplastics, making a sea-themed video game, Lego robotics and green screen movies.

The children also heard about what life is like working in the Arctic.

The Ocean Explorer Centre is a visitor centre for the Scottish

Association for Marine Science (SAMS), the UK's oldest oceanographic institution and a founding member of the University of the Highlands and Islands.

The venue enables learning about marine life and empowers visitors to understand and contribute to a sustainably managed marine environment.

At the end of the event, pupils gave their feedback on the day by completing an evaluation. Results indicated 37.5 per cent of the girls would like a STEM job in the future, compared with the 22 per cent of women working in STEM careers in the UK in 2018.

Pupils' scoring of the event was also encouraging, with an average rating of 9.3/10.

On average, 96 per cent of pupils felt they learned more about technology from the event

and 90 per cent said the same about science, 75 per cent about engineering and 35 per cent about maths.

Argyll and Bute Council's policy lead for education, Councillor Yvonne McNeilly, said: "This event was a great opportunity for young people in Oban to see STEM is not necessarily difficult or inaccessible and to promote the STEM opportunities available for learners in Oban.

"It is encouraging to hear so many young women would like to pursue a career in STEM in the future. Young women are far too often under-represented in these fields and this is something that needs to be addressed.

"Our children and young people should be able to embark on any career they wish. Gender should not come into it. Our

schools are doing great things to get this message out and it is obviously working."

The event followed last year's successful Mission to Mars STEM event at Dunoon Grammar School, organised by Argyll and Bute Council's Digital Learning Team. The team is now planning its next two STEM events in March.

This series of STEM events comes as a result of the Digital Learning Team obtaining funding for a STEM professional learning grant from Education Scotland.

The aim of the grant is to develop the capacity and confidence of practitioners, as well as supporting the implementation of Education Scotland's STEM Education and Training Strategy.

Credit where it's due

I meandered on about the joys of sport two or three weeks ago and picked out, among others, Oban Saints and Oban Lorne RFC for their excellent form and recent successes ... and found myself being well and truly upbraided by the ever-genial Nigel Evans, a stalwart of Oban Camanachd Club. Why, he mused, do you never acknowledge our team?

Now, as those who know me are aware, I am not a shinty man though, in fairness, I did mention shinty and our pre-season coverage in my recent ramblings.

Affable Nigel pointed out for me, with the new season imminent, that Camanachd had a fantastic 2019 but that I had neglected to sing their praises.

For the record, Nigel reminds me Camanachd retained the Glasgow Celtic Society Cup. In addition, they were runners-up in the Scottish Cup, Macaulay Cup and premier league.

He also pointed out the club's reserve team, Lochside Rovers, won the Sutherland Cup and Bullough Cup, and that the under-17s were South champions, as were the club's under-14s.

He also added proudly Oban Camanachd featured in no fewer than three televised finals and two televised semi-finals. And the club had three players involved in the shinty/hurling international and three guys representing the club at under-21s level.

What a season, indeed.

Fitting memorial

Iain Auld was a friend of mine. Sadly, he died as a result of dementia at the end of May last year and is much missed especially, obviously, by his lovely family.

His wife Joan and daughter Jacqueline were charm personified recently when I met them at a memorial fundraising evening in Oban's Masonic Lodge.

So highly thought of was Iain that the place was jam-packed with well-wishers and a brilliant £2,500 or thereabouts was raised for Oban Dementia Resource Centre.

It was a fitting tribute to a splendid guy.

What do you think?

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OUTDOORS

Winter climbing meet attracts top ice climbers

Climbers from around the globe will be gathering this weekend for an event revived by Mountaineering Scotland after a four-year absence to mark the beginning of its 50th anniversary year.

Streap Alba Gearmhadh 2020, the International Scottish Winter Climbing Meet, from February 22 to 29, will see international guests teaming up with UK climbers to climb classic routes, technical test-pieces and possibly new first ascents, getting a taste of the unique winter climbing in Scotland.

Around 30 guests from 22 countries will be attending the week-long event, including climbers from Israel and South Africa who have little opportunity to climb snow and ice in their own countries, through to regular winter climbers from Europe, Scandinavia and North America.

Host climbers from the UK have been selected to match the abilities of the international guests.

During the week, climbers will stay in some of Scotland's famous winter climbing arenas, including Lochaber and Glen Coe, accommodated in mountaineering huts including the Charles Inglis Clark (CIC) Hut beneath the massive cliffs on the north face of Ben Nevis. John Fowler, president of the Scottish Mountaineering Club (SMC), which owns three of the huts housing climbers, said: 'SMC is delighted to contribute to this event and welcomes the chance to showcase the impressive nature of Scottish winter climbing to some of the best mountaineers from home and abroad.'

Photograph: Simon Richardson.



Praise for partners helping Scotland's pollinators thrive

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) has published details of work it is carrying out with more than 30 partners to deliver the Pollinator Strategy for Scotland.

Pollinators are vital for biodiversity, but populations face challenges as a result of changes in land use, habitat loss, diseases, pesticides and climate change.

The aim of the strategy is to make Scotland more pollinator-friendly, halting and reversing the decline in native pollinator populations.

From the John Muir Pollinator Way to roadside verges in Dundee and Aberdeen, green roofs in Edinburgh to planting in Kirkwall, the report details progress across the country to ensure a nature-rich future for our pollinators.

During the year around 50 new wildflower meadows were established, with projects working to create bee and bug houses, improve habitats, plant pollinator-friendly trees and shrubs and transform roadside verges, brownfield sites and railway routes also under way.

'If we take action to provide food and shelter for pollinators, we can help these vital insects...'

The report also highlights progress in raising awareness and understanding of pollinators, including work with the farming sector, safeguarding bee health and the provision of identification courses, advice and guidance.

SNH projects in 2019 included the launch of five new pollinator trails on National Nature Reserves and the development of guidance and advice for the construction and planning sector.

SNH chief executive Francesca Osowska said: 'We're pleased to report considerable progress was made in 2019 towards making Scotland a more pollinator-friendly place due to the fantastic work of a range of organisations and individuals up and down the country.'

'Transforming our towns and cities into greener and healthier spaces is good news for



A bumble bee feeding on devil's bit scabious. Photograph: Lorne Gill

pollinators and people and the clear message is we can all do our bit to help pollinating insects thrive.

'No matter how big or small our own gardens and community spaces, if we take action to provide food and shelter for pollinators, we can help these vital insects and in doing so ensure a nature-rich future for Scotland.'

The report also contains helpful tips for members of the public who want to do their bit to provide food and shelter for pollinators, including:

- Aim to have pollinator-friendly plants flowering between March and October – the key period for pollinators.
- Remember daffodils are not the best bulbs for pollinators. Supplement them with some pollinator-friendly bulbs – try snowdrop, crocus, Allium and grape hyacinth.

- Many plants such as Aubretia will do well in containers and window boxes. Perennial herbs

are also popular for the scent and colour they provide. Try chives, lavender, rosemary, sage and thyme.

- Reducing mowing can create an undisturbed wildflower patch, strip or meadow for pollinators. If grass cutting can be avoided until after the dandelions have flowered but before they set seed, they will provide an important source of food for all types of pollinators.

- Hedgerows offer a habitat for wildlife that fences can never match. Bumblebees often nest in the long grass at the base of flowering hedgerows which are a valuable food source. Consider planting hedgerows made of flowering trees and shrubs such as Hazel, Willow, Blackthorn and Hawthorn.

For more tips to help nature this winter see SNH's Make Space for Nature guide at www.nature.scot/scotlands-biodiversity/make-space-nature

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This week's walks



Black-backed gulls are among the 11 species of birds given greater protection. Photograph: Lorne Gill/SNH.

Renewed General Licence brings protection for birds

Eleven species of birds, including rooks, great black-backed gulls and collared doves, will have stronger protection from April 1 when they will be removed from General Licences, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) has announced.

All wild birds are protected by law. General Licences allow certain birds to be killed without the need to apply for individual licences, for example, to prevent serious damage to crops, to protect public health and to help prevent predation of other at-risk bird species.

General Licences can only be undertaken where non-lethal means have been tried and proved ineffective. They cover relatively

common situations when there is unlikely to be any conservation impact on a species.

In six weeks, the renewed licence rules mean those seeking to control birds not included on the updated list will be legally required to apply for a licence.

The amendments to General Licences follow a public consultation which received more than 700 responses. An additional SNH review of the latest available evidence shows that, while many wild bird populations are in a healthy condition, a range of pressures, including climate change, means others have decreased and need greater protection.

The licence review also concluded the control of greylag geese, a species already listed on the licence, should be extended to year-round control to help minimise widespread agricultural damage to grass pasture and emerging crops.

Robbie Kernahan, SNH's head of wildlife management, said: 'We want to make sure our licences remain relevant, evidence-based and fit-for-purpose and our new General Licences will better balance conservation research with the needs of licence users. Our role is to help wild birds thrive, but we must also safeguard the public from health and safety risks and make sure farmers can protect their crops.'

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.lochaberand-lorn-ramblers.org.uk

Sunday February 23, Monadh Gorm and Glen Dessary, Loch Arkaig.

A small hill situated amongst rugged scenery and remote mountains with a grand view down Loch Arkaig.

Start at the car park at the end of the public road at NM987916. Take the track west, past Strathan farm then the forest track leading to Glen Pean. After 400m turn right at the junction and head north to the burn crossing at NM974914. Follow the burn west and ascend the steep slope to the summit of Monadh Gorm, 478m. Continue west over to the head of Coir a' Bhoganaich, then descend northwards to the bridge over the river Dessary at NM943929. A footpath to Upper Glendessary, then a track following the river Dessary leads back to the start.

Grade: M. Distance: 12km. Height to climb: 500m. Maps LR40 and EX398. Meet at: Fort William Woollen Mill 8.30am. Start of walk 9.30am. Leader: Trevor Jones 07831 437454.

Thursday February 27, Am Meall and Meall Mor, Glencoe.

A shapely hill of intermediate height that gives a grandstand view of the big peaks of Glen Coe.

Park at Ballachulish Tourist Information Centre NN083584. Cross the road in to the quarry and turn immediately right up the path. Before the gate in the forest fence, turn left and follow the path up to the corner of the plantation. Turn right and climb the open hillside to the mast at the summit of Am Meall. Descend on an eroded track to meet a forest road. Turn right along this for a short distance, then head south through a clear felled area to reach the open hillside on the north west spur of Meall Mòr. Climb this to its summit at 676m. Descend north east steeply down an ill-defined ridge, keeping outside the trees, to reach the National Trust for Scotland visitor centre car park. Follow the path north west, through woodland and alongside the A82 to NN104586. Cross the road and take the path past the Henderson Stone and up to the massacre

monument. Continue through Glencoe village and return to Ballachulish on the old road and cycle track.

Grade: M+. Distance: 10Km. Height to climb: 750m. Maps LR41 EX384. Meet at: Ballachulish Tourist Information Centre at 9.30am. Start: 9.30am. Leader: Ian Moir 07973 836498.

NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

Full walk details at 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

Saturday February 22, Gairich, Loch Quoich.
This is a relatively easy hill in a wild and isolated setting. The splendid east-facing headwall above Coire Thollaidh is visible from afar and remains a fine sight throughout the approach.

Start at the dam at the east end of Loch Quoich, NH068024. Cross the dam and follow the path south for about 3kms to the edge of a conifer plantation. Turn west and follow the path up the shoulder of Druim na Geid Salaich, passing south of the summit of Bac nam Foid, 584m. The path improves above the boggy ground as it rises more steeply. Ignore an old stalkers' path that leads to the south face. Keep to the crest of the east ridge where the hillwalkers' path is distinct and ascend steeply to the summit of Gairich, 919m. There are a few rocky steps to negotiate. The easiest descent reverses the outward route.

*Descending the north ridge and heading east back to the dam is a tempting prospect best reserved for a dry season or when the boggy ground at lower levels is frozen.

**Another return route adds 6kms to the day. From the summit, head south west as far as Gairich Beag at 730m. Locate the head of a stalkers' path at NN010988 and follow it down west, zigzagging on steep ground. It joins another path at the watershed in the glen.

Turn south east and head down through Glen Kingie into the forest. Continue east, curving north to emerge from the forest at NN066996 and rejoin the outward route back to the dam.

16km, 854m ascent.

*16km, 830m ascent.

**22km, 880m ascent.

Suggested by Jane Ollerenshaw. Co-ordinated by Kate Willis.

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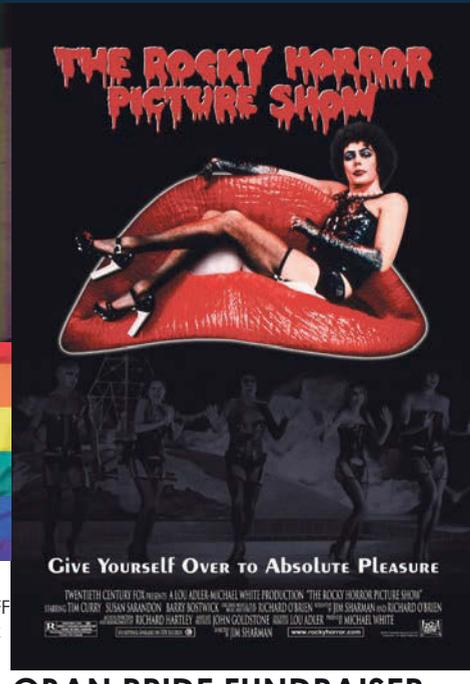
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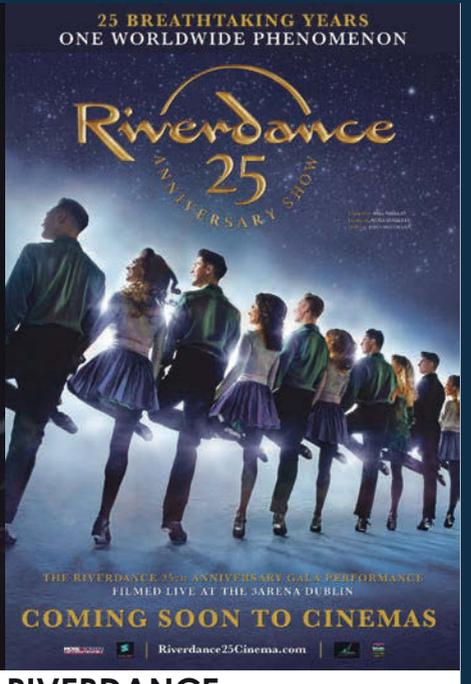




OUT OF THE ARCHIVE - SQIFF
 As part of LGBT History Month Scotland 2020, SQIFF presents a programme of short films looking back into largely unseen and undiscovered aspects of the history of queer Scottish representation in the 20th century.



OBAN PRIDE FUNDRAISER THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW
 Fundraiser for Oban Pride presents: The Rocky Horror Picture Show. Dress up and get yourself a goody bag Classic. A newly engaged couple have a breakdown in an isolated area and must pay a call to the bizarre residence of Dr. Frank-N-Furter.



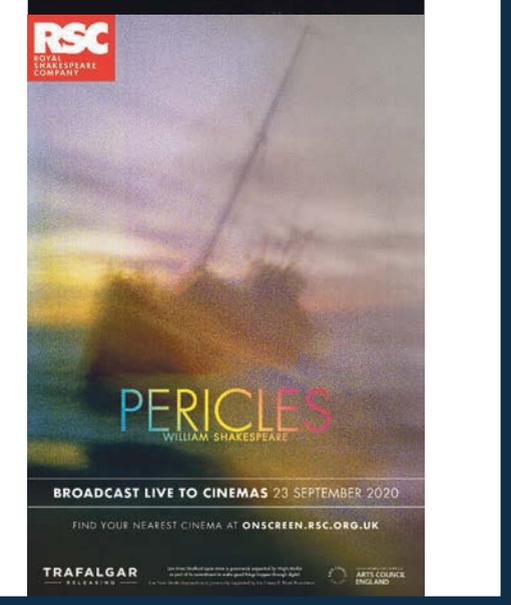
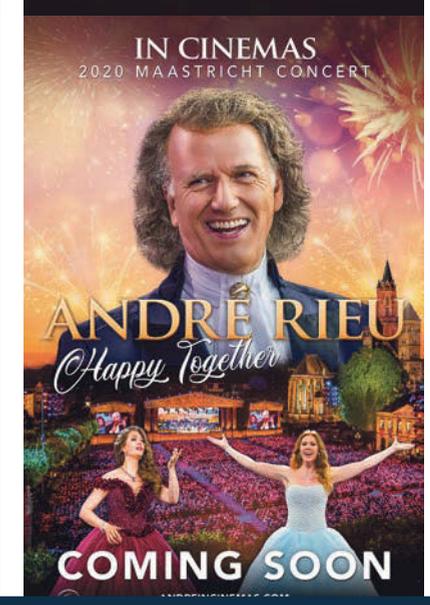
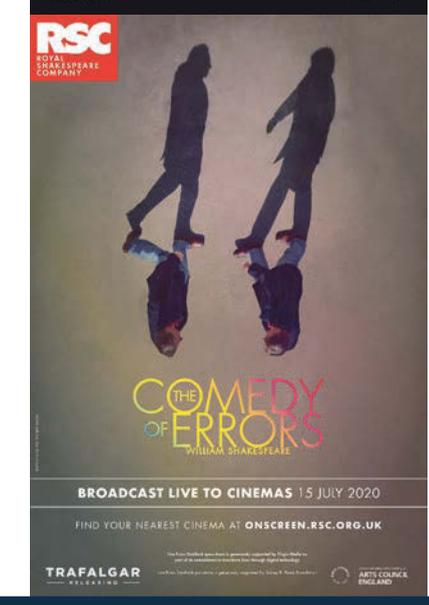
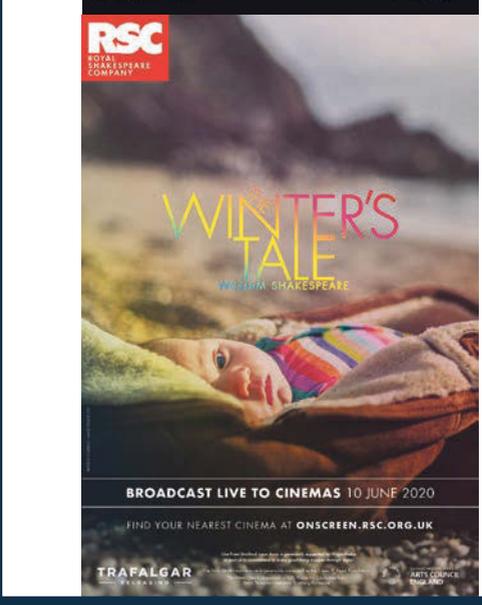
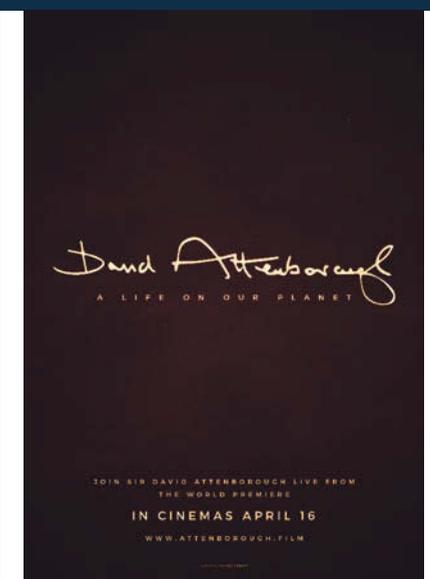
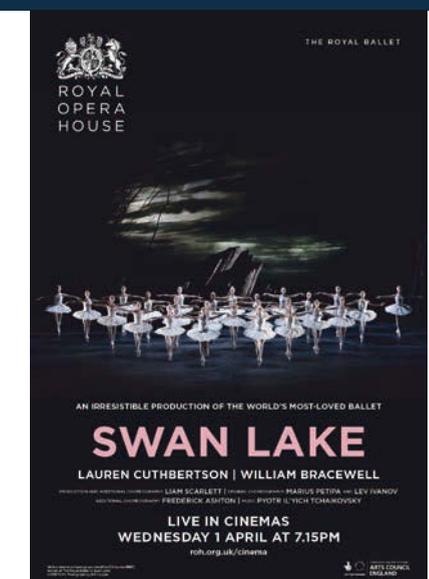
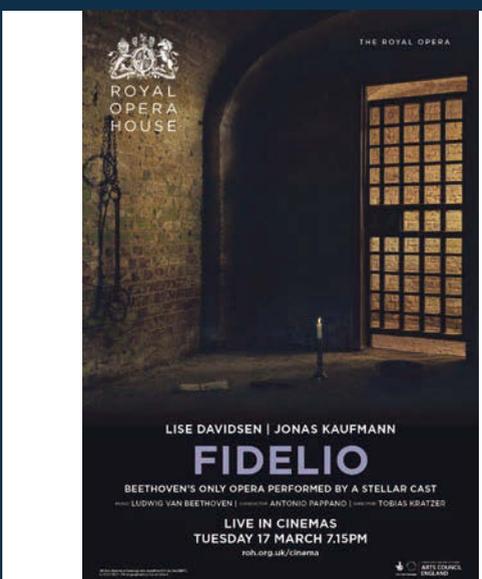
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Figures shown are for comparability purposes; only compare fuel consumption and CO₂ figures with other cars tested to the same technical procedures. These figures may not reflect real life driving results, which will depend upon a number of factors including the accessories fitted (post-registration), variations in weather, driving styles and vehicle load. *There is a new test used for fuel consumption and CO₂ figures. The CO₂ figures shown, however, are based on the outgoing test cycle and will be used to calculate vehicle tax on first registration.

*New Volvo plug-in hybrids only, UK retail customers, age 18+, registered on app. Sum reimbursed based on average UK electricity cost (actual tariff may vary). Max. reimbursement 3000kWh. Order from participating retailer 17/10/19 – 30/06/20, 12 months electricity runs from May 2020 or (if later) date of registration on app – you must own car for a minimum of 12-months. Not transferable. T&Cs apply.

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PICKUP OF THE YEAR 2019



ISUZU D-MAX COMPLETES HAT TRICK AT THE 2020 WHAT VAN? AWARDS

The multi award-winning Isuzu D-Max has been awarded What Van? 'Pick-up of the Year' for the third consecutive year, a testimony to our ongoing desire to provide the best working pick-up for professionals. The Isuzu D-Max was awarded What Van? Pick-Up of The Year for 2020 with the monthly title praising both its substance and style yet again. This accolade being hot on the heels of being crowned, Pick-up of the Year in the Commercial Fleet Awards for the second year.

The Isuzu D-Max emerged victorious, beating strong competition from rivals in a highly contested sector.

Judges were impressed by the economy and refinement of the innovative 164 PS turbo diesel engine, that provides impressive performance and builds upon the Isuzu D-Max's reliable workhorse character.

With a 3.5 tonne towing capacity and over 1.1 tonne payload, the Isuzu D-Max was also praised for providing a quieter, more economical driving experience. The 1.9L turbo diesel engine meets Euro 6 standards without

the need for the addition of AdBlue, unlike most of the Isuzu D-Max's competitors.

The breadth of the Isuzu D-Max range also impressed judges; with single, extended and double-cab formats available, as well as a wide choice of trim levels. Coupled with the attractive five-year/125,000-mile warranty package and 5 years' roadside assistance (in the UK & Europe), the Isuzu D-Max proved it was truly built for the professionals who use it.

What Van? editor and judge James Dallas said of the win: "With competitive prices, an

injection of lifestyle sophistication to complement proven off-road and workhorse ability, a full range of body styles and a frugal engine that requires no AdBlue, the Isuzu D-Max

has deservedly won a hat trick of Pick-up of the Year prizes." Isuzu UK Managing Director William Brown added: "This third consecutive award for the Isuzu D-Max is a testi-

mony to the great product which our customers already love and trust. Isuzu is proud to make reliable and quality vehicles for the professionals that need them, and this

award highlights the Isuzu truly is a step above the rest."

To find out more on the range contact Auto Services Perth on 01738 210000 or 07718 108110



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There's never been a better time to upgrade your pick-up, thanks to Isuzu's exclusive spring deal, which offers great discounts across its multi-award-winning Isuzu D-Max range.

The professional pick-up specialist is giving pick-up owners wishing to trade-in their old truck up to a generous £2,000 towards the purchase price of a brand

new Isuzu D-Max, which is capable of towing up to three-and-a-half-tonnes and has the benefit of a five year / 125,000 mile warranty, plus 5 year UK and EU roadside assistance. The discount applies in exchange for any make, any age and any model of pick-up, whether yours is simply feeling a little unloved, has seen better days, or has started to become the butt of your mates' jokes.

Isuzu UK Head of Marketing George Wallis added: "This amazing We Want your Pick-up campaign gives consumers the opportunity to get up to £2,000 towards the latest award-winning Isuzu D-Max models. We're expecting huge demand hence why the offer is while stocks last. Once they're gone, they're gone. The combination of the most awarded Pick-up with an award-winning offer means there truly has never been a better time to buy an Isuzu D-Max."

The award-winning Isuzu D-Max, has won WhatVan? Pick-up of the Year for 2020 (3rd year running). The

award-winning Isuzu D-Max had a successful 2019, being crowned 'Pick-Up of The Year' at the Commercial Fleet Awards (2nd year running) and 'Pick-up of the Year' 2019 from Pickup & 4x4 Pro, 'Best Working Pick-Up' for 2019 by Professional Pick-Up & 4X4 magazine, 'Best Workhorse Pick-Up' for 2019 by Trade Van Driver (7th year running) and Van/Truck Brand of the year 2019 by On The Tools (2nd year running).

The offer is available until 31 May 2020 and while stocks last. It applies to retail customers only purchasing Business, All-Purpose or Adventure models. For more information on the terms and conditions and how to take advantage of the deal, please contact S&S Services 01292 880080 to find out more

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Subaru Forester e-BOXER awarded best in the Small Off-Road / MPV class by Euro NCAP*1

- Subaru's 2nd award for "Best in Class" by Euro NCAP
- The all-new Forester e-BOXER achieved the highest score ever in its class*2 in the Child Occupant Protection test

This award is given to the best performing model of each class in the European New Car Assessment Programme (Euro NCAP) 2019 safety performance test and marks the second time that Subaru has received this prestigious safety recognition.

The all-new Subaru Forester e-BOXER achieved the maximum five star overall rating with outstanding scores in all four assessment areas (Adult Occupant, Child Occupant, Vulnerable Road Users, Safety Assist) and achieved the highest score ever in its class for "Child Occupant Protection" in the Euro NCAP 2019 assessment protocol.

Euro NCAP commented in the official crash test report: "In both the frontal and side barrier tests, protection of all critical body areas was good for both dummies and the Forester scored maximum points in this part of

the assessment. The front passenger airbag is automatically disabled when a rearward-facing child restraint is put in that seating position. Tests showed that the system worked robustly and the system was rewarded. All of the restraint types for which the Forester is designed could be properly installed and accommodated in the car." In addition to Child Occupant Protection, the Forester also performed the best score ever for Subaru in the Adult Occupant Protection.

Its superior crash safety performance has been achieved thanks to the Subaru Global Platform, a cutting-edge re-design of the body and chassis that has increased body strength by 40% compared to the outgoing Forester and allows the frame structure to absorb more energy in the event of a collision.

The all-new Forester e-BOXER is now safer than ever and comes with a suite of driver-assist and safety features as standard: EyeSight driver assist technology (providing Pre-Collision Braking, Adaptive Cruise Control, Lane Departure Warning, and other functions), Subaru Rear Vehicle Detection, Reverse Automatic Braking and a Driver Monitoring

System. A brand-new technology for Subaru, this system uses facial recognition technology to detect if the driver's gaze has wandered or if the driver is dozing off and alerts occupants if this occurs.

Forester has grown to become Subaru's top-selling model in the UK and is a popular choice amongst customers who trust it to be safe, capable and reliable. The fifth generation Forester commemorates Subaru's heritage and marks the future of 'Confidence in Motion' with e-BOXER

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ALL-NEW RENAULT CLIO CROWNED 'BEST SUPERMINI' AT UK CAR OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2020



- The All-New Clio adds 'Best Supermini' from UK Car of the Year Awards to its increasing awards collection
- The fifth generation Clio has been revised inside

and out with more dynamic look and greater technology

- Available with an extensive range of equipment and advanced driver assistance systems

- New E-TECH hybrid engine available from summer 2020 allowing for up to 80 per cent of urban driving time in 100 per cent electric mode

- All-New Clio customers benefit from a five-year warranty package
- Available to order now and priced from £14,695 OTR

The All-New Clio has triumphed in the latest UK Car of the Year Awards 2020, winning the 'Best Supermini' title.

The UK Car of the Year Awards judges were quick to praise the attributes of All-New Clio. Alex Grant, UK Car of the Year judge, said: "The fifth-generation of Renault's best-seller has matured into a product capable of rivalling premium-brand models. All of the Clio's signature agility is retained, now paired with the best cabin in this segment, advanced connectivity

options and a sophisticated hybrid system claimed to offer 80% fully-electric driving in town."

Judge Nargess Banks, commented: "It's one thing to make great premium cars for those who can afford them, but there is much more genius in distilling good engineering and thoughtful design to a car for the masses. The new Clio delivers enough style without trying too hard."

Commenting on the win, Vincent Tourette, Managing Director, Groupe Renault

UK said: "The All-New Clio is at the very heart of our brand and we're very pleased it has picked up yet another important award – All-New Clio is a model that sets new supermini standards with a revolutionary interior, a host of innovative technology and continues Renault's strong tradition for safety, having already been awarded a best-in-class five-star EuroNCAP rating. With the arrival of the E-TECH hybrid version and the launch of All-New Captur and New ZOE, Renault's

small car range is all new and genuinely does cater for all needs."

One of the many highlights of the interior is the availability of the new, larger 9.3-inch EASY LINK infotainment screen and a 10-inch TFT instrument cluster – features normally reserved for larger and more expensive cars. From the outset the designers wanted to give the All-New Clio a true premium feel, with soft touch plastics, satin finish metal trim and new, more enveloping seats all helping



push the car upmarket. With careful attention paid to ergonomics, the All-New Clio is the most comfortable and refined version yet.

With a commitment to quality and reliability, the

All-New Clio, alongside the rest of the Renault car range, is covered by a five-year warranty package.

To find out more, please call WD Semple on 01499 302 150

COME AND MEET THE ALL-NEW CAPTUR AT WD SEMPLE

Revolutionary interior design combines with exterior styling transformation



- Innovative infotainment system and advanced driver assistance technologies
- First Renault model to showcase E-TECH plug-in hybrid powertrain
- Second model after All-New Clio to be built on new CMF-B platform
- 5-star EuroNCAP rating
- Lighter, stronger and safer than its predecessor

The All-New Renault Captur with even greater style and sophistication, plus a raft of technological innovations, builds on the considerable success of the original and is the best-selling B-SUV in Europe.

Completely refreshed inside and out, All-New Captur is the second Renault model (the first was All-New Clio)

- Highway & Traffic Jam Companion brings advanced driver assistance to the class
- LED headlights standard across the range
- EasyLife line-up offers three trim levels – Play, Iconic and S Edition
- All-New 'Smart Cockpit' with 9.3-inch portrait infotainment screen

to be built on the advanced CMF-B platform. More spacious and refined than ever and with cutting edge driver assistance and infotainment systems, All-New Captur continues to set the standard in the small SUV class.

In line with Renault's familiar EasyLife trim line-up, All-New Captur is available in three recognisable and clearly

- Android Auto™ and Apple CarPlay™ compatibility
- More interior and boot space
- Sliding rear bench for enhanced versatility
- Enhanced customisation options both inside and out
- Brand-new engines with a choice of manual or EDC seven-speed gearboxes.

defined guises: Play, Iconic and S Edition. All versions are extremely well-equipped and come laden with premium features, giving All-New Captur a truly upmarket look and feel.

Find out more at WD Semple Inverary, your local Renault dealer on 01499 302150

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3. Call and make your booking. Visit us on the day of your appointment, collect your free courtesy car and return home to the

West Coast. We will deliver your car home to you and collect the courtesy car for an additional fee of £50.00.

4. Call and make your booking. Visit us on the day of your appointment, if you are going on holiday and flying between Monday – Friday, between 8am - 5pm we would be

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- The all-new PEUGEOT e-2008 SUV is the second, new generation fully electric model from PEUGEOT, with the brand set to offer electrified variants across its entire model line-up by 2023

Available to drive away today - the all-new PEUGEOT 2008 SUV and its full electric counterpart, the e-2008 SUV. Prices for the all-new PEUGEOT 2008 SUV start at £20,150, while the PEUGEOT e-2008 SUV will be available from £28,150*, with deliveries starting from late April 2020.

On Personal Finance Lease**, the all-new PEUGEOT 2008 SUV in Active trim will be available from as little as £279 per month for a 48 month contract, with an initial payment of £700 and an optional final payment of £8,146. And the

all-new PEUGEOT e-2008 SUV full electric Active trim is £309 per month with an initial payment of £5,500 for the same contract length and an optional final payment of £11,709.

The all-new PEUGEOT e-2008 SUV is the second full electric model available from PEUGEOT, as the brand implements its strategy of providing an electrified derivative of every model by 2023. PEUGEOT's new generation electric vehicles (EVs) fulfil the brand's philosophy of 'Unboring the Future' by offering customers the

option to 'choose your PEUGEOT, choose your powertrain' without compromising on space, technology, looks or driving sensations.

The first SUV in PEUGEOT's new electrification strategy measures 4.3m long, 1.77m wide and 1.55m high. For added practicality, the all-new PEUGEOT 2008 SUV holds a maximum capacity of 1,467 litres in the boot.

Designed to put the driver in full control, the all-new PEUGEOT 2008 SUV comes with the PEUGEOT 3D i-Cockpit®, featuring a compact multifunction

steering wheel, configurable 3D instrument panel display, either a 7" or 10" HD colour touchscreen (according to version) and seven gloss black toggle 'piano switches'. The interior can also be personalised with a choice of eight LED mood lighting colours. Customers will benefit from Mirror Screen® with Apple CarPlay™ and Android Auto as standard across all versions, and Connected 3D Navigation and Full Park Assist, both available from GT Line.

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of safety technologies, including Speed Limit Recognition & Recommendation, Driver Attention Warning, Lane Keeping Technologies and Programmable Cruise Control with Speed Limiter.

The all-new PEUGEOT 2008 SUV is available with a choice of four PureTech petrol engines, a highly efficient BlueHDi diesel engine and a fully electric powertrain.

To find out more about the all-new PEUGEOT 2008 or e-2008 SUV, visit www.campbeltownmotorcompany.co.uk



PEUGEOT TAKES THE TRIPLE CROWN AT THE COMPANY CAR AND VAN AWARDS

PEUGEOT is marking the start of 2020 by taking home three awards from the independent SME fleet motoring news magazine Company Car and Van. The all-new PEUGEOT e-208, which is arriving in UK showrooms soon, has taken the award for 'Small EV of the Year 2020', with Company Car and Van Editor Andrew Walker stating, "The PEUGEOT e-208 is a far more attractive, exciting, classy and enjoyable car than all of the current electric car competition." He also points out the car's strong appeal to company car

drivers, "For company car drivers, all the range comes with a 2019/20 BIK of just 16 per cent." This will further drop in April 2020 to 0%.

PEUGEOT's second win goes to the head-turning 508, which swept the competition aside to be crowned Medium Car of the Year 2020 in the awards, with Andrew commenting, "The PEUGEOT 508 is a great all-rounder and for fleet customers, the diesel will achieve mid-fifties mpg. While many cars are bland to look at nowadays, the 508 bucks the trend, with movie-star looks that don't take away any of the

practicality customers expect from their car."

It wasn't just PEUGEOT's latest cars that were honoured in the 2020 Company Car and Van awards either. 2019 saw the UK launch of the multi-award winning PEUGEOT Partner van, which has proved popular with customers both in the retail and fleet sectors. "The Partner now sits right at the top of its sector and will give the Transit Connect and Caddy a few sleepless nights", reckons Andrew, "PSA Group really are on a roll with their CVs and this



latest Partner only adds to the brand's appeal."

This is the second year running that Partner has won

the award, which is shared with Groupe PSA stablemates the Citroën Berlingo Van and Vauxhall Cargo Combo.

For further information about PEUGEOT contact Campbeltown Motor Company on 01586 553200



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- 16 16 Volkswagen Polo SE TSI** £8,795
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- 15 15 Mercedes CLA180 AMG Sport**..... £16,995
1.6cc, Petrol, 4 Door, Black, 15,500 miles, Saloon, Remote Central Locking, 2 Keys, Front & Rear Electric Windows, Electric Mirrors, Cruise Control, Front & Rear Parking Sensors, Sat Nav, Bluetooth, 6 Speed Gear Box, Air Con, Alloys, Isofix, Fully Serviced, 1 Years Mot

LIGHT COMMERCIALS

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- 18 68 Volkswagen Transporter T30 TDI LWB Highline**£18,995 + vat
2.0cc, Diesel, Silver 23,800 miles, 3 Seater, Remote Central Locking, Electric Windows & Mirrors, Heated Wing Mirrors, Rear Parking Sensors, Ply Lined, Cruise Control, Bluetooth, Air Con, Alloys, Front Fog Lights, Fully Serviced, Manufactures Warranty Until October 2021

- 18 18 Mitsubishi L200 Barbarian D-Cab 4WD** £18,495 + vat
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- 18 18 Vauxhall Combo 2000 CDTI**.....£7,795 + Vat
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- 15 65 Vauxhall Combo 2000 CDTI**..... £5295 + VAT
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- Even small dents can hide underlying structural damage
- Damage to paintwork lets water in and raises the risk of rust
- When it comes to selling, any unrepaired damage suggests you've neglected the car

yourself it doesn't look good but it's only a minor blemish. Or the car is getting older, so a minor dent here and there doesn't really matter.

"Or you tell yourself you'll get it fixed sooner or later, just not today. So, you put it on the back burner of your to-do list and somehow it never seems to get done.

"Next thing you know, six months or a year have gone by and that car dent is still there. And who knows what's happening to your car underneath the dent?"

GEM has compiled a list of good reasons for fixing car dents as soon as they happen, not when you eventually get around to it:

1 Safety

When it comes to car maintenance, safety is always the top priority. Even small dents can hide underlying structural damage that isn't obvious on the surface. For

example, today's flexible bumper covers with plastic outer coatings are designed to minimise damage in low-speed collisions. Yet, the underlying damage can often be much worse than it looks on the surface – and that could compromise safety for you and your passengers.

2 Rust issues

Dents cause unsightly blemishes on your car. But a further problem is that a dent damages the paintwork. Cracks caused by even a very small impact can allow water to seep underneath the paint where it will reach the unprotected metal part of the car. Over time, the water will cause the metal to oxidise, causing rust.

3 Longer-term paint damage

When you ignore the damage that occurs with a dent, the paintwork isn't going to get better. Weather conditions,

everyday wear-and-tear, and even washing your car can cause the cracks in the paint to grow larger. This can lead to flaking and peeling, leaving the underlying sealant exposed. If the car dent is severe enough to damage the sealant as well, peeling paint can leave bare metal exposed. Once this happens, it's only a matter of time before it starts to rust.

4 Reduced resale value

No matter how well your car runs, the exterior appearance is a vital factor when it comes to selling. Few things lower the value of a used car as effectively as unrepaired damage, even if it appears minor. Add paint damage and rust spots and the price a buyer is willing to pay goes down even more. Furthermore, unrepaired dents are a sign of a neglectful owner. Potential buyers may wonder what else is wrong

with the car because you didn't take care of the engine, brakes, or other parts. Unless your car is old and in poor condition overall, fixing any dents should bring you a better price.

5 Cheaper to put right

Repairing car dents right away will always cost less than if you wait. It doesn't take long for rust spots to appear or paint to start flaking away. In times of bad weather, or if there's a lot of salt in the air (as you'll find in coastal locations), the damage will spread even faster.

6 Pride

If you care about your car's appearance, it doesn't make sense to leave a dent unrepaired. So, the next time someone opens their car door into yours or you bump into someone else when parking, don't wait. Get the damage assessed and repaired by experts.

It may be human nature to put off small tasks that don't seem urgent, but road safety and breakdown organisation GEM Motoring Assist is urging car owners to have any damage put right as soon as possible.

Delaying repair to car body damage – however minor – can put safety at risk, due to the complex protection systems in place on all modern cars, according

to GEM. Additionally, the longer you leave a dent unrepaired, the costlier it's likely to be to put right – and damaged or dangerous bodywork could constitute an MoT failure under the new testing regulations.

GEM's road safety officer Neil Worth said: "If it's a large dent, most people will get it fixed right away. But when it's only a small dent, it can be easy to put off. You tell

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LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

Nightbird is all set to soar in Seil and Fort William

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



A Paisley Buddy with local connections is travelling from Finland to bring a truly unique sound to audiences in the Highlands and Islands.

Now residing in Helsinki, artist and part-time tour manager Don McCracken and fellow expat Mike Lennie (vocals and guitar) have teamed up with Fenno-Swedish singer/songwriter Anna-Stina Jungerson (Nightbird) to enchant a selection of small Scottish audiences with some deep-rooted original melodies.

The nine-date tour starts in Applecross on March 26 and takes in Thurso, Kirkwall, Inverness, Stornoway, Old Forge, Knoydart (April 3) and



Garrison West, Fort William (April 4) before winding up at Tigh an Truish on the Isle of Seil on April 5.

Don spent many a happy childhood holiday at his

granny's in Balvicar and is particularly excited about this forthcoming tour (read Don's heartwarming story on pages 12 and 13).

I'm always looking for

Nightbird and Mike Lennie are heading for the Highlands in April.

Photograph: Kevin Pollard.

an excuse to get back there so this tour is very much a combination of work and pleasure,' he told us.

'Mike is in the same position as me – Scottish-born and bred but living here in Finland – and Nightbird has always loved hearing our stories of Scotland, so we finally decided to do something about it. I put on my tour-manager hat, got on the phone and we were all set.

'This tour is really something special, I think, as we have deliberately avoided the usual cities and focused on getting far off the beaten track. This means not only that we get to travel to beauti-

ful places, but also that small town and village venues will be hosting a couple of artists who would normally be playing on bigger stages.'

Nightbird herself is a rising star in Finland having just performed on a couple of television shows, one of the being a big Christmas special, and her second album will be released just around the time of the tour. The first single from the album will be released at the end of this month.

A Swedish-speaking Finn, Nightbird is part of a minority of five per cent of the population in her country who speak Swedish as their mother tongue rather than Finnish, and she's interested to travel in the Highlands as there is a parallel situation with Gaelic-speakers in Scotland.

Her background environment has informed her art and resulted in a style of music that's not entirely unfamiliar, but is at the same time completely original.

Her influences come from old blues pioneers and a blend of American folk and Finnish forest folk music and her songs are occasionally accompanied by her hauntingly beautiful slide guitar playing.

'They call it the Ostrobothnian blues, though I never heard anybody play it before me,' she said.

Musician Mike is turning the trip into a homecoming tour having lived in Helsinki for the past eight years.

'He's a real creative glue in the community, and one of the kindest people you could meet, so he'll be sorely missed by us all,' added Don.

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WHAT'S ON

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THURSDAY 20TH FEBRUARY

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

Argyllshire Gathering Halls, 7.30pm

Entertainment @ Markie Dans

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FRIDAY 21ST FEBRUARY

Hope Kitchen Music Group

Salvation Army Hall, 1pm-4pm

Parsley's Cat Cafe

New Hope Kitchen, 2pm

Lorn Archaeological and Historical Society

Oban Community Fire Station
7.30pm-9.30pm

Entertainment @ Markie Dans

Crackin Craic
Open till 2:00am

SATURDAY 22ND FEBRUARY

Parkrun

Ganavan Sands, 9.30am

Entertainment @ Markie Dans

The Fold, Open till 2:00am

SUNDAY 23RD FEBRUARY

Morning Service

Refreshments follow
Salvation Army Hall
11:00am – 12:00pm

Entertainment @ Markie Dans

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

Oban Music Society – Meadows

Orchestra Wind Band
St John's Cathedral, 3pm

MONDAY 24TH FEBRUARY

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 25TH FEBRUARY

Oban Men's Shed

Salvation Army Hall
9:00am – 12:00pm

Carers Coffee Morning

North Argyll Carers Centre
10.30am-12pm

Martyn's Monday Club Ladies

New Hope Kitchen
7pm-9pm

WEDNESDAY 26TH FEBRUARY

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



Stirling Orchestra to play Oban

Stirling Orchestra is heading out on tour.

The musicians are taking a trip to Oban to share some musical love at the Corran Halls on Saturday March 7.

Stirling Orchestra was formed in 1983 by a small group of amateur musicians, and has now grown to a large orchestra of around 70 players.

The membership is drawn mostly from the Stirling area, although many come from much further afield,

across central Scotland, and embraces a wide range of backgrounds and professions, with retirees and full-time parents, as well as students from Stirling University.

Stirling Orchestra performs two or three concerts a year in Stirling's Albert Halls and presents an eclectic repertoire ranging from the 'classics' to 20th century film scores and more.

On their visit to Oban they will be

playing Mendelssohn – Symphony No.3 'Scottish', Haydn – Trumpet Concerto, and Rossini – The Thieving Magpie Overture.

Conductor for the evening is Stephen Broad, leader is Joëlle Broad, with Elliot Harris on solo trumpet.

The concert starts at 7pm and tickets are £10, £8 (conc), £5 (students with ID), £2 (child), and are available from the Corran Halls box office by calling 01631 567333.

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



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The musicians will play the Corran Halls on March 7.

Masterpieces of the chamber repertoire to be played in Oban

Oban Music Society welcomes the Meadows Chamber Orchestra at 3pm in St John's Cathedral, George Street, Oban, on Sunday February 23.

The orchestra previously played in Oban when they gave a splendid memorial concert for Bet Graham last year.

For 40 years, the Edinburgh-based orchestra, under its principal conductor and musical

adviser, Peter Evans, has performed regularly and with critical acclaim to audiences in Edinburgh and beyond.

A tradition of imaginative programming and exciting performances has given the orchestra a unique place in Scottish musical life.

In recognition of its promotion of contemporary music, the orchestra has received several Awards for Enterprise from the

Performing Rights Society and occasional generous financial support from various sources.

In recent years, the Meadows has twice broadcast on BBC Radio 3.

The music for the afternoon will be Dvořák Op.44 Serenade for wind instruments, cello and double bass, Mozart's K361 Serenade No.10 In Bb major, and his Serenade No.10 In Bb major (GranPartita).

Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



Last weekend, I popped into the Deoch 'n' Dorus in Partick to meet my pal Donnie Maroot for a long overdue pint and a catch up.

On arrival, I found Donnie smiling away to himself with a story to tell. Just before I turned up, he had spotted a crowd leaving the pub and he noticed shortly afterwards that they had forgotten what looked like an iPad left on their table. Donnie sprinted out after them and ran down Dumbarton Road shouting: 'Excuse me - you've left your iPad!'

The crowd followed him back to the pub and pointed out that the item lying on the table was, in fact, a menu!

Glasgow Islay Choir concert

The Glasgow Islay choir will perform in the Westerton Hall, Maxwell Avenue, Bearsden, on Friday February 28 at 7.30pm.

The evening will be chaired by Mary Ann Kennedy and the programme will feature last year's Mòd Gold Medallist Claire Macaulay, as well as Marina MacLeod, Mòd winning quartet Na h-àilleagain, and many more artists. Tickets, available at the door, are £8 which includes tea, coffee, and biscuits. Under-16s free.

Mull and Iona Gathering

The first major island association gathering of the year takes place this Saturday evening.

This will be the first gathering since the association chose Dr Alasdair Whyte as its new president last year.



Alasdair Whyte (of Gaelic electronica duo, WHYTE) is the new president of the Mull and Iona Association, which holds its annual gathering this weekend.

Performers on the evening will be Claire Macaulay, Calum MacColl, Kirsty Netta MacKinnon, Ruairidh MacLean and Camrie MacInnes, Layla and Cara MacFadyen, and the Mull and Iona Pipers.

Doors open at 7pm and, after the concert, Robert Nairn and his Highland dance band will play from 10.30pm.

Tickets are available from themullandiona@gmail.com or in person at the Park Bar.

Stirling An Comunn cèilidh

The Stirling branch of An Comunn Gàidhealach will hold their next cèilidh in the Albert Halls on Saturday February 22 at 7.30pm.

Stirling Gaelic Choir will provide the majority of the entertainment, performing solos, duets and choral numbers. The piper for the evening will be Callum Wynd and also performing will be the Cluaran Highland

Dancers. Tickets are £6, which includes the usual tea, coffee and eats.

Tatties and Herring night

The Glasgow Skye Association will hold their annual Buntata 's Sgadan (Tatties and Herring) night in the Crawford Hall, Beith Street, on Saturday February 29 at 7.30pm.

I have been along to this event a couple of times and the entertainment is always excellent and, of course, the food is tremendous.

The association's next event after that will be the Cothrom na h-Òigridh (children's concert) on Friday March 13 in the same venue but at the earlier time of 7pm.

Pub scene

Park Bar
Friday: Leisgeul na Cèilidh
Saturday: Martainn Skene
Sunday: Troighsgeir

Islay Inn
Friday: The Keelies
Saturday: Atlantic Reel

Joy Dunlop and brother to tour Argyll with their debut album

A musical duo from Connel will be touring Argyll this weekend playing songs from their debut album.

Dithis (Duo) is the debut album by sibling duo Joy and Andrew Dunlop, who have been making music together since childhood.

The pair were steeped in the rich musical tapestry of Argyll from an early age but developed their talents in different ways. Joy immersed herself in Gaelic song traditions and Andrew followed a classical path.

Joy is known for her successes at the Royal National Mòd, conducting the Alba Choir, who were Scotland's



first Gaelic Eurovision entry, as well as for presenting the weather on BBC Scotland, in addition to frequent appearances on BBC ALBA and Radio nan Gàidheal.

Andrew Dunlop is a versatile musician who has performed across Europe, USA, Canada, and New Zealand.

Andrew, who reached the finals of the BBC Young Traditional Musician of the Year, currently works as the Company/Orchestral Pianist for Northern Ballet.

The duo will be performing in Christ Church, Lochgilphead on Friday, February 21, from 7.30pm.

They will be in St Mary's Space, Appin, on Saturday February 22 also starting at 7.30pm. And on Sunday February 23 they will be performing in Stonefield Castle, Tarbert, at 2pm.

To buy tickets, £10/£8, visit www.eventbrite.com/e/86418304475 or they are available on the door.

<p>DIARDAOIN 20 An Gearran / THURSDAY 20 February</p> <p>17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming</p> <p>19:00 Bailtean Fraoich (rpt)</p> <p>19:30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)</p> <p>19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)</p> <p>20:00 An Là – News</p> <p>20:30 ÙR/NEW: Eorpa/ European Current Affairs</p> <p>21:00 Sar Sgeoil: Consider the Lilies (rpt)</p> <p>22:00 ÙR/NEW: Mach a Seo!</p> <p>22:30 Fo Ghlas/ Worlds Toughest Prisons (rpt)</p> <p>23:15 Dhan Uisge (Loch Lomond) (rpt)</p> <p>23:25 Belladrum – Cridhe Tartan (Highlights) (rpt)</p> <p>23:30 Fonn Fonn Fonn (rpt)</p> <p>DIHAOINE 21 An Gearran / FRIDAY 21st February</p> <p>17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming</p> <p>18:35 Machair (rpt)</p> <p>19:00 An Là – News</p> <p>19:25 ÙR/NEW: Scottish Women's Premier League – Celtic v Glasgow City</p> <p>21:30 ÙR/NEW: Film G 2020</p> <p>23:00 An Klondike (rpt)</p> <p>23:50 Dhan Uisge (Loch Lomond) (rpt)</p> <p>DISATHAIRNE 22 An Gearran / SATURDAY 22 February</p> <p>16:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming</p> <p>17:45 An Là – News</p> <p>18:00 ÙR/NEW: Scottish Premiership – Hibernian v Livingston</p> <p>20:00 Machair (rpt)</p> <p>20:25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)</p> <p>20:30 An t-Eilean/From Skye with Love (rpt)</p>	<p>21:00 ÙR/NEW: Seirm – Celtic Connections</p> <p>22:00 Fo Ghlas/ World's Toughest Prisons (rpt)</p> <p>22:45 Ceol bho Perthshire Amber (rpt)</p> <p>23:00 Scottish Premiership – Hibernian v Livingston (rpt)</p> <p>DIDÒMHNAICH 23 An Gearran / SUNDAY 23 February</p> <p>16:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming</p> <p>19:05 An Là – News</p> <p>19:20 Seachd La – News Review</p> <p>20:20 Ceol bho Perthshire</p> <p>20:30 Eorpa (rpt)</p> <p>21:00 Mach a Seo! (rpt)</p> <p>21:30 ÙR/NEW: Gradam Ceoil 2020</p> <p>23:00 An Klondike (rpt)</p> <p>23:50 Dhan Uisge (Loch Lochmond) (rpt)</p> <p>DILUAIN 24 An Gearran / MONDAY 24 February</p> <p>17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming</p> <p>19:00 Turas a' Bhradain (rpt)</p> <p>19:30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)</p> <p>19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)</p> <p>20:00 An Là – News</p> <p>20:30 Air an Smuid (Steaming) (rpt)</p> <p>21:00 Trusadh – Traisg is Caisg/ The Season of Lent (rpt)</p> <p>21:50 Eadar Chluich (rpt)</p> <p>22:00 Port – Druthag Eile (rpt)</p> <p>22:30 Film G 2020 (rpt)</p> <p>DIMÀIRT 25 An Gearran / TUESDAY 25 February</p> <p>17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming</p> <p>19:00 Bailtean Fraoich (rpt)</p> <p>19:30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)</p> <p>19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)</p> <p>20:00 An Là – News</p> <p>20:30 ÙR/NEW: Eorpa/ European Current Affairs</p> <p>21:00 Sgiobair nan Taighean-solais Northern Lighthouse Board (rpt)</p> <p>22:00 ÙR/NEW: Mach a Seo!</p> <p>22:30 Fo Ghlas/ Worlds Toughest Prisons (rpt)</p> <p>23:15 Dhan Uisge (Loch Lomond) (rpt)</p> <p>23:25 Belladrum – Cridhe Tartan (Highlights) (rpt)</p> <p>23:30 Fonn Fonn Fonn (rpt)</p>	<p>20:00 An Là – News</p> <p>20:30 Dreach Ur (rpt)</p> <p>21:00 Air a' Chanal (rpt)</p> <p>22:00 Trusadh – Traisg is Caisg/ The Season of Lent (rpt)</p> <p>22:50 Ceol bho Perthshire Amber (rpt)</p> <p>23:00 Oran na Mna (rpt)</p> <p>23:30 Alleluia (rpt)</p> <p>DICIADAIN 26 An Gearran / WEDNESDAY 26 February</p> <p>17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming</p> <p>19:00 Turas a' Bhradain (rpt)</p> <p>19:30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)</p> <p>19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)</p> <p>20:00 An Là – News</p> <p>20:30 An t-Eilean/From Skye with Love (rpt)</p> <p>21:00 'San Fhuil/Its in the Blood (rpt)</p> <p>22:00 Fonn Fonn Fonn (rpt)</p> <p>22:30 Port – Druthag Eile (rpt)</p> <p>23:00 Sar Sgeoil: Consider the Lilies (rpt)</p> <p>DIARDAOIN 27 An Gearran / THURSDAY 27 February</p> <p>17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming</p> <p>19:00 Bailtean Fraoich (rpt)</p> <p>19:30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)</p> <p>19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)</p> <p>20:00 An Là – News</p> <p>20:30 ÙR/NEW: Eorpa/ European Current Affairs</p> <p>21:00 Sgiobair nan Taighean-solais Northern Lighthouse Board (rpt)</p> <p>22:00 ÙR/NEW: Mach a Seo!</p> <p>22:30 Fo Ghlas/ Worlds Toughest Prisons (rpt)</p> <p>23:15 Dhan Uisge (Loch Lomond) (rpt)</p> <p>23:25 Belladrum – Cridhe Tartan (Highlights) (rpt)</p> <p>23:30 Fonn Fonn Fonn (rpt)</p>
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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 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 and 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 and Tiny, 1pm-5pm: Clyde 2, 5pm-6:45pm: Drive time with Jim Lynch, 6:45pm-7pm: Sports View, 7pm-8pm: Country meets country with Jackie Craig, 8pm-10pm: Peter Rainnie, 10pm-12am: Clyde 2

SATURDAY: 8am-10am: Breakfast with Stephen, 10am-1pm: Saturday morning live with Linda Crosher, 1pm-6pm: Clyde 2, 6pm-7pm: Sports view with the dream team, 7pm-8pm: Sounds Scottish with Archie, 8pm-10pm: Dave Lewis, 10pm-12am: Margo till Midnight

SUNDAY: 9am-11am: Sunday Morning with Breege, 11am-1pm: Sunday brunch with Allan, 1pm-7pm: Clyde 2, 7pm-9pm: New Country with Dave and Murdo, 9pm-11pm: Drum and Bass with Graham Scott

Reflections on Celtic Connections 2020

Oban FM's Campbell Cameron reflects on this year's Celtic Connections.

Celtic Connections comes to us from Christmas to spring each year, leaving us in decent spirits given the wet and windy start to 2020.

This year has been busier so getting to Glasgow has been less frequent, so I do approve of the 5pm recital concerts at the city hall giving us a two bites of the cherry per Thursday night this year.

Dave Milligan and Messrs Peach and Grey offered concerts a week apart at the venue, giving us experience at each end of the musical chronology. Dave has 40 years under his belt in the music business, where the lads are fresh-faced and newly let loose.

Boisterous and calm in equal measures. Delicate licks and deft touches or vice versa. Both acts held their audience in their spell. Milligan took us on a musical journey in the mind with occasional prompts from the maestro on the classic grand piano.

The boys, Joseph Peach on piano and Charlie Grey on fiddle, took us away to the islands on the edge of the world in both our imaginations and on Hamish MacLeod's excellent film, *Air Iomall*.

St Kilda and the Flannan Isles provided footage of the islands left, in St Kilda's case 88 years to the day before the performance in the wee church.

The event left me more determined and longing for more, so here's hoping that we can make the trip to the magical isles this year.

Assynt got us warmed up for the big event – Orcadians in Hudson's Bay – at the lovely Mitchell Theatre. Assynt were crowned 'up and coming artist of the year' at 2018's Scots Trad Music Awards, and the Highland trio have come on leaps and bounds since last summer's visit to the Benderloch Palladium.

Comprising Graham Mackenzie on the fiddle, David Shedden on the pipes and whistles, and Pablo on the guitar – in for regular Innes White – the new music material previewed from their imminent second album is going to take them higher still. Storming sets on pipes

Highland trio Assynt delighted the Celtic Connections audience, performing new material from their imminent second album.



'Though it's sad when the music stops, it's also great to look back on such a successful event as this one, which has brought together so many talented performers' – Donald Shaw

and fiddle welded together as one were balanced by the gentle airs and the clever guitar flicks from the worthy sub.

When Orkney born and bred Gness fiddler and mandolinist Graham Rorie looked for inspiration, he found it in 'the watter of Stromness just 10 meenites doon the road', as he tells us in his delicious mellifluous accent. This was where the Hudson's Bay Company's ships called for supplies after sailing north from the Thames. As well as 'watter', they drew men and at least one disguised woman, Isobel Gunn, from the 'hardy, hardworking and generally sober' population of the isles.

So popular was the desire for adventure and escape from the hardships of 18th-century life that at one point more than 400 employees of the Hudson's Bay Company, 79 per cent, were Orcadian.

This year is the 350th anniversary of the Hudson's Bay

Company and the première of Rorie's new instrumental suite celebrating Orkney's uniquely close ties with the firm. We enjoyed famous and unknown stories from this long-shared history as Rorie performed with a terrific band enhanced by roof-raising Québécois quintet Le Vent du Nord. Many stayed on and formed now famous cities, including Edmonton, we learned. Some came home with fortunes made and helped grow the isles by building schools and giving them their names. Some are honoured along with the Stromness well.

Friday night in Glasgow at the end of January is transatlantic sessions for me. The amazing gathering of musicians is now in its 17th year and the Glasgow gig is now the warm up for a British tour.

Aly Bain is now officially old, he says, and Phil

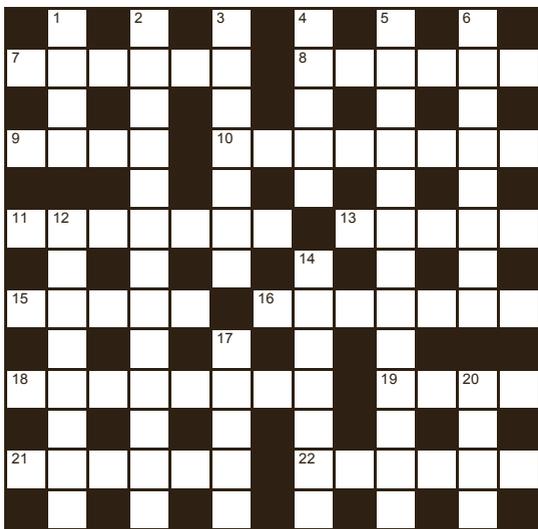
Cunningham is coming up fast behind, celebrating 70 himself. Even Sierra Hull is no longer a child prodigy and Tommy Emmanuel is looking spritely. Rachael Sermanni has started a family. Together with Cathy Jordan, they blew us all away with amazing energy and ever innovative musical interpretation. The amazing band was never many less than a dozen – peaked at 16, I think – and on occasions when they went off for a breather, they left director Jerry Douglas with one of the chanteuses to enchant us. It was just magical. But it's done.

By the time you read this, the sets will be packed up and the transatlantic sessions coach will be approaching Birmingham. More than 2,000 artistes will be making their way on from 300 events in 29 venues – ready for a rest and 130,000 folk will be waxing lyrical, literally, with stories of the concerts that made their Celtic Connections 2020.

Last word to Taynuilt's very own Donald Shaw who has plans under way already for 2021.

'The end of the festival is

Crossword



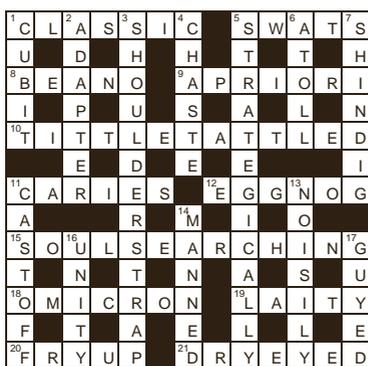
Across

- 7 Fast beast (of a car?) (6)
- 8 Look up to (6)
- 9 Old 45 player (2-2)
- 10 One with a flock (8)
- 11 Condition of utter poverty (7)
- 13 Shadow (5)
- 15 Boring (5)
- 16 Strong and proud (7)
- 18 Crowded time of day on the roads (4,4)
- 19 Small and weak (4)
- 21 Indigenous (6)
- 22 Found in the trachea (6)

Down

- 1 One to call for a journey (4)
- 2 Hypothetical device for computation of logic (6,7)
- 3 Where scumping takes place (7)
- 4 Obtain a legal partner (5)
- 5 Fun area to go on rides (9,4)
- 6 Practice test (5,3)
- 12 Leave the building by order (8)
- 14 Feverish (7)
- 17 Time being (5)
- 20 Three squared (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



Celtic 20



always a bittersweet moment,' said the long-time creative producer. 'Though it's sad when the music stops, it's also great to look back on such a successful event as this one, which has brought together so many talented performers and presented so many dynamic and creative collaborations. Feedback from our audiences and musicians has been fantastic.

'Programming an event on this scale is a huge logistical operation and after all the months of planning and organisation by such a dedicated team, it's been wonderful to experience the festival in full swing. Bring on 2021!'

Oban cinema celebrates women down the ages

A specially selected archive film programme exploring the work, home life and leisure of Scottish women during the 20th century is coming to Oban Phoenix Cinema to celebrate International Women's Day on Sunday March 8.

Film Scotland and the National Library of Scotland Moving Image Archive present Her Century - a timely collection of rare footage screening together for the first time in a touring programme sparking debate and discussion in cinema's across the country about the lives of women now.

Scotland's women lived through major social change in the 20th century, challenging their roles in society and fighting for equality: at work and at home, classroom to croft, girlhood to motherhood.

Her Century brings to the big screen both the dominant norms of how a woman was 'meant' to be as well as the strong resistance to them, featuring the faces and voices of pioneers, school-girls and housewives from the Edwardian era to the Thatcher years.

Her Century is supported by Film Hub Scotland, part of the BFI's Film Audience Network and funded by BFI

and Screen Scotland. In partnership with the National Library of Scotland Moving Image Archive.

Featuring work from Scottish female filmmakers including Sarah Erulkar, Brigid 'Budge' Cooper and Jenny Gilbertson, these rarely-seen films follow women's histories and voices through 100 years of filmmaking in Scotland.

Showing on the same day Shextreme is a must for all the women who answer the call of adventure. The world's first film festival celebrating women in extreme sports and adventure, Shextreme launched its first UK tour last autumn.

Leading the charge for gender equality in adventure filmmaking, Shextreme's UK tour takes the best of the 2019 festival out on the road, electrifying audiences with an exciting and inspiring celebration of adventurous, active women.

Also showing on March 8 is Home, an insight into the travels of UK adventurer Sarah Outen during her London2London: Via the World expedition when her life and mental health were both put at risk due to violent weather.

Go to obanphoenix.com for a full programme of events.



Scotland's women lived through major social change in the 20th century.

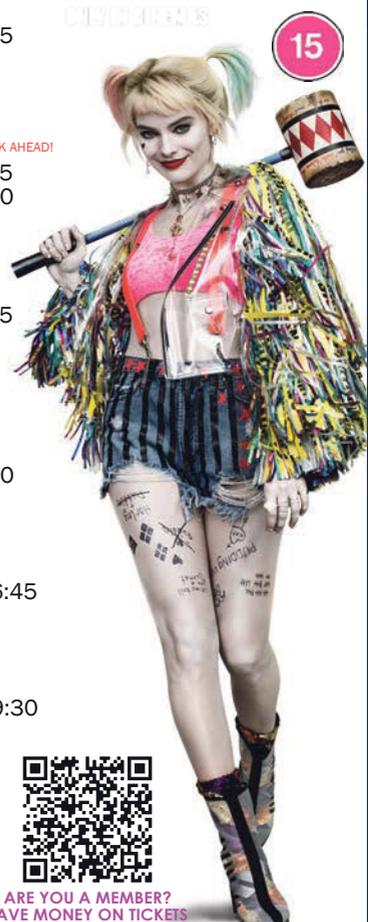
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★ SILVER SCREEN	FRIDAY 21 FEB	David Copperfield PG	12:00/16:45	
		Dolittle PG	17:00	
		Bad Boys For Life 15	19:15	
		Birds of Prey 15	19:30	
	★ SATURDAY 22 FEB		Paw Patrol: Ready Race Rescue U	12:15 ★ BOOK AHEAD!
			Dolittle PG	12:30/16:15
			David Copperfield PG	15:00/18:30
			1917 15	17:45
	★ SUNDAY 23 FEB		Birds of Prey 15	20:30
			Bad Boys For Life 15	21:00
		Dolittle PG	12:15/14:15	
		David Copperfield PG	14:30	
★ HOH (SUBTITLES)		Bad Boys For Life 15	16:30	
		Monthly Musical: An American In Paris	17:00	
		1917 15	19:15	
		Birds of Prey 15	19:15	
★ MONDAY 24 FEB		Birds of Prey 15	12:00/19:30	
		David Copperfield PG	16:45	
		Dolittle PG	17:00	
		Bad Boys For Life 15	19:15	
★ PARENT & BABY	TUESDAY 25 FEB	David Copperfield PG	12:00 ★/16:45	
		Dolittle PG	17:00	
		Bad Boys For Life 15	19:15	
		Birds of Prey 15	19:30	
★ KIDS CLUB	WEDNESDAY 26 FEB	Birds of Prey 15	12:00 ★/19:30	
		David Copperfield PG	16:45	
		Dolittle PG	17:00	
		Bad Boys For Life 15	19:15	
	THURSDAY 27 FEB	The Rhythm Section 15	14:30 ★	
	David Copperfield PG	16:45		
	Dolittle PG	17:00		
	Bad Boys For Life 15	19:15		
	Birds of Prey 15	19:30		



15

ARE YOU A MEMBER?
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SCAN THE QR CODE ABOVE

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

COMPETITION TIME!

Help find a new name for The Perle Hotel's new cocktail bar!

You could be in with a chance of winning an overnight stay with dinner, bed and breakfast at The Perle's sister hotel, 'The Bosville' on Skye



PERLEHOTELS





The lovely people at Perle Oban are looking for help from The Oban Times to find a fabulous new name for Brew & Co which is undergoing a transformation! Enjoy harbour views with your favourite cocktail, a dish from their refreshed food menu or a glass of something from their new drinks menu.

We think our readers and Facebook followers can come up with a great new name - and there's a lovely hotel break in it for the winner of the best name!

TO ENTER:
Pop on over to The Oban Times' Facebook page and you will see the pinned post at the top of our page. Give us a like and post your best suggestion for a new name and we will enter you into the prize draw! If you don't fancy entering on Facebook, you can post your entry to The Oban Times, Perle Hotel Competition, Lochavullin Road, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.

The winning name will be selected from all entries received and the winner will be notified by telephone or via our Facebook page.

Closing date Friday 21st February. Terms and conditions relating to dates that the prize can be taken apply. No cash alternative. Editors decision is final. If entering via post, please include your email address and telephone number. Please note that all entries will be destroyed directly after the competition closing date in line with GDPR rules.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Oban Music Society
in association with Argyll and Bute Concert Tours

welcomes

The Meadows Orchestra Wind Band
St John's Cathedral, Oban
on Sunday 23rd February at 3pm



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Rural charities boosted by union dinner proceeds



NFUS president Andrew McCornick presents cheques to RSABI chief executive Nina Clancy and RHET chairman George Lawrie.

Generous diners raise almost £4,200 for RSABI and RHET

A fantastic £4,194 was raised for two Scottish rural charities at NFU Scotland's annual dinner on Thursday February 6.

Proceeds from the dinner, at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Glasgow, were split between the Royal Scottish Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RSABI) and the Royal Highland Education Trust (RHET).

The cheques were presented at NFU Scotland's conference the following day, Friday February 7.

NFU Scotland president Andrew McCornick said: 'I am delighted that once again NFU Scotland has decided to support RSABI and RHET as the role of both is hugely important to our industry.'

'Demand for the help and

'I am delighted that once again NFU Scotland has decided to support RSABI and RHET as the role of both is hugely important to our industry. Demand for the help and services offered by RSABI is growing year on year'

services offered by RSABI is growing year on year and the need for practical, emotional and financial support for those in Scottish agriculture who may be struggling on a

number of levels has never been higher.

'Similarly, the need for us, as an industry, to engage positively with school children across Scotland and help improve their understanding of food, farming, the working countryside and the wider environment continues to grow.

'RHET's co-ordination of school visits to working farms, materials for teachers and classroom talks by farmers ensure the fantastic story of how we farm and produce food here in Scotland reaches the next generation of consumers.'

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Market reports – Aberfeldy Show and Sale

Stirling: United Auctions, Wednesday February 12, sold 1,488 store cattle including the Aberfeldy Show and Sale sponsored by Starlyne Macmin Group.

Also sold were 107 cast cows and 605 store sheep.

Bullocks (848) - averaged 227.69p to 345.70p per kg for a 376kg BRBX from Newton of Logierait, and to £1320 for a 617kg AAX from Oatridge.

Dairy Bullocks (33) - averaged 168.08p to 186.30p per kg for a 569kg MOX from Bandirran, and to £1215 for a 680kg MOX from Bandirran.

Heifers (607) - averaged 220.86p to 329.30p per kg for a 416kg BRBX from Greenwells, and to £1390 for a 564kg LimX from Stanley.

Beef Cows and Bulls (71) - averaged 141.68p to 191.90p per kg for a SimX from Symington Mains, and to £1410 for a BRBX from Middlehill.

Dairy Cows (25) - averaged 102.94p to 115.00p per kg for a HFX from Glenrig, and to £945 for a HOX from Bandirran.

Forward Cattle (11) - averaged 152.21p to 184.10p per kg for a AAX from Peattieshill and to £1330 for a AAX from Peattieshill.

Bullocks: Up to 250kgs- Newmill £500, 215.50p; 251-300kgs- Parkhouse £620, 238.50p; 301-350kgs- Kilbrook £870, 272.70p; 351-400kgs- Newton of Logierait £1300,



Left to right: John Robertson, Champion; Roy Nicol, sponsor; Alan Taylor, judge; Jim Prentice, Reserve, and George Purves.

345.70p; 401-450kgs- Newton of Logierait £1140, 276.00p; 451-500kgs- Newton of Logierait £1280, 266.70p; 501-551kgs- Pittentain £1265, Ballechin 238.60p; 552-601kgs - East Buchanty £1275, Wester Kinloch 224.20p; 602-651kgs- Oatridge £1320, 213.9p; 652-701kgs- Ballegreggan £1300, 195.20p.

Heifers: Up to 300kgs - Darleith £670, Newmill 241.00p; 301-350kgs- High Mildovan £810, Newmill 245.90p; 351-400kgs- Newton of Logierait £1070, 274.20p; 401-450kgs- Greenwells £1370, 329.30p; 451-500kgs- Pittentain £1300, Ballechin 275.60p; 501-551kgs- Stanley £1300, 257.90p; 552-601kgs - Stanley £1390, 246.50p; 602-651kgs- Pitsundry £1235, 204.50p; 652-701kgs- Bandirran

£1200, 181.80p. **OTM Cows:** £ per head - Middlehill (BRB) £1410; Beild (CH) £1350; Randerston (Lim) £1330; Traprain (STX) £1190 & Coilavoulin (Cont) £1190; Nether Pratis (Sim) £1170; Castlehill Drive (AA) £1150; Traprain (Lui) £1030 & Smeaton Shaw (HE) £1030; Traprain (Sal) £1010.

PPK- Symington Mains (Sim) 191.90ppk; Middlehill (BRB) 173.80ppk; Craigo (Lim) 172.90ppk; Brailes (CH) 159.60ppk; Symington Mains (AA) 159.20ppk; Traprain (Sal) 146.80ppk; Coilavoulin (Cont) 142.70ppk; Traprain (STX) 136.80ppk; Traprain (Lui) 134.50ppk; Smeaton Shaw (HE) 132.70ppk.

OTM Bulls: £ per head - Castlehill Drive (Lim) £1190;

Pyeston (Sim) £1130; West Balmirmer (CH) £1090; Dinar Est (AA) £1050.

PPK- Castlehill Drive (Lim) 170.00ppk; Dinar Est (AA) 130.90ppk; Pyeston (Sim) 98.80ppk; West Balmirmer (CH) 97.00ppk.

Aberfeldy Show prize list judged by Mr Alan Taylor, Heatheryhall

Single Bullock: 1 J Robertson & Co, Newton of Logierait 480kg £1,280; 2 Pittentain Farming P'ship, 550kg £1265; 3 Pittentain Farming P'ship, 408kg £1050.

Single Heifer: 1 Pittentain Farming P'ship 484kg £1300; 2 J Robertson & Co, Newton of Logierait 410kg £1140; 3 J Robertson & Co, Newton of Logierait 396kg £1070.

Champion and Winner of Donald Pattullo Memorial Cup: Bullock from J Robertson & Co, Newton of Logierait 480kg £1280. Reserve: Heifer from Pittentain Farming P'ship, 484kg £1300.

Pen of 4 Bullocks: 1 Pittentain Farming P'ship 489kg £1250; 2 J Robertson & Co, Newton of Logierait 452kg £1160; 3 J Robertson & Co, Newton of Logierait 376kg £1100.

Pen of 4 Heifers: 1 Monzie Farms 455kg £1100.

Champion pen of 4: Bullocks from Pittentain Farming P'ship 489kg £1250

Stirling: United Auctions sold 605 store and feeding sheep.

Leading Hogg Prices- Smiddyhill (Suf) £85.00; Plean Cott (Suf) £78.00; Dall (BTex) £83.00; Bowleys (Tex) £86.00; Plean Cott (Tex) £79.00; Tulchan Croft (Chev) £63.50; Shields (Cross) £80.00; Sauchrie Mains (Mule) £99.00; Sauchrie Mains (BF) £88.00; Duncroisk (BF) £79.00.

Fantastic food and farming in Scotland

Driven by grass-roots members, farmers and crofters have been seeking an opportunity to remind as many people as possible about the fantastic story of food and farming in Scotland and to thank them for their support.

Writing on the NFUS website blog, vice president Martin Kennedy writes that such an opportunity will come on Saturday May 23: 'The facts suggest the public truly value what we do; what we deliver, and we want to meet them and thank them.'

'Whether it is meat, milk, cereals, fruit or veg, Scottish farming produces safe, nutritious food, grown and reared sustainably, and at the same time delivers so much for the environment through climate change mitigation and biodiversity. All that results in a massive contribution to the rural economy.'

'So let's come together on May 23 to get that message



across. Events are being planned across all parts of Scotland that will give the opportunity for everyone involved in farming and crofting to get in front of as many of our consumers as possible to showcase why we are justifiably proud of what we produce in Scotland. This national day of celebration will raise public awareness of the benefits of eating Scottish produce to the next level.

'We've got something to be extremely proud of. Let's shout it from the roof tops.'

Further details on regional events will be issued in the next few weeks. To read the full blog visit www.nfus.org.uk/news/blog/vice-presidents-blog-14-february-2020

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BIT DRAMATIC, WE KNOW BUT...PET IDOL IS BACK!!

Get the pet shampoo, cute ribbons and inappropriate clothing ready - Entry is now open for our 2020 Pet Idol competition. If you have a cool cat, pampered pooch or any other gorgeous bundle of fur, feathers or even scales, now is your chance to win our £300 first prize. That buys an awful lot of cat litter or you might even prefer to spend it on yourself (just don't tell the mutt!)

**THERE WILL ALSO BE TWO
RUNNER-UP PRIZES OF £50**

How to enter

Our pet idol competition is open to all pets belonging to households across Argyll and Lochaber. Just take a snap of your pet and upload your photograph and details by visiting www.wyvexmedia.co.uk/petidol Photographs must have been taken on or after 1st January 2020 (we don't want pictures of cute kittens that are now the size of Bagpuss!!)

Our Pet Idol 2020 Supplement

After you enter your pet, look out for our fantastic Pet Idol supplement on 2nd April. This will give you the chance to boast to your friends that your little fur-ball really is the cutest thing in Argyll and the West Highlands!!

Vote for your favourite

Readers will then have the serious job of voting for their favourite pet in the supplement. We will then break it down to further rounds of 100, 50, 25 and a final top 10.

The pet with the most votes will be crowned our Pet idol champion early in June 2020 - Good luck

**The closing date for entries is midnight on
Sunday 22nd March 2020**

Terms and conditions

Wyvex Media's Pet Idol 2020 competition is open to all pets of owners living in the circulation area of the Oban Times and Lochaber Times. Photographs must have been taken on or after 1st January 2020. Pictures of deceased pets are ineligible. Pictures should only contain one pet. Readers can enter more than one pet, but each pet must have a separate entry. By entering the competition, you agree that Wyvex Media Ltd has the right to publish the images and details of your pet without payment for the purposes of promoting the Pet Idol campaign(s)/ The winning pet and owner must take part in publicity. Employees of Wyvex Media Ltd and their immediate family are not eligible to enter.

We care about your personal information

The information gathered on the entry form will be used by us to contact you regarding the competition & the photo and name to enter you into the competition. We may also email you at the close of the competition. We will not pass on any of the information supplied by you in the entry form to any third party unless you specifically chose to let us do so. If you choose not to be added to our mailing list we will destroy the information provided by you 4 weeks after the competition winner is announced.

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www.wyvexmedia.co.uk/petidol

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UK housebuilding overview

PRESS RELEASE

Housebuilders delivered enough homes to exceed population growth in the past year.

The latest research by new home specialists, Stone Real Estate, has looked at the top performance by the UK's housebuilders over the last year and how the quantity of new homes delivered compares to the growing need due to an ever-expanding population.

Stone Real Estate found that between 2018 and 2019, 203,900 new dwellings were completed across the UK. With the average property home to 2.4 people, that's enough housing for some 483,243 people. During the same time frame, the population is predicted to have grown by 395,321, meaning that not only have UK housebuilders kept pace with the increase, but have provided enough homes to house another 88,000 people.

This oversupply was at its largest in England with enough homes built for an additional 43,000 people when compared to the increase in population, with enough for an additional 37,000 in Scotland, nearly 8,000 in Northern Ireland and just 200 in Wales.

Regionally, the South East has seen the largest oversupply when comparing completed dwellings to the increase in population with

enough properties built to house an additional 23,000 people.

However, in the West Midlands, there was an undersupply of some 200 properties, while London was the only other region to see the population grow at a greater rate than the number of homes completed, needing an additional 37,000.

On a more local level, Wiltshire, Manchester and Milton Keynes saw the greatest level of housing supply to meet their growing populations, with enough homes delivered to house well over 3,000 additional people each.

Westminster was home to the worst shortfall with an additional 10,000 homes required, along with Camden (8,500) and Tower Hamlets (5,400).

Coventry was home to the biggest shortfall outside of London at just under 5,000 additional homes required. Sheffield, Wandsworth, Bristol, Birmingham, and Brighton also made the top 10.

Founder and CEO of Stone Real Estate, Michael Stone, commented: 'We've seen a fantastic job done of late by the nation's homebuilders when it comes to the sheer volume of stock being delivered and when you compare



the number of properties being completed in the last 12 months to the increase in population on a national level, this achievement becomes even more evident.

However, this isn't the case everywhere and the draw of living in London and other larger cities, coupled with a lack of space to build on, has seen some areas fall behind in terms of the new homes being built compared to the increase in population.

'It's important we keep our foot on the gas and keep meeting demand with new-build supply as not only do we need to build more houses in

some areas based on the last year alone, but we were already starting on the back foot due to fewer homes being built in previous years. Of course, this underperformance can't be placed solely at the doors of the industry's developers, far from it.

'The real spanner in the works in recent years has been a lack of commitment by the government to actually let developers build, as well as a failure to free up land that has been wrongly designated as green belt and could serve a much better purpose meeting the appetite for homes across the UK property sector.'



Who is the Number 1 Estate Agent in this area?

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Register your property title and take control

by Fraser Leslie, Gillespie Macandrew
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Since 1979, everyone who buys land or property in Scotland has their property title registered on the Land Register of Scotland (LRS).

The register is a map-based system which replaced the Register of Sasines, the world's oldest national public land register, established in 1617 as a deeds-based registration system.

Following registration in the LRS, a Title Sheet is issued containing a detailed plan of your property and a note of important matters such as rights of access and title conditions.

In 2012, legislation was introduced by the Scottish Government to widen the scope of registration so that any transfer of property triggers registration in the 1979 register. At

The register is a map-based system which replaced the Register of Sasines

the same time, the government announced it would seek to have all remaining unregistered land registered by 2024, a timetable the LRS is actively pursuing.

It is now possible under the 2012 legislation to register your existing title without being dependent on a transfer taking place – Voluntary Registration of Title. There are many benefits to Voluntary Registration (VR). The most important of these are:



Fraser Leslie of Gillespie Macandrew.

- VR establishes the exact extent of your property and determines its boundaries potentially before any competing neighbouring interests.

- The review of your title preparatory to registration should bring to light any title boundary or access issues which can be resolved at the time of registration ahead of any future transaction.

- A VR allows you manage the process without being pressurised by the dynamics of a sale.

- Once your title is registered, the LRS warrants the accuracy of your title.

- Future dealings with your property should be more cost effective.

How to voluntarily register in the Land Register

While you can process a voluntary registration by yourself, the LRS strongly recommends you appoint a solicitor who will clarify and organise your title deeds to produce a single-mapped title capable of being presented accurately to the LRS.

Most law firms offer a conveyancing service

but to properly examine a title, identify issues and resolve them requires experience of the Register of Sasines and a depth of knowledge of the new legislation and processes. Only a dedicated team will have this knowledge and experience.

Such a team should also have built a strong working relationship with the Land Register's voluntary registration team so that problems can be ironed out through careful consultation and co-operation.

The effort and expense involved in choosing to register your property now will likely be more than off-set during any future sale. Both time and costs of selling a property will be reduced by being able to present the purchaser's solicitors with a clear and accurate registered title. This will negate the need for an exhaustive examination of deeds or the resolution of title defects.

As with many things in life, an upfront investment often saves time and money further down the line.

Land registration is here to stay and to encourage the take up of voluntary registration, the Land Register of Scotland is maintaining its 25 per cent reduction in registration fees. However, this may come up for review in the future.

Although it is tempting to put it off, dealing with registration of your property by voluntary registering sooner rather than later will safeguard your position as a landowner and make future transactions involving your property easier, faster and more cost effective.

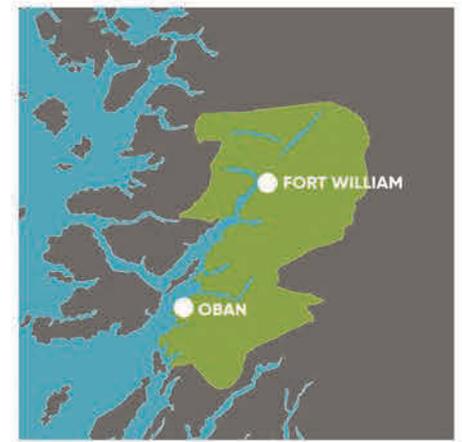
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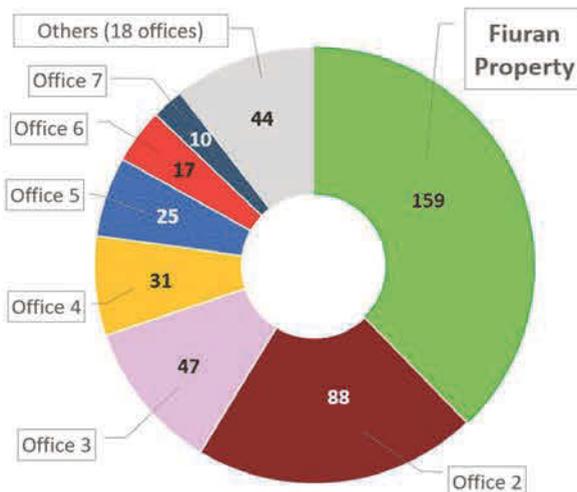
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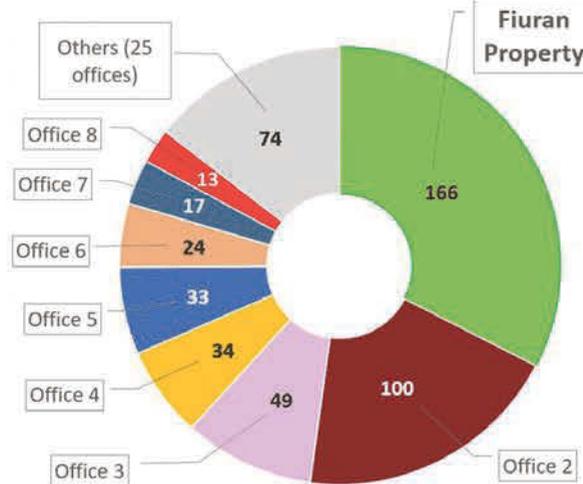
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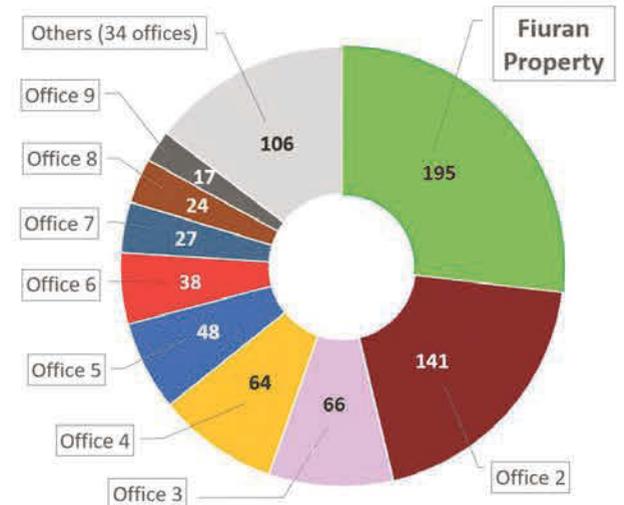
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Property Types: Detached houses, semi-detached houses, terraced houses, unspecified houses, flats, bungalows, land, guest house / hotel, garage/parking, retirement properties, house / flat share properties and private halls. No filters applied.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PROPOSED ASSIGNMENT OF GRAZINGS SHARES

Donald MacKay is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to assign the grazing shares pertaining to the crofts at 6&7 Onich, Kilmallie to Gordon MacKay.

If you consider you have a relevant interest in this application, you may submit comments in writing to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW (e-mail info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk) within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert.

Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

Donna MacGillivray has registered their croft 61 Banavie, Kilmallie 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 October 7, 2020.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C6607.

FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

Ms Elizabeth (Lizzie) May Keenaghan has registered their croft, Croft 2, Baile lochdrach, Lower Kilchattan, Isle of Colonsay, 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 30th October 2020. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/registration. The croft register number is C6739.

www.highland.gov.uk

The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

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

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

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
20/00555/FUL	Land 205M SW Of the Corpach Ice House, Annat Pier	Reprofiling of ground for boat moving/launching
20/00614/FUL	Port Ranachan, Strontian	Erection of house
20/00515/FUL	Land 300M SW Of West Lodge Roshven, Glenuig	Erection of house, formation of access & installation of private drainage system (renewal of 17/00220/FUL)
20/00649/FUL	Cularich Old Banavie Road, Banavie	Installation of glamping pod
20/00589/FUL	9 Ben Nevis Drive Ben Nevis Industrial Estate	Change of Use from Class 4 to Class 1 (for hairdressing)
20/00250/FUL	Land 20M South of Melville House Garbhein Road Kinlochleven	Erection of house, alterations to existing garage, and siting of 2 holiday letting pods
20/00517/FUL	Land 270M North West of Duneira Kentra, Acharacle	Erection of holiday cottage (renewal of 17/00098/FUL)
20/00516/FUL	Taormina, Banavie	Proposed alterations to form family use annexe
20/00652/FUL	Birchbank, Roy Bridge	Change of use from residential to bed and breakfast operation

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

**CROFTING COMMISSION
COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD
DECROFTING DIRECTION ISSUED**

DM Colthart
4 Ardconnel, Kilmore & Kilbride
101918
0.159 ha
Reason - Proposed new development
Condition - With fencing and use conditions.

Full details at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk

**BID4Oban Ltd
AGM**

Tuesday 17th March 2020
Studio Theatre Corran Halls
6pm for Levy Payers
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 **Oban Business Improvement District**
www.bid4oban.co.uk

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

Argyll and Bute Council

PLANNING

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

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

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
20/00215/PP	Erection of 2 dwellinghouses, installation of septic tank, erection of private water supply plant room building and formation of vehicular access	Land West Of Oskamull Cottage, Ulva Ferry, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute
20/00006/PP	Change of use of workshop units into retail units (part retrospective)	Unit 3 And 4, Baliscate Estate, Tobermory, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute, PA75 6QA
20/00273/PP	Erection of agricultural building	The Camp, Crossapol, Isle Of Tiree, Argyll And Bute, PA77 6UP
20/00185/PP	Alterations and erection of extension	Orchybank House, Dalmally, Argyll And Bute, PA33 1AS
20/00206/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of sewage treatment plant and formation of access	Land South Of Talla Lan, Arinagour, Isle Of Coll, Argyll And Bute
19/02530/PP	Change of use of two hot food takeaway units (sui generis) to single mixed food and drink (class 3) and (sui generis) hot food takeaway and restaurant	Nories Chip Shop/Rubens Deli, 86-92 George Street, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 5NN
20/00205/PP	Change of roof covering, demolition of two-storey rear extension, erection of replacement extension and associated works	Arnabost, Dervaig, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute, PA75 6QJ
20/00181/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Former Quarry Garage, Kilchrenan, Argyll And Bute
20/00073/PP	Alterations to shed to form garden room	10 Queen Street, Portnahaven, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute, PA47 7SJ
20/00270/LIB	Demolition of rear extension and conservatory and erection of extension	Feolin Ferryhouse, Craighouse, Isle Of Jura, Argyll And Bute, PA60 7XX
20/00003/PP	Erection of agricultural shed (retrospective) and erection of polytunnel for use as sheep shelter	Croft 24, Brienz, Airds, Taynuilt, Argyll And Bute

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

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:
www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



SCOTTISH FIELD

March issue

OUT NOW



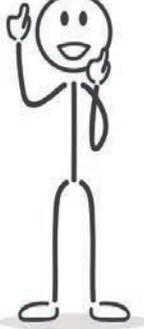
Life in the Borders... Actor Brian Cox under the spotlight... Sleek St Andrews interiors... Wonderful world of razor clams... Delicious pork recipes... Katherine Grainger's Credo... Dog-friendly hotels...

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Rayma Denney

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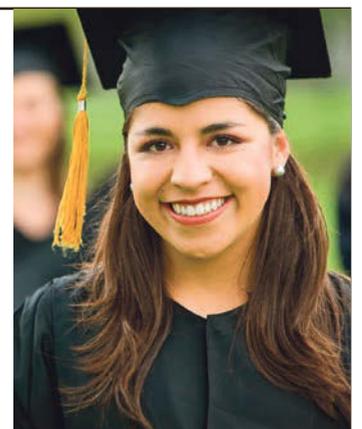
THANK YOU

Mrs Jean Gillies, Drumfada Terrace, Corpach would like to thank all staff in Ward 6, Belford Hospital for care and attention received. Also I was unable to send Christmas cards and gifts, but do wish to thank family, friends and neighbours for phone calls, visits and gifts received during my stay in hospital. I am now home and making slow progress.

Many thanks to all.

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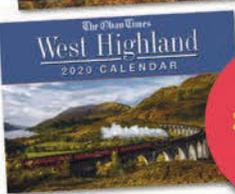
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3 The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.

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

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6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.

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DIAMOND WEDDINGS

SHAIRP - Sandy and Pam, Isle of Luing, married on February 20, 1960 in Framwellgate Moor, Durham. Congratulations on 60 wonderful years, celebrating with them will be their three children, seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

DEATHS

CAMERON - After a short illness, with her family by her side, at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow, on February 11, 2020, Catherine Brown Cameron, (née MacGeachy), of Embo, 5 Castle Park, Kilmartin, and formerly of Barbreck, Campbeltown, dearly loved wife of the late Colin Cameron, much loved mother of Shona and Sheena, much respected mother-in-law of Gordon and Russell, adored granny of Cameron, Sinclair, Craig, Julie and Rosie, and great

granny of Katie and Jessica. Funeral service will be held in Glassary, Kilmartin and Ford Parish Church, Kilmartin, on Friday, February 21, 2020 at 11.00am, followed by interment at Kilkerran Cemetery, Campbeltown at 2.15pm. Donations to Marie Curie (Mid Argyll).

COWAN - Suddenly and peacefully with family present, after a short illness, on Sunday, February 9, 2020, at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, aged 81, Annie MacGilp Cameron, Dalmally, devoted wife of the late Ian Cowan, adored mother of John and Mary-Ann, mother-in-law of Ewan, Kelly, Jane, Sarah, Ian and Padraig and Great Granny of Matthew and Mia. May you now rest in peace. Funeral service will take place at Glenorchy Church, Dalmally, on Monday, February 24 at 1 p.m. Family flowers only.

LAWRIE - (Lairg). Peacefully in The Cambusavie Unit, Lawson Memorial Hospital, Golspie on Sunday, February 16, 2020 aged 75 years, Argyll "Gyle" Lawrie, Savalbeg Farmhouse, Saval, Lairg, beloved husband of the late Connie, dearly loved twin brother of Catherine and brother of Marylene, a much loved brother-in-law, dear uncle, grand uncle and loved by all the extended family and friends. Funeral service will be held in Fearn Abbey on Saturday, February 22 at 11 am. Thereafter to Balintore Cemetery. All friends respectfully invited. Flowers may be sent to the funeral or donations if so desired may be given at the service for The Cambusavie Unit, Lawson Memorial Hospital, Golspie or sent to Alasdair Rhind Funeral Director, Sutherland House, Bank Street, Tain.

MACDONALD - Peacefully at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, on February 11, 2020, Mary MacLean MacDonald (née Mactaggart), aged 74 years, Blackwell Road, Culloden, beloved sister of Sarah, Lucy and the late Jessie and Hughina, also much loved auntie and good friend to many. Funeral service on Monday, February 24, at 12.30 pm in the Barn Church, Culloden; thereafter to Kilvean Cemetery. All welcome to attend. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to Cancer Research UK may be given at the service. Arrangements by D. Chisholm & Sons.

MACLEAN - James Cameron, aged 41 years, died suddenly at home 25 Java Houses, Craignure on January 7, 2020. Loving father of Ella and son of the late Margaret (Maggie) and Dugald Allan, aged 68 years who died peacefully in the Mull and Iona Community Hospital, after a long illness bravely borne on February 13, 2020. Sadly missed by all the family. The interment will take place at Kilpatrick Cemetery, Duart on Wednesday, February 26, 2020 at 11.30am. Family flowers only.

MACLELLAN - Suddenly, at his home in Glasgow on February 12, 2020, Michael, beloved son of Fiona and the late Duncan MacGillivray. A dear father to Paige and Archie, stepson to David, brother to Kayleigh and partner of Erin. A good friend to many and will be sorely missed. Funeral arrangements to follow.

MACQUARRIE - Neil. On Wednesday, February 5, 2020, peacefully, Neil, aged 92 years of Camborne. Beloved husband of Enid. Sadly missed by all family and friends. Funeral service at Treswithian Downs Crematorium on Monday, February 24 at 10 am followed by private family interment at Killivose Cemetery. Family flowers only, donations if so desired for The British Heart Foundation by retiring collection or c/o David Hendy Funeral Services, Treswithian, Camborne TR14 7NW Tel. 01209 612025.

URQUHART - Ewan and Ailie are sad to announce the passing of their father Ronald John Urquhart on Sunday February 16, 2020 aged 82 years. "A loving heart is the truest wisdom"

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BINNIE - Gordon, Lorne and their families wish to thank everyone from near and far who came to pay their respects to Isobel. Special thanks to Catriona and everyone at Hamish Hoey for their caring and professional service and to the Rev Dugald Cameron for a thoughtful and comforting service. Thanks also to Petals for the beautiful flowers and to the Royal Hotel for their excellent catering. The sum of £400 was collected for the Dove Centre, Oban.

BRYANS - Jean, Fiona and all the family of the late William (Bill) thank most sincerely all relatives, friends and neighbours for all the cards, flowers and messages of sympathy. Special thanks to Fr David Connor and Fr Donald MacKinnon for a lovely service. Sincere thanks to CAU Belford Hospital and Ward 5A Raigmore Hospital for their excellent care of Bill. Lastly thanks to Manson and MacBeath for efficient funeral arrangements, Meg and staff at Railway Club for refreshments and all who paid their respects at church and graveside. The generous donations of £600 raised at the church will be split between CAU Belford and Ward 5A Raigmore.

DAVIDSON - The family of the late Roberta Davidson would like to thank relatives, friends and colleagues for the kind expressions of sympathy extended to them following their recent sad loss. Thanks to Burnfield Medical Practice, community and out of hours nurses for their care and attention and special thanks to all staff at Aden House Care Home for the care given to Roberta while in their care. Thanks to Rev Andrew Baxter for his comforting service, John McLellan Funeral Directors, McDonald Florists and staff at Caol Community Centre for their catering. Finally, everyone who came to pay their respects and those who contributed so generously to Aden House Residents Fund, raising a total of £550.

LIVINGSTONE - Gregor, Stuart and family would like to thank everyone for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards, flowers, telephone calls and support after the recent loss of our

mum Mary MacGregor Livingstone. Special thanks to Karen MacLennan of Karen's Care and all at Carer's Direct for their fantastic help and support over the last couple of years, the district nurses and doctors at Taynuilt Medical Practice, Community Care Team and all others involved in Mary's care and wellbeing. Thanks also to Ian of D & A Munn for his personal and professional arrangements, the Rev Tom Telfer and Rev Margaret Millar for conducting a memorable and fitting service and to the Taynuilt Hotel for providing excellent food and refreshments. May we also thank everyone who attended the church and graveside. The generous donations which amounted to £ 1020.00 was collected for Alzheimer Scotland.

MACDOUGALL - Morag and the family of the late Donnie MacDougall would like to thank friends and family for all their support and kind messages following their recent loss. Thanks to Rev Margaret Miller for conducting a very comforting service, Alasdair MacDonald for the beautiful music in the church, Ian MacInnes from D&A Munn for his compassionate support in the funeral arrangements and all at the Dalmally Community Centre for the exceptional catering and hospitality afterwards. Our sincere thanks to all those that attended the funeral service and donated generously to the retail collection which raised £1,530 for Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease (ABCD).

MACFARLANE - The family of the late Mairi would like to sincerely thank all family and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy and support received in the sad passing of Mairi. We would like to thank Rev Margaret Miller for her memorable and uplifting service, Ian MacInnes, D & A Munn Ltd for his kind, caring and professional service throughout. Donald MacDougall for the piping, Angela at the Flowerhouse for her beautiful flowers and The Tigh an Truigh for providing the refreshments. Finally a huge thank you to all who attended the service and graveside and generously donated £608.30 for the RNLI.

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SILVER - Jack, Betty and family would like to thank most sincerely, all friends and family for their cards and kind words at the sad loss of Jack. Thanks to Tweeddale Surgery for Jack's care and also to Rev Morag Muirhead for her comforting service at the church and to Alyson Stewart for her lovely words at the crematorium and to the Railway club for their beautiful food. Also, thanks to Manson & MacBeath Funeral Directors for their care and attention to detail. Special thanks to everyone who attended the services and raised £295.35 for British Heart Foundation.

MEMORIAMs

CLARK - In loving memory of Gary, died February 24, 2012.

It broke our hearts to lose you
You did not go alone
For part of us went with you
The day God called you home.
- Gran and family.

MACAULAY - Precious memories of Ian, a loving husband, dad and grampa, who passed away on February 20, 2013. Also remembering loved ones gone before.

You left us precious memories
Your love is still our guide
And though we cannot see you
You are always at our side
- Mary, Neil, John and Ginah, Oban, Bulgaria and Cambodia.

MACDHUGHAILL - A' cuimhneachadh m' athar, Eòghan, a shiubhail 25 Gearran 2010. Le meas is gaol.
- John agus Eleanor.

MACDONALD - Treasured memories of our beloved mother, gran and great-gran, Margaret MacDonald who passed away on February 21, 2005. Sorely missed.

Carson ma ta bhios shibh ri bron
Mar dhream gun dochas mor
Am bheil sa bhas ach teachdair sith
Gan gairm gu rioghachd na gloir

- Inserted by her loving daughters Maryflora, Sandra, May Margaret and families.

MACFADYEN - In memory of our 'Big' brother John, who passed away on February 16, 2018.

Always in our thoughts.
- Helen and Alex.

MATHERS - Treasured memories of Vicky a special partner and soul mate on her 5th anniversary.

There are no tomorrows for us to share
But yesterday's memories are always there
Loved and missed every day.
- All my love Caroline xx

MATHERS - In memory of my beautiful sister and aunty, Vicky Mathers, who we tragically lost on February 23, 2015.

Always in our heart and thoughts, today and every day.
- Miss you sis, Becca, Alex, Katie and Joe XXXX

MP backs Climate Coalition's Show the Love campaign

Na h-Eileanan an Iar MP Angus MacNeil has joined hundreds of thousands of people proudly wearing green hearts to show they want to protect the people, places and lives they love from climate change.

Mr MacNeil wore the heart as part of the Climate Coalition's Show the Love campaign which celebrates things that could be lost without efforts to tackle climate change - from beaches to bees and cricket to coffee.

A report released last week from the coalition warned that a population the size of Birmingham and Manchester combined face significant flood risk. It comes at a time when we have just seen flooding caused by storms Ciara and Dennis, and the report



Western Isles MP Angus MacNeil shows his green heart.

points out that climate change has made extreme rainfall in the UK '40 per cent more likely'.

The Climate Coalition is made up of more than 140 organisations representing more than 22 million people, ranging from aid agencies such as CAFOD and Christian Aid to

groups such as the Women's Institute, WWF, RSPB, and the National Trust.

Mr MacNeil said: 'We can clearly see the impacts of climate change on our doorsteps - and we must put policies in place to get on track to reaching our legally binding net zero target.'

'I'm proud to be wearing my green heart and supporting policies that make our country fit for the future, and being cleaner and greener to end our contribution to climate change. I want to be part of leaving a legacy for future generations that we can all be proud of.'

Last year the UK was the first major economy to set a net zero emissions target, committing to ending our contribution to climate change within a generation. However, we are massively off track to meeting that target and need policies, such as boosting public transport and active travel, putting homes on track to be net zero, expanding renewable generation, and restoring and revitalising our natural landscapes.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Embracing the storm ... today we seem to live through storms twice, once through the media build-up - Storm Ciara is coming, Storm Dennis is coming - and then its a guessing game as to whether the storm will match up to the hype or not.

Noah lived in a day before there was any media to tell him a storm was coming. Somehow God had communicated with him that a storm

was coming, something never seen before. He had understood that he needed to build a boat, as had never been seen in his neighbourhood. So the boat was built and his neighbours probably had thought him insane as there was no sea for miles and not a cloud to be seen.

The storm came and the boat that seemed like the work of a crazy man floated. Noah, his family and all the

animals were saved, because Noah was willing to be different, willing to take a risk. He was not necessarily a man of good reputation, probably considered mad by his neighbours, and then, when it was all over, he got paralytically drunk and naked. And what does the Bible say about him in Genesis 9:1? 'Noah was a just man, perfect in his generation.'

Maybe Noah's example of

being an imperfect person willing to do what needs to be done is what we need today. To face up to the storms of today: the rise of food poverty, the homelessness, the trafficking of humans and so on. Are we willing to do the seemingly crazy thing to make a difference?

Jeanette Sheldrick, Community Development Worker, Salvation Army Community Church, Oban.



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Oban Camanachd plan fo

Assistant manager Kenny Wotherspoon talks all things Oban Camanachd as he and manager Stephen Sloss prepare their squad for the new shinty season.

A change of season brings a change of personnel at most clubs and Oban Camanachd are no different.

2019 vice captain Lorne Dickie won't be available from the beginning of the season but the club hopes he can make a delayed start. And Aidan MacIntyre has retired.

Kenny said: 'Lorne is a very important player for us so we hope he can re-join the squad before too long. Aidan is a long servant to the club who will be a big miss.'

Lorne's unavailability, Aidan MacIntyre's retiral and Scott MacMillan's new work commitments restricting his availability, mean Stephen and Kenny will have to construct a new midfield.

This endorses the decision to give Craig Easton, Blair MacFarlane, Ross Campbell and Lewis Buchanan more game time towards the end of last season and the youngsters made the most of the opportunity to impress.

'Age is no barrier at Oban Camanachd,' said Kenny. 'If these boys continue to train hard, they will be considered. If you are good enough, you are old enough. Daniel Sloss has already proven that, so the opportunity is there for all the young boys.'

Connor Howe returns after spells with Inveraray and Oban Celtic to increase options in attack. Kenny added: 'Connor offered his services after a spell away. I had Connor at Oban Celtic so I know him and what he can offer. He gives us options and he will work hard and try to make an impact.'

The club's ambitious aim is to better last season as Kenny confirmed. 'It's going to be difficult to better last season but, be in no doubt, we want to get our hands on one of the national trophies. We've tasted what

it could be like from last year's finals and it would be fantastic to get one of the national trophies.

'The Celtic Society Cup is good, and it remains an aim for the club, but it is a regional competition and we want our supporters to see Oban Camanachd lifting a national trophy. It's been a while - 1996 since the Camanachd Cup win and the Macaulay success the year before. It would be sweet to do it again.

'The senior boys would love to achieve that and they deserve it as they have put in so much effort over the years.'

Kenny wasn't keen to dwell on last season, but it's clear the club intend to learn from the experience and use it to their advantage in 2020. 'It shouldn't be forgotten 2019 was a very good season for the club, especially considering it was the first season in charge for Stephen and I,' he said. 'We were involved in all the finals and finished second in the league and we'll be wiser for the experience. We have analysed games and, if the opportunities come around again, we'll use these experiences to help us lift a trophy.'

'Credit to Kingussie, who finished strongly in the league, but there are fine margins and we can look back to some key moments that made the difference. In the league, we led twice at Lovat in our second game before drawing 2-2 and we lost a late goal against Kinlochshiel in the match after and drew 1-1.

'We then went to the Dell without Daniel Cameron and Papa [Andrew MacCuish] and lost 2-0, with both goals coming in the last eight minutes.

'And we were 2-1 up against Kyles but refereeing decisions went against us and we lost 4-3. That one will haunt us. And all this happened before the middle of April.

'So the Gods weren't with us in that early part of the season and it was like that in the Macaulay Final against Kingussie. Papa went



Oban Camanachd won the Scottish Sea Farms Glasgow Celtic Society Cup last year.

through and had an effort saved then they went straight up the park and scored so it was 2-2 when it could have been 3-1. It's these fine margins.

'We just didn't turn up against Newtonmore in the Camanachd Final but beat them 5-1 at their place in the league the week after.'

'When all is said and done though, Stephen and I now have our maiden season under our belts. We've been to all the shinty grounds and seen the strengths and weaknesses of the opposing clubs so we will be better prepared. It's impossible to get everything right but you have to gain the respect of the players and make them believe. The players are used to our ideas and, now we've had that first year, we'll all show the same commitment and use last year as a springboard to make that next step to national success.'

2020 fixture list

The Mowi South and North Division 2 clubs are putting their final plans together ahead of the new shinty season which starts on Saturday March 7.

Mowi South Division 2

2019 champions Kilmory's match with the recently-relegated Inveraray second team brings together two of the main title challengers on the opening day of the season.

Kilmory opted not to take promotion following last year's title success, whilst Inveraray were relegated from South 1.

Next up for Kilmory is a trip to play Aberdour's second team before enjoying a free Saturday.

The Inveraray seconds are back on the road following the Kilmory game when they head for Glenorchy before travelling to Ardnamurchan for a third successive away match.

Glenorchy have a free Saturday on the opening day in this seven team league before they welcome the Inveraray colts on Saturday March

15 and travel to Bute a week later.

The Oban Celtic second team, who finished third in the division in 2019, journey to Ardnamurchan on the first day of the shinty season before welcoming their Bute counterparts to Oban. They then host Aberdour seconds.

Ardnamurchan have a free Saturday following the Oban Celtic clash. They then have home advantage against the Inveraray second team.

The Bute reserves welcome their Aberdour counterparts before Oban Celtic, away, and Glenorchy, home.

Following their cross-country journey to Bute, the Aberdour colts play Kilmory, home, then Oban Celtic, away.

Mowi North Division 2

The Lochaber second team's return to Mowi North Division 2 starts with a home clash against the Strathglass second team at Spean Bridge. They make the short journey to Canal Parks to play Kilmallie on Saturday March 14, whilst Strathspey Camanachd visit Spean Bridge seven days later.

The Kilmallie reserves have a free day on the opening day of the season in this nine team league before successive home matches against their Lochaber and Beaully counterparts.

Aberdeen University, relegated from North 1 at the end of last season, have a 1.30pm start at Strathspey Camanachd before enjoying a free Saturday. They then welcome Boleskine to Balgownie on Saturday March 21.

Prior to their trip to Aberdeen, Boleskine's series of matches is Lewis Camanachd, home, and Strathglass seconds, away.

As usual, until the ferry timetables change, Lewis Camanachd start the season away from home with trips to Boleskine, Strathspey then Inverness.

Strathspey Camanachd's schedule over the first three Saturdays is Aberdeen University, home, Lewis,

home, and Lochaber reserves, away.

The Inverness second team travel to Beaully before hosting Boleskine then Lewis Camanachd.

The Beaully colts have Inverness, home, Strathglass, away, and Kilmallie, away.

The Strathglass seconds have Lochaber seconds, away, and Beaully, home, before a free Saturday.

Pre-season friendly results

The pre-season friendlies couldn't beat Storm Dennis on Saturday February 15.

Oban Camanachd P Glasgow Mid Argyll P

There was disappointment for Oban Camanachd and Glasgow Mid Argyll first teams as their 1pm throw-up at Mossfield, Oban, was postponed on Friday lunchtime.

The sides are scheduled to meet at Yoker on the first day of the season.

Lochside Rovers P Glasgow Mid Argyll P

An unplayable pitch also led to the postponement of the clash between Lochside Rovers and the Glasgow Mid Argyll second team at Ganavan.

Kyles Athletic P Oban Celtic P

Oban Celtic's pre-season friendly against Kyles Athletic at Dunoon was also postponed and the Oban side's attention now turns to this week's friendly meeting with Kilmallie at Mossfield.

Glengarry P Beaully P

Glengarry's friendly with the Beaully first team at Craigard was another weather casualty.

Caberfeidh P Newtonmore P

The clash between Caberfeidh and Newtonmore was called off on Friday as Castle Leod was ruled unplayable.



Oban Camanachd manager Stephen Sloss, left, with his assistant Kenny Wotherspoon.

r success

Despite having Kinraig's pitch on stand-by, the game couldn't go ahead.

The friendly between the Newtonmore reserves and Tayforth was also called off.

Kingussie P Skye Camanachd P

Bad weather led to the call-off of the match between Kingussie and Skye Camanachd at Dunbarry.

The reserve meeting between the sides, also scheduled for the same venue, was another postponement.

Strathglass P Lovat P

Strathglass and Lovat were to contest the Murdo MacKenzie memorial trophy in a 2pm throw-up at Cannich.

The match was put back 30 minutes in a bid to beat the weather but the heavy rain led to an eventual postponement.

The noon throw-up between the clubs' second teams at Balgate was also cancelled.

Inverness P Glenurquhart P

Inverness and Glenurquhart were left frustrated as their game at Bught Park was another casualty.

Glenurquhart P Kilmallie P

A Friday pitch inspection saw the match between the Glenurquhart seconds and the Kilmallie seconds fall.

Boleskine P Caberfeidh P

The match between Boleskine and the Caberfeidh colts at Smith Park was another postponement.

This weekend's pre-season friendlies

There is a busy pre-season friendly schedule for Saturday February 22.

Including in the fixtures, Oban Camanachd and Newtonmore meet at the Eilan with a 12.30pm throw-up.

Oban Celtic will play Mowi Premiership side Kilmallie at Mossfield. Throw-up 1pm.

Lochside Rovers have been unable to arrange a friendly for this weekend.

Mowi North Division side Beaulie welcome Fort William, newly promoted to the Mowi Premiership this season. Fort William have found Braeview Park to be a difficult venue in recent seasons so this will be a good test for both sides.

Lovat take on Lochaber at Balgate, whilst Glenurquhart play Kinlochshiel.

Caberfeidh and Skye Camanachd clash at Castle Leod, whilst Glasgow Mid Argyll and Inveraray meet at Yoker and Strathglass make the short journey to Inverness.

The Kingussie seconds play Aberdour, whilst Boleskine take on the Kinlochshiel second team. The Strathglass seconds and the Caberfeidh seconds meet, as do Tayforth and the English Shinty Association.

Charles Young is new Strathspey chairman

Strathspey Camanachd have announced Charles Young will be their new club chairman.

Charles Young brings huge experience to the position, having previously served as a Camanachd Association director and a Grade 1 shinty referee.

Rob Clark comes on board as secretary, with Beth Shearer treasurer.

The men's senior team will be run by Donald Colville and Mark MacDonald, whilst Lucy Davis looks after the ladies' senior team who have launched an appeal for new players.

Lochcarron prizes

Lochcarron Camanachd held their awards night and dinner dance on Saturday February 8.

There was a father and son success at the awards with Gregor Cushnie, who also finished top scorer, getting the nod as manager Murdo John Fraser's player of the year, whilst Kenny Cushnie was the players' player of the year.

The award for commitment and endeavour went to Sean MacCuish with the young player prize shared between Liam Arnott and Fraser Stewart.

There was a special presentation to Chieftain George Hendry who has worked tirelessly behind the scenes for the club for many years.

Earlier in the day, a team of former Lochcarron players travelled from far and wide to take on the present side at Battery Park.

A good crowd braved the cold and windy conditions to see John MacLennan score twice with Ross Brown adding the third to give the ex-players, inspired by the excellent Nick Dalgety, a 3-0 victory.

Kingussie and Badenoch awards night

Kingussie have confirmed their 2019 player of the year winners.

Defender Calum Grant was named first team player of the year and players' player of the year, whilst Cammy Leiper was the second team player of the year.

Struan Robertson, U17, and Calum Douglas, U14, were the youth winners.

Kieran Macpherson was young player of the year, whilst Cluanie Fraser was given the club's most

Continued on page 60

new SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

Win!
THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £2400

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph below. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

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Easy to enter
Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 2pm Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline.
You may hand it into any of our offices - The Oban Times, Lochavullin, Oban; The Lochaber Times, High Street, Fort William; The Campbelltown Courier, Main Street, Campbelltown; The Argyllshire Advertiser, Argyll Street, Lochgilphead or the Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.
Competition rules
No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.
The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

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Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB or hand in to any of our offices as detailed above.

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LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



The two entries who got nearest the ball and each receive £25 are:

- C MacDonald
Oban
- P Lang
Campbeltown

OT

Continued from page 59

committed player accolade. Dallas Young and Iain Borthwick shared the volunteer of the year prize for their contributions to coaching.

Badenoch Ladies confirmed Rhona McIntyre as their player of the year, with Roma Fraser the U18 player of the year and Eilidh Ross the most improved player of the year.



Byelaws changes

The Camanachd Association has reminded clubs of byelaw changes which come into effect from the start of the 2020 shinty season.

Changes to Byelaw 1 were made at November's annual general meeting whilst some alterations to Byelaw 3 were made at the board meeting in January.

These changes include:

Byelaw 1.2 Players Participating

All players in the adult game must be aged 16 at the time of registering for the season in question. A club can field a player under this age on the condition a parent/guardian consent form is completed and countersigned by a club representative confirming the player is ready to compete in the adult game.

The minimum age for participation in the adult game is 13 years of age.

Byelaw 1.4 Players Equipment

A player whose equipment does not comply (with the prescribed standard) will not be permitted to participate in the game.

Byelaw 1.12 Fouls and Misconduct

A player may stop the ball with both feet while he is moving provided that both heels are together at the moment of contact. If both feet are off the ground at the moment of contact, the referee shall be the sole judge of whether or not the player intentionally kicked the ball.

Where the ball plays the player, it is not a foul.

Byelaw 1.18 Hit in

A player taking a hit-in will be allowed three efforts to throw the ball up but can only swing once. If the player taking the hit misses the ball with a swing on any of the three throws, the opposing

team shall be awarded the hit-in.

Byelaw 3.7 Transfer of Players

A player may transfer, but not play for the new club after the earlier of:

- The new club having completed 80 per cent of their league programme or
- August 1

Byelaw 3.10

Eligibility Criteria for Cup and League Competitions and Rules for Promotional and Relegation in League Competition

No amendment to the player pool shall be permitted after August 1.

Failure to submit a team pool by the stipulated date shall result in the club being automatically fined £20.

In addition, a player is ineligible to play in the Sutherland, Bullough and Strathdearn Cup competitions if he has played five or more first team matches. A player under the age of 17 on January 1 of the year of competition will be exempt from this rule.

Byelaw 3.10. National and Area Leagues

A player is ineligible to play in league matches for their club's reserve team if they have played 75 per cent or more of the club's scheduled first team league matches. A player under the age of 17 on January 1 of the year of competition will be exempt from this rule.

TV switch forces fixture changes

BBC ALBA has confirmed it is unable to broadcast the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup semi-final on Saturday August 15 as originally scheduled in the Camanachd Association fixture list.

Therefore the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup semi-finals will now take place on Saturday July 25 and Saturday August 8. As a result, a number of fixtures have had to be rescheduled including:

The Artemis Macaulay Cup semi-finals originally due on Saturday July 25 will now take place on Saturday July 18.

The Alvanca Balliemore Cup Final scheduled for Saturday July 18 will now be played on Saturday August 15.

The Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup quarter-final due on Saturday July 11 will now take place on Saturday July 4.

The Strathdearn Cup Final due on Saturday July 4 has been put back to Saturday July 11. As a consequence of changing these key matches, a number of other fixtures have also had to be altered to avoid teams having runs of home or away fixtures.

Kinlochshiel name new pitch



The impressive Rearraig Park, home of Kinlochshiel Shinty Club. Photograph: Neil Paterson.

Kinlochshiel held a pitch naming ceremony at their new Rearraig Park home where, undeterred by wet weather, club stalwart Bert Loades cut the ribbon to officially open the impressive facility.

Supporters

Current and former club members were joined by a healthy crowd of

supporters, pipers and young shinty payers from the area to celebrate the occasion.

Afterwards, those present headed to Dornie Hall for refreshments before taking part in a fund raising evening.

Kinlochshiel have played on the new pitch since beating Caberfeidh in early August and their only home

loss came against Oban Camanachd in November.

Retain

The west coast side will also retain their Kirkton pitch to help ease pressure on the new surface as the club not only field first and second teams but a ladies team and youth sides at U17, U14 and primary school level.

PEDAL POWER

Council staff do the extra mile for Sport Relief

Energetic Argyll and Bute Council employees are getting on their bikes next month to cycle 2,053 miles in aid of Sport Relief.

Using spin-cycles at LiveArgyll leisure centres, they will follow a virtual route around all 81 school establishments in the area, starting at Southend Primary School in South Kintyre, finishing at Aringour Primary School on the Isle of Coll.

The event will take place from 7am until 7pm Friday March 13, with staff participating for various lengths of time.

For example, while some will take part during their lunch hour and before and after work, others are taking annual leave and plan to cycle throughout the whole day.

Visit www.justgiving.com/fundraising/abc-spin to sponsor the team.

ATHLETICS

Indoor athletics at Atlantis Leisure

Mid Argyll Athletic Club reminds boys and girls in Oban that the annual indoor competition takes place this Sunday, February 23, in the Games Hall at Atlantis Leisure. The competition starts at noon with all entries on the day from 11.30am. Specialist equipment is used for running, jumping and throwing events for six age groups starting at under seven, up to under 17 with age qualification as on September 1 2019.

An entry fee of £2 per competitor will be levied or £5 for families of three or more members.

Medals will be awarded to all competitors with trophies for individual winners in each age category.

Successful athletes will qualify to compete in the Argyll Final to be held at Atlantis Leisure, Oban, on Sunday March 22.

Area competitions

The Oban and district event on February 23 is the second of four area competitions being held in Argyll this winter promoted by Mid Argyll Athletic Club.

The two remaining competitions after Oban will be held on the same day, Sunday March 1, with the Kintyre competition in Campbeltown Grammar School and the Mull competition in Tobermory High School.

Young athletes on Mull are advised their competition will start at 11.30am, with entries from 11am. Also for the first time, events for all age groups will start at 11.30am.

The competition at Atlantis this Sunday is an ideal opportunity for young boys and girls to come along and try athletics for the first time in a dry and warm environment.

RUGBY

Storm Dennis causes fixture chaos

Oban Lorne's home West Region Division Two game against Wigtownshire was called off last Saturday as the pitch at Glencruitten was waterlogged.

The club travel to take on Strathaven this weekend with the game almost certain to go ahead as the South Lanarkshire club has a 3G pitch.

Oban Lorne Ladies were due to host Kelso in a National Plate match last Sunday, but this was also called off as Glencruitten was waterlogged.

The Ladies are due to travel to play Kirkcaldy this Sunday, February 23

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Magnus Bradbury backs Royal Bank RugbyForce

Oban's Magnus Bradbury helped launch a Royal Bank of Scotland grassroots rugby programme last Wednesday.

The Scotland international and former Boroughmuir player is one of the elite stars supporting the Royal Bank RugbyForce campaign this year. He features in a series of short films encouraging clubs across Scotland to sign up to the scheme in 2020.

'Community clubs play such a vital role in nurturing the next generation of rugby talent and many professional players take their first steps onto a rugby field at a local club,' he said.

'Royal Bank RugbyForce, delivered in association with Scottish Rugby, is an excellent initiative which supports grassroots clubs and it's great to see them getting the funding they need to develop the rugby stars of tomorrow.'

Now in its twelfth year, the nationwide rugby initiative supports amateur clubs by providing funding to improve facilities and attract new members. It also encourages clubs to become community hubs with a sustainable future.

Since launching 12 years ago, more than half a million pounds has been distributed.

This year's campaign will see a celebration of the grassroots game.

On August 8 and 9, the bank and Scottish Rugby will host



Boroughmuir Rugby Club youth player Ollie Blyth Lafferty, 13, women's Scotland internationalist Sarah Denholm, men's Scotland internationalist Magnus Bradbury, men's Scotland internationalist Blair Kinghorn, women's Scotland internationalist Rachel McLachlan and Boroughmuir Rugby Club youth player Zak Griffiths, 14, at the Royal Bank RugbyForce launch last Wednesday. Photograph: Stewart Attwood.

a Royal Bank RugbyForce weekend when clubs will host events for their community and unveil how they will use bank support as they prepare for the new season.

Magnus joined fellow Scotland internationalists Blair Kinghorn, Sarah Denholm and Rachel McLachlan to urge clubs to think how they could use Royal Bank RugbyForce support and apply.

For 2020, Royal Bank

RugbyForce will offer two clubs a package to help them create a unique RugbyForce day including event management, activation assistance and a visit from a Scotland international - making it easy for them to show attendees how they can benefit from being involved in their local club.

Another eight clubs will be offered £1,000 in financial support, with all other entrants being in with the

RUGBY

chance of being awarded £250.

All qualifying clubs will receive support packs to help them host their own Royal Bank RugbyForce weekend.

Applications for funding can be made via the Royal Bank RugbyForce website at <https://www.scottishrugby.org/clubs-and-schools/support-for-clubs/rugbyforce>

FOOTBALL



Kyle, left, signing his contract with Ytterhogdals IK manager Tony McNally.

Selfridge signs on the dotted line

Lochgilhead Red Star defender Kyle Selfridge has been signed by Scandinavian football team Ytterhogdals IK.

The Swedish club competes in Division 2 Norrland, the fourth tier of Swedish football.

Kyle was encouraged to take part in trials at Shettleston recently and following the try-outs was taken to one side and told on the day they would like to sign him.

Starting his footballing career aged eight, as a member of Lochgilhead Soccer Centre, the 21-year-old has grown as a player over the years playing for Oban Saints Youths, signing with Dumbarton FC aged 13, returning home to play for Tarbert before Ardencaple and, for the past three seasons, playing for Lochgilhead Red Star.

Colin Weir, player/manager of Lochgilhead Red Star, wished the defender all the best and said: 'Kyle has been almost an ever present for the team throughout the past few years and was an important part of the team which won the Premier Two Championship in 2018.'

'We will miss Kyle on the pitch but wish him all the best with his move and are sure he'll make the most of this fantastic opportunity.'

Travelling to Edinburgh to sign his full-time professional contract on February 4, Kyle said: 'It's all been really quick but it's such an amazing opportunity. I am delighted to sign for Ytterhogdals IK. I can't wait to get started and hopefully help the team go one better than they did last season.'

'Kyle is a player I have known for some time,' added

Tony McNally, manager of Ytterhogdals IK. 'He has recently been involved in elite trials in Scotland where he caught the eye of myself and a number of other teams who were keen to get his signature.'

'He can play in full back/centre back positions and brings a calmness about his game. He is good on the ball and will be another good addition to Ytterhogdals.'

Kyle, who will be training twice a day, five days a week, leaves for Ytterhogdal on February 18 for training starting on February 20, before Ytterhogdals IK's first friendly on February 29.



Kyle Selfridge playing for Lochgilhead Red Star.

06_a34RedStar08_Kyle

Tarbert Gun Club fires into February

There was fierce competition as Tarbert Gun Club continued its winter league shoots

at Barmore shooting ground. All shooters were trying to increase their points tally

on Sunday February 1, with plenty doing so and some not. It is tough at the top and the



Left to right: the winning team of Ian Smith, Craig Samborek, Jack Campbell, Stu Charnock and Ronald Jenkins.

SHOOTING

six shooters in competition for the top gun prize are all depending on a successful day at the last shoot in the series next month.

Unless Ronald Jenkins' team have a disaster at the March shoot, they will win the team event, having won the first four competitions.

Results: Top team: Ronald Jenkins, Jack Campbell, Craig Samborek, Stu Charnock and Ian Smith. Class A: 1 Ally McDonnell; 2 Iain Winnard; John Weir. Class B: 1 Steven Sloan; 2 Jack Campbell; 3 Bob McColl. Class C: 1 Roy Laird; John Cupples; 3 Robert Campbell. Class D: 1 Chris MacEachren; 2 Adam Currie; Stu Charnock. Class E: 1 Ian Smith; 2 Duncan MacAlister; 3 Duncan McLean.

OT

GOLF



Bob on the eighth tee at the recent Dubai Desert Classic where he finished in joint eighth place.

Photograph: Bob Graham

Bob's Mexican return

Oban's Bob MacIntyre return from a two-week lay-off today (Thursday) in the World Golf Championship in Mexico. The tournament is only open to the world's top 100 players and with a huge \$10.5m prize fund and significant world ranking points up for grabs it gives Bob a real opportunity to kick-start what has so far been a frustrating opening to his season.

The Mexican tournament also heralds the start of a vital five-week period if Bob is to achieve his ambition of reaching the world's top 50 before the end of March and with it a coveted spot in the US Masters. The Oban star is currently ranked 66th in the world so needs some strong finishes during February and March to give himself a chance of qualifying.

After the WGC event in Mexico, Bob moves on to Oman and then Qatar with both tournaments offering decent world ranking points. After those tournaments come a couple of smaller tournaments in Kenya and India which Bob may opt out of, depending on where his ranking stands.

His final opportunity for Masters qualification comes on March 25 at the WGC Matchplay in Texas. Unlike other WGC tournaments, the matchplay championship is only open to the world's top 64 and with Bob currently two places outside that mark, things could not be more finely balanced.

A strong finish this weekend in Mexico will go a long way to help release the pressure and fulfill Bob's dream of teeing up at the Masters in Augusta.

ADULT FOOTBALL

Results and fixtures

Last Saturday's results: Scottish Amateur Cup, sixth round replay – Oban Saints 0, Wishaw HSFP 2; Greater Glasgow AFL – Division Three – Oban Saints GG 3, Westlands 0; SAFL Premier Division One – Campbelltown Pupils v Dunoon, postponed; Lochgilphead Red Star v Carlton YM, postponed; Premier Division Two – Tarbert 0, FC Argyle 4.

This Saturday's fixtures: Central Scottish AFL Division 1B – Oban Saints v Stedfast, Oban Community Pitch, kick-off 1pm; Greater Glasgow AFL Division 3 – Kirkfield United v Oban Saints GG; SAFL – Premier Division One – Dunoon v Glynhill Moorcroft; Campbelltown Pupils and Lochgilphead Red Star no games; Premier Division Two – Strathaven v Tarbert.

OBAN SAINTS YOUTHS

Results and fixtures

Last Sunday's results: Under 13s, no game; Glasgow Boys v Under 14s, postponed; Under 15s no game; Under 17s no game.

This Sunday's fixtures: Under 13s v Lochgilphead Red Star; Milton Rovers v Under 14s; Under 15s v Rossvale; Under 17s v Ardrossan Winton Rovers.

Scottish Cup ho

Oban Saints	0
Wishaw HSFP	2

Scottish Cup sixth round replay

Oban Saints' Scottish Amateur Cup hopes were blown away at a very wet and windy Oban High School last Saturday afternoon. A confidently converted first-half penalty kick and a lightning quick counter-attack strike early in the second half from visitors Wishaw High School Former Pupils were enough to see the 2011 cup winners safely through to this season's quarter-finals.

Saints will reflect ruefully on two crucial saves from Wishaw keeper Sandy Thomson either side of the half-time whistle. However, the hard-working visitors were worthy of their victory and will have given Saints a glimpse of the quality of opposition they will face on a weekly basis if they are successful in their push for promotion to the Central Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division.

Manager Willie Gemmell made two changes to the starting line-up which had drawn the sixth round tie at Wishaw Sports Centre two weeks previously. In came Cammy Hill and the fit again Myles McAuley, with Ross Maitland and Willie Gemmell dropping to the bench.

Frustrated

Saints had the benefit of the strong wind blowing from the school end in the first half and were frustrated after four minutes when referee Donald McCallum ignored a loud appeal for what appeared to be a clear foul by Liam Smith on James Ford on the edge of the Wishaw box.

Scottish Amateur Football Association Select squad member Lee Hadden's pace

on the left would prove to be a major threat for the visitors and Saints central defender Steven MacLeod picked up the first caution of the afternoon for pulling back the wide man just inside the Saints half.

Lewis Cameron and Craig MacEwan combined well on the left to pick their way through the Wishaw defence in the 10th minute but Cameron's ball along the six-yard line was thumped clear by Jamie Halliday launching a lightning quick counter-attack. Lee Hadden raced away on the left and picked out the supporting run of Ewan Leonard in the middle who played in former Arthurlie Juniors man Joshua Payne for a shot into the side netting.

Saints skipper Dene Cassells was inches away from connecting with a tempting Lewis Cameron free-kick delivery from the Saints right in the 12th minute before Cameron drew a spectacular save from Sandy Thomson with a curling effort from 23 yards which the Wishaw number one pushed away from the postage stamp corner.

Flick

The visitors broke the deadlock from the penalty spot after Matty Kelly clipped the heels of Brian Ross as the Wishaw midfielder tried to get on the end of a Ewan Leonard flick into the Saints box.

Wishaw captain James Bryson rolled the resulting penalty kick into the bottom corner, sending Saints keeper Graham Douglas in the opposite direction in the process.

Douglas did well to gather an attempted lob from Wishaw central striker John Neill before surviving another devastating counter-attack from the visitors. After Cammy Hill had won a corner kick on the left,



Graham Douglas saves from Jamie Halliday.

Saints were left appealing in vain for a penalty kick for a push on Dene Cassells which prevented the Saints skipper from connecting with Lewis Cameron's corner kick.

Saints kept plugging away in search of an equaliser and were unlucky to see a dangerous Lewis Cameron ball across the face of goal deflect off an outstretched Wishaw leg into the grateful arms of Sandy Thomson.

Cutback

Scorer of Saints' goal in the first game Scott Maitland almost came up trumps again on the half-hour mark when his cutback from the left after a jinking run into the Wishaw box was inches away from finding his Scottish Amateur Football Association Select colleague Lewis Cameron.

Wishaw midfielder Brian Ross somehow managed to escape disciplinary action from referee McCallum for a late high tackle on Ruaridh Horne which left the young Saints fullback in a crumpled heap in the 31st minute.

Making his first start for his new club, Joshua Payne was proving to be a nuisance on the Wishaw right. After having a 33rd minute shot

blocked behind for a corner kick, Payne drew a fine save from Graham Douglas from a curling effort which the Saints number one did well to claw away from the top right-hand corner of his goal. Douglas received the slice of good fortune his heroic deserved when, from an extremely tight angle, Wishaw's John Neill could only head



Myles McAuley.

the loose ball against the junction of post and crossbar.

Wishaw keeper Sandy Thomson launched a 41st minute free-kick from deep inside his own half which, despite being held up in the wind, was won in the air by John Neill who found Joshua Payne on the right. Payne's dangerous ball across the six-yard box was turned goalward by Lee Hadden at the back post but Graham Douglas got down well to his right to make a good save.

On the stroke of half-time Lewis Cameron was felled on the Saints left by Joshua Payne whose failure to retreat the required distance at the resulting free-kick saw him become the first Wishaw name in referee McCallum's notebook.

When the action did get under way, Saints worked a terrific opening for Cammy Hill who couldn't believe his luck when Sandy Thomson threw



Matty Kelly clips the heels of Brian Ross to concede a penalty kick.

pes blown away



Frustration for Cammy Hill as Sandy Thomson denies him at point blank range. Report and photographs: Derek Black

up a strong left forearm to deny the young striker from point blank range. Thomson broke Saints hearts again 60 seconds after the restart with another sensational save from James Ford. Ford's shot from the edge of the Wishaw box appeared destined for the bottom corner until Thomson, at full stretch low to his left, made just enough contact to turn the ball behind for a corner kick.

Hammer blow

As if Thomson's save wasn't enough for the large home crowd to endure, the visitors delivered a hammer blow when their swift counter-attacking style finally bore fruit from the Saints corner kick. Lewis Cameron's delivery from the right was headed clear and found its way up to Brian Ross who raced into the Saints half ignoring the supporting runs of Joshua Payne and Lee Hadden to fire an unerring finish into the bottom corner beyond the despairing right hand of Graham Douglas and double the visitors' advantage.

Gaffer Willie Gemmell made a double substitution on the hour mark, replacing Cammy Hill and James Ford with David Beaton and Ross Maitland in an attempt to reinvigorate the Saints attack.

Beaton and Maitland managed to get some joy in the wide areas but once again there was to be no way past Sandy Thomson when he produced another terrific save at his near post to thwart David Beaton from a left-wing Lewis Cameron cut-back in the 70th minute.

Willie Gemmell called one too many of Mr McCallum's decisions into question and joined the growing list of names in the referee's notebook.

Very little was going Saints' way as they struggled to match the visitors' steely determination and top scorer Craig MacEwan's usually reliable first touch let him down when threaded through by Lewis Cameron in the 75th minute allowing the ball to run harmlessly through to the Wishaw keeper.

Myles McAuley, who had a good game in midfield, had his return to the team cut short when he bundled over Wishaw danger man Lee Hadden with 10 of the regulation 90 minutes remaining. McAuley did well to track Hadden's lightning quick run and took one for the team in bundling over the pacy wide man before he could get his shot away.

After having to leave the

field of play for treatment for a head knock, Wishaw's Ewan Leonard incurred the wrath of referee McCallum for returning uninvited and became the latest caution in what, despite the high stakes, was a competitive but fair contest.

Marching orders

Having received a cheap yellow card in the first half, Joshua Payne gave Mr McCallum the chance to even up the red cards tally when he needlessly kicked the ball away at a Saints free-kick deep inside home territory. Well within his rights, the referee issued a second yellow card and gave the Wishaw wide man his marching orders.

Despite being returned to numerical parity, and a generous amount of added on time, Saints failed for the first time this season to find

FOOTBALL

the target and slipped out of the Scottish Amateur Cup to concentrate on the season's primary objective of gaining promotion to the Central Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division.

The next instalment of Saints Division 1B campaign takes place this coming Saturday when Stedfast K are the visitors. The game will again be on the 3G pitch with a 1pm kick-off.

Saints GG team took the field after their senior counterparts and recorded a fine 3-0 win against Westerlands in very difficult conditions.

On target for Saints were Dean Smith (2) and Martin Bonar. The win lifted Saints into second place in the league. This Saturday Saints GG travel to take on league leaders Kirkfield United.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Oban Saints	12	12	0	0	46	6	40	36
Blantyre RGM	14	9	2	3	37	20	17	29
Garrowhill Thistle	14	8	2	4	32	30	2	26
Stedfast K	14	5	2	7	21	31	-10	17
Bridgewater	11	5	0	6	22	20	2	15
Lesmahagow	9	4	2	3	26	12	14	14
Cambusnethan	12	3	5	4	18	26	-8	14
Clydebank	14	2	2	10	17	40	-23	8
Craignenk	14	1	1	12	8	42	-34	4



Wishaw defender Ewan Leonard dives with a clearing header.



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WEATHER

Thursday
Hail showers and a fresh breeze
Temperatures 5°C to 7°C.

Friday
Heavy rain and strong winds
Temperatures 6°C to 9°C.

Weekend Outlook
Saturday
Strong winds and hail showers
Sunday
Heavy rain and a fresh breeze
Temperatures 3°C to 7°C.



TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday February 13, 2020** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

	03.57	3.2	10.09	1.3
Thur	17.07	3.4	23.14	1.4
Fri	04.34	3.5	10.59	1.3
Sat	17.07	3.4	23.14	1.2
	05.09	3.7	11.38	1.2
	17.32	3.5	23.50	1.0
Sun	05.44	3.9	12.13	1.1
	18.02	3.7	** **	**
Mon	00.24	0.9	06.18	4.0
	12.46	1.0	18.31	3.8
Tues	00.57	0.8	06.51	4.0
	13.18	1.0	19.00	3.8
Wed	01.29	0.9	07.22	4.0
	13.48	1.1	19.28	3.8

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardishaig	-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

Selfridge
signs on the
dotted line

Magnus Bradbury
backs Royal Bank
RugbyForce

Dee steps out her comfort zone to march for Daddie

Oban's first lady of rugby, Dee Bradbury, will be donning her hiking boots once the 2020 Six Nations tournament is over and taking on a challenge far from her comfort zone.

On March 27, the Scottish Rugby president will join a like-minded 25 brave adventurers, made up of MND research professors, ex-national and international rugby players and friends of Daddie Weir and his foundation, will head to the High Atlas mountains in Morocco to #MarchForDaddie.

'I've never contemplated anything like this before, and if it wasn't for the reasons behind it, I would never have considered it,' said Dee.

The team will be marching 50km over two half days, and one full day, challenging themselves with gruelling ascents, steep descents and little flat. To cap it all, they will be camping at night, enduring the cold mountain temperatures.

Keeping them going will be the thought that every step they take will raise valuable funds for the My Name's Daddie Foundation, and through this, will be taking Daddie, who was diagnosed with MND in June 2017, one step closer to his goal of finding a cure.

Dee felt compelled to sign up for the #MarchForDaddie after watching some emotional footage featuring the former Scotland Lock at a lunch she was attending.

Despite being 'terrified' of what lies ahead, the 55-year-old mother of two has found an inner strength through her association with Daddie and his family.

'He is an iconic former player and the warmth and dignity within the family is humbling,' she told us.

'I don't know if I could ever present like that in the same set of circumstances, which is why I decided to do this.'

'If Daddie and his family can adapt and face their daily challenges with such courage, then to walk 50km in the mountains in Morocco becomes insignificant in comparison.'

Currently fulfilling her role as president of Scottish Rugby, Dee flew out to Rome on Monday ahead of Scotland's Six Nations clash with Italy, and admits she hasn't had much time to train for the march.

'The date of the trek is looming up very quickly and once Six Nations is over, it will be time to go to Morocco,' she explained.

'Ideally, I'd have liked to have tested myself locally on the hills behind my house in Bonawe, but I've hardly been home recently.'

'I will have to rely upon my basic fitness, determination and resilience to complete the trek.'



Scottish Rugby president Dee Bradbury. Photograph Scottish Rugby

RUGBY

'My husband bought me a great pair of walking boots for my birthday recently. I decided to start breaking them in by a gentle meander in Edinburgh but the hooks on one boot became caught up on the other and I fell flat on my face. Does not bode well!'

The trek itself will be overseen by a reputable trekking company augmented by local experienced Berber guides and over the three days the group will be camping overnight in remote areas where the weather can be very unpredictable.

'I've never contemplated anything like this before, and if it wasn't for the reasons behind it, I would never have considered it,' said Dee.

'I've never done anything like this before, so frankly I'm terrified, but I like a challenge.'

And what do her family think of her latest exploit?

'They think I'm mad, but as always they are supportive of my madness,' she concluded.

Dee is footing the bill for the trip herself but aims to raise as much money as possible for the cause via her just giving page. Go to <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/dee-bradbury> to give her your support.



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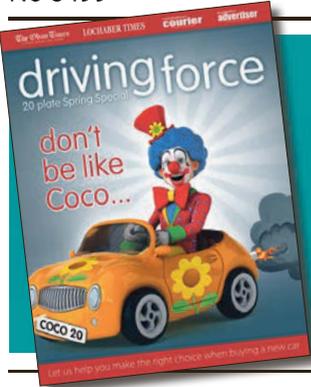
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**Glencoe
massacre
remembered
in ceremony**



**PET
IDOL
is back**
See competition
details on page 48

Cull last resort as people warned do not feed deer

by Richard Mason
rmason@obantimes.co.uk

Kinlochleven Community Council (KCC) and landowner Jahama Estates are to educate the village on the long-term dangers to the deer and people of feeding them after a report to Assynt Community Council over deer 'terrorising' the Lochinver community raised the issue of a possible cull of the animals.

While there has been a concerted effort by many to stop feeding stags that have become comfortable in Kinlochleven, there is still a 'small but determined group' giving food to the animals.

The report to Assynt Community Council also highlighted that cases of Lyme disease have also risen locally due to the deer.

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) confirmed a cull could be considered in extreme cases. A spokesperson said: 'We encourage local deer managers to get involved in actions to reduce the negative impacts of deer on public areas and gardens in communities,

for example, through raising awareness about the risks of feeding deer.

'Culling could be considered by deer managers as a last resort if the risk to the public was felt to be too high.'

KCC chairwoman Yvonne Rosie will be putting up warning posters in areas where deer are regularly fed.

'Feeding by the public encourage deer out of their natural habitat'

Of the attempts to speak to people about feeding, she said: 'It's falling on deaf ears among a small but determined group.'

'We just have to keep going in the hope residents making direct appeals to the feeders in a friendly, respectful and educational way might lead to a shift.'

A long post on the KCC Facebook page highlighted that fruit and vegetables are like sweets to deer - tasty, but of no nutritional value.

Recently-appointed liaison manager for Jahama Highland

estates Jonathan Hart wrote an article on the dangers of feeding deer in the March edition of Lochaber Life.

In the piece - which will soon be available to read for every home and business in Lochaber - Mr Hart says deer build up a fat layer in the warmer months that means they do not move around as much in winter.

He continued: 'Feeding by the public can encourage deer out from their natural habitat into areas around houses, for food which is not suited to their stomachs.'

'Once deer realise food is being put out by people they will travel regularly, using up previous energy.'

'It takes several weeks of feeding on a new type of food for a deer's digestive system to get used to it.'

'This time and energy uses up vital fat reserves that could have been spared if the deer had just eaten their natural food (vegetation).'

'Research shows that feeding wild deer on unnatural

Continued on page four

Ancient tree felled by Storm Dennis



Norman Clark gets ready to cut up a large beech tree in Corpach on Monday after it became a casualty of Storm Dennis at the weekend. Mr Clark, who runs Clark Pods, estimates the tree could be between 135 and 225 years old and may have been planted to replace a similar tree of note felled by the Duke of Cumberland's men in reprisal for the 1745 Jacobite Rising. Full story, turn to page six.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos



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36 years in making, quilt inspires new friendships

by Richard Mason
rmason@obantimes.co.uk

A quilt that was started in 1984 was finally finished thanks to the banding together of local ladies.

Almost 36 years ago, Helen Lamb began sewing the quilt in Bristol and completed 12 florets but, unsure how to proceed, laid it away.

The unfinished quilt moved with Helen and her husband, Reverend Alan Lamb to different parishes until the couple eventually moved to Arisaig where Alan was the associate minister for the Great Glen parish, spending 11 years in the post.

Helen now lives with Parkinson's disease and would have found it difficult to complete the quilt on her own.

So Morag Keenan, an experienced quilter herself who saw the unfinished florets when visiting the Lambs last October, organised for the quilt to be completed.

She said: 'Helen approached me as she dearly wanted the quilt to be finished. I could not have done it all myself as this



Helen and Alan Lamb with the many people who helped complete the quilt for them.

Photograph Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Finally finished on January 11, 2020, it was presented to the Lambs the next day, and a month later everyone who could make it to Arisaig reunited.

Mrs Lamb said: 'Alan once said to me that he did not think he would live to see it on the bed, and this very well might have been the case, but last October Morag took the material home and suggested it be a community project.'

'After Christmas I felt very sorry for everyone who had taken so much time to do it and for their work to be ruined, but it was such an achievement for them to finish it so quickly again.'

'I feel very proud of them and it's so great for all these new friendships to be formed.'

Handmade with love, the quilt is a perfect example of a community who show care and support for each other.

one requires hand-stitching rather than being machined.

'Everything was initially organised through the Church of Scotland, but it grew outside of that and really organised itself. Three different local churches were involved, but some got involved who were not affiliated.'

The team of 18 ladies hailed from Arisaig, Mallaig, Acharacle, Lochailort, the Small Isles, and even as far as Perth and Aberdeenshire.

'Trying to source the original Laura Ashley fabric would have been excessively expensive,' continued Mrs Keenan, 'so we put the rest together with donated fabric. It is extremely traditional in all that and the fact it was made by a community.'

'Something that might have taken a week to 10 days for one person was done in a morning with everyone working together. Even those who do not have sewing skills were able to

contribute by putting the structure together.

'Bringing all these people together has created some new friendships and inspired a sewing group to start up here in the church hall for those who want to learn more. It is particularly good for some of the older ladies who might be on their own.'

With the quilt finished and ready to be presented to the Lambs on Christmas Eve, disaster struck.

Hidden under a pew in the

church, it fell onto a heating element without a guard and was severely burned before the ladies had been able to present it to the Lambs.

A third of the quilt was damaged beyond repair, but a concerted effort by the group led to it being fixed within weeks.

Five soakings and rinsing in baking soda and vinegar removed all traces of smoke from the remaining quilt and it was back to the needle and thread for the ladies.



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Scottish Water apologises over water bill fiasco

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Water bosses are to make a goodwill payment to St Mary's RC Church in Arisaig and refund overpayments as part of an apology over a long-running water dispute.

Scottish Water is giving the church £100 in compensation and its retail division Business Stream is coughing up a refund of almost £1,800.

Two weeks ago we reported on parish priest Father Stan Pamula's battle to convince Scottish Water's Business Stream retail division it had a water supply point ID number wrongly attributed to the church.

Father Stan claimed in the four years he had been priest at St Mary's, he had spent countless hours trying to convince the water company he was not running a restaurant and that the ID number in question and associated charges should correctly be attributed to an eatery in the village.

The Lochaber Times took up his case with Scottish Water. A spokesperson said confusion around supply points was to blame and that action would be taken to resolve the issue.

Scottish Water emailed Father Stan to say it was 'reviewing the points' raised and would be back in contact as soon as possible.

A Scottish Water spokesperson has since told the Lochaber Times: 'As a charitable organisation which is eligible for exemption, St Mary's does not have to pay water charges, provided exemption is applied for by the church each year. We have now arranged for exemption to be applied and backdated to St Mary's. This will need to be reapplied for annually by the church in future.'

'The difficulty in this case appears to have been caused by too many supply points being registered to the church in the past.'

'We are very sorry for the confusion that has been caused by too many supply points.'

'The surplus supply points will be removed from the market to avoid any future confusion and the remaining meter linked to St Mary's has been verified as being physically located in and supplying the church.'

'We are very sorry for the confusion that has been caused by the surplus supply point references and the inconvenience Father Pamula has experienced in resolving the issue.'

'We hope this has now been addressed and will be making



Father Stan outside St Mary's RC Church in Arisaig which has been at the centre of a long-running saga over water supply points. Photographs: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

How? What? I am speechless. This again is proof of the shambles our water industry is in.'

After raising this issue with Pure Utilities, a spokesperson informed Father Stan the details used for the letter were taken from the church website which were then 'unfortunately' incorrectly matched to the site in question.

'Please accept our apologies and be assured these details have now been removed and there will be no further contact from ourselves,' Pure Utilities told Father Stan.

a good will payment, via Business Stream, by way of apology.'

Scottish Water added it was 'confident' the church was not previously paying for the restaurant in question's water supply.

However, Father Stan could be forgiven for thinking the country's water companies were, indeed, running a personal campaign against him.

Last week he received a letter from water utility company Pure Utilities concerning a water supply point for a church on Islay - nearly 200 miles away.

Father Stan, who was able to see the funny side, said:

'I am not sure how to view this coincidence but it seems the industry is after me! I received a letter today from

Pure Utilities, this time about an SPID [water supply point identification number] of an Episcopal Church on Islay.

Grants for community forest projects

Community forest projects at Loch Arkaig and Invergarry shared some of the cash - more than £1.5million - in the latest round of grants from the Scottish Land Fund.

Arkaig Community Forest SCIO received £36,088 to buy an area of woodland that includes Clunes Forest School, to create opportunities for conservation, recreation and

outdoor education. Glengarry Community Woodland was awarded £25,189 to buy three acres of land in order to improve access to the community woodland, provide space for events and to set up a tourist accommodation business.

The cash is part of a total of £1,586,389 which was shared between 11 projects.

Lorraine Servant, of Arkaig Community Forest, said: 'This funding will enable our community to purchase the land and Forest School buildings at Clunes and develop this asset as a community facility. The purchase will provide a base for the charity, and a venue for interpretation and management of the Loch Arkaig Pine Forest.'

Man dies following incident in Glen Nevis

Police Scotland have confirmed a man has died after an incident in Glen Nevis.

Riachard Armstrong, 42, from Cumbria, fell from the Stob Ban path on the south side of the glen.

The incident was reported

to police shortly after 1pm on Sunday February 16. The man was pronounced dead at the scene and his body was recovered by Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team members.

A report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Inspector Isla Campbell, of Fort William Police Station, said: 'Our thoughts are with the man's family and friends at this time. I would also take the opportunity to thank our partner agencies for their assistance.'

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VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce will welcome Dr Liz Cameron, chief executive of the Scottish Chambers of Commerce to Lochaber next month as guest speaker at the Chamber's next Women in Business lunch on Thursday March 12.

The lunch offers women in member and non-member businesses the chance to come together to hear a thought-provoking talk and enjoy networking over lunch.

We were delighted with the positive feedback from our first lunch during Lochaber Ideas Week, when we were joined by Sarah Heward of the Real Food Café in Tyndrum.

This time around we can't wait to hear Liz's personal insights from her career at the forefront of Scottish business.

She will join us as part of a busy day, meeting member businesses and attending the Chamber of Commerce board meeting in the evening.

Liz is a senior business leader in Scotland with expertise in all business areas. With a career spanning three decades, Liz is at the forefront of Scottish business, recognised as one of the most powerful forces in the business



community.

After successfully establishing and running several small businesses, Liz took the helm of the Scottish Chambers of Commerce in 2004. As chief executive officer and director of Scottish Chambers of Commerce, she leads the organisation that is at the heart of Scotland's largest and most influential business-to-business network.

The network of 27 Chambers of Commerce brings together more than 12,000 companies throughout Scotland.

As one of Scotland's most influential business leaders, Liz certainly has her finger on the pulse of the top issues in business.

Come along to hear what inspires and motivates Liz and what she thinks are the key issues for women in business today and in future.

Tickets for the lunch are on sale through www.lochaber-chamber.co.uk or Eventbrite, price £12. To book by phone, call 01397 705765.

Excitement grows as Fort cinema premiere date set

The traditional stonework and standout red roof is almost complete on the Highland Cinema, writes Richard Mason.

Building work on the Cameron Square picture house is due to be finished by the middle of April, with the opening premiere on May 9, which will be a glitzy Highland affair with the red carpet rolled out and a tartan dress code for everyone attending. The cinema will then be open for business and owner Angus MacDonald is keen to have a children's premiere on May 10.

He said: 'We cannot say much about the premiere until everything is confirmed,



The new cinema in Fort William is set to open on May 9.

but we are hoping to have an advanced screening of a film and a very special guest.'

A lot of thought is being put into every aspect of the cinema, with a focus on promoting the history and people of the western highlands.

He continued: 'We will have black and white footage playing in the bar area of topics including the Ballachulish ferry. The National Trust is providing something from the island of Canna and there will be archive footage from the Scottish Mountaineering Club. The theme for the gents is the illicit whisky trade. So the wash basins will be set in whisky barrels and we will have pictures of that

sort of smuggling around the bathroom.'

There will also be a display of photographs showing 'people at work in Lochaber'. They will feature farmers and fishermen and highlight recognisable faces, such as musician Fergie MacDonald.

There has been a competition for the display of photographs and one of the judges, Iain Ferguson, said: 'We have received lots of entries and are very impressed with the level of entries. There will be 12 winners, who are currently being selected. Each winner will get £150 along with their picture being displayed in the cinema.'

Mr MacDonald is also in

talks to have live events take place as the cinema will be well-equipped to handle film premieres and question and answer events. A stage can be built in either auditorium or the bar area and it is hoped live traditional music and lunch will feature.

The cinema will show latest releases but will have a focus on being family-friendly. Programming is through a company called INDY, which works with small cinemas and provides the best film mix for the audience.

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People encouraged not to feed deer as culling remains last resort

Continued from page one
foodstuffs frequently put out by well-meaning people can cause deer to die.'

These are undomesticated, wild animals and attitudes of red deer stags can change drastically when it gets to mating season later in the year.

An SNH spokesperson added: 'There is no need for the public to feed wild deer and we would discourage members of the public from



The risk of injury from being close to deer is high.

doing so. Hand feeding deer, particularly red deer stags,

places the individuals at risk of serious injury.

'Feeding deer and other wild animals at roadsides only encourages them to stay around such places, and also increases the risk of a collision with a vehicle.'

'Deer are great opportunists and can overcome their natural fear of man in return for some food – but the risk of injury from being in close proximity to a large wild animal is high.'

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Kate Forbes with one of the baby boxes.

6,000 Highland baby boxes gifted since scheme began

Featuring Lochaber landmarks including Glenfinnan Viaduct and Ben Nevis in the design, almost 6,000 baby boxes have been handed out to Highland families since the scheme began in 2017, according to new figures from the Scottish Government.

The box, which offers essential items such as clothing, a hooded towel, a digital ear thermometer and a changing mat, is available to all babies born and resident in Scotland.

As of January 2020, more than 120,000 boxes have been delivered to families across Scotland, of which 5,877 are in the NHS Highland health board region.

Commenting on the figures,

Kate Forbes, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, said: 'I've seen so many new parents receive a baby box in the Highlands.

'It's a great way to support new families and help new-borns in the first few weeks of their lives. It has been particularly lovely to see how much first-time parents appreciate the baby box.

'I firmly believe the Scottish Government should do everything possible to support families and the baby box is just one way to give parents, new-borns and the wider family unit that support.

'Families are, ultimately, the backbone of society.'

by Richard Mason
rmason@obantimes.co.uk

More refugees will be coming to the Highlands in the next phase of re-settlement as those who settled in Kinlochleven in 2017 move onto other opportunities.

While unable to confirm how many families might be coming to Kinlochleven, Highland councillors hailed the programme a success and confirmed they will take in 'around 25 further refugees to Highland in 2020/21'.

In September 2019, the Lochaber Times reported that Amar Yasouf, who re-settled in Kinlochleven, has moved to Glasgow to begin his Masters in Pharmacy at the University of Strathclyde.

Mr Yasouf wants to return to Syria to help people after the war but said if he cannot return, Scotland feels like a second home.

Refugee re-settlement scheme set to continue



Former Kinlochleven resident Amar Yasouf.

The other two families who settled in the village have moved to undisclosed locations as personal information of council tenants is kept private.

Highland councillor and Kinlochleven resident Andrew Baxter said: 'The families were welcomed in by the village and became quite close with others. They would

help out with the football and boxing clubs and would bake for coffee mornings.'

Kinlochleven Community Council chairwoman Yvonne Rosie said: 'We did rally and make every attempt to ease the families into village life. Sadly they have all left, as it just couldn't give the families what they needed. I believe if we had been closer to cities maybe they would have stayed. We were just a bit too far away.

'I truly believe, from speaking to others, they liked it here and thought it a lovely place, but I think the language barrier for some was an issue. But the children seemed to thrive.

'I don't think we would hesitate to do it again. It was a pleasure and we are glad they have found a new life and a bit of calm in what has been a tumultuous time for them.'

Chairwoman of the coun-

cil's Health, Social Care and Well-being Committee Linda Munro said: 'There are only positive implications from this scheme, with particularly vulnerable families being able to settle in Highland.

'There are further positive impacts from new residents and cultures within a community.

'Businesses have employed a number of refugees and some have moved on to further and higher education. They are all learning English. Young people in schools have been outstanding ambassadors for the programme, leading the way in welcoming their new friends to their communities and helping them to integrate.'

The council also acknowledged there have been challenges in delivering the scheme, mainly caused by Kinlochleven's rural location and a lack of services.



The stone, with strange carvings on all sides, was found in the river at Steall Falls.

Strange stone found at Steall Falls proves to be a bit of a mystery

Enquiries are under way to establish the provenance of a mystery stone found wedged between two boulders in the river at Seal Falls, near Fort William, writes Mark Entwistle.

Local couple Toni Ireland Bowen and husband Leigh found the carved stone when out for a walk recently.

A perplexed Mr Bowen told the Lochaber Times: 'I don't know anything about

it but I found it wedged firmly between two huge boulders in the river near Steall Falls. I've never seen anything like it. The stone is about 16 inches long and six inches wide. It's very heavy too. I hope this will be able to uncover more about it as everyone who has seen it is amazed by it.'

Bill Cameron from Lochaber Local History Society told the Lochaber Times: 'I think the couple

brought it along to one of our recent talks. I wasn't sure what it was then.

'I showed the images to a few folk who I thought might give an insight into the stone. Unfortunately this has not turned up anything. It would be good to know from any readers, what the inscriptions mean.

'It will be interesting to hear if anyone knows what the significance of the marks on the stone are.'



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Lochaber has double interest in Holyrood financial roles

New Scottish Conservative leader Jackson Carlaw has appointed Highlands and Islands Conservative MSP Donald Cameron Shadow Finance Secretary.

His previous role was Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Europe and External Affairs.

Mr Cameron backed Mr Carlaw to succeed Ruth Davidson as their party's leader at Holyrood.

His new position now means he will be shadowing Lochaber MSP Kate Forbes, the new Cabinet Secretary for Finance.

In his first words after accepting his new position, Mr Cameron emphasised his job will be to ensure that Scotland's vital public services receive the money they need to improve.

'I am delighted to have been entrusted with this responsibility as we move ever closer to next year's Scottish Parliamentary elections. Finance is at the heart of all our ambitions for government and I will



Donald Cameron MSP.

be working closely with Jackson and the shadow cabinet team to ensure that our policy commitments are matched to our financial resources.

'We have been dismayed by the SNP's performance on our key public services and the Scottish Conservatives will be entirely focused on improving the the NHS, our schools and the police. They need a government that is not distracted by obsessions about independence.'

'This is a fantastic opportunity for me to play my part in moving Scotland forward and I am looking forward to the challenge.'

Ancient beech falls victim to Dennis

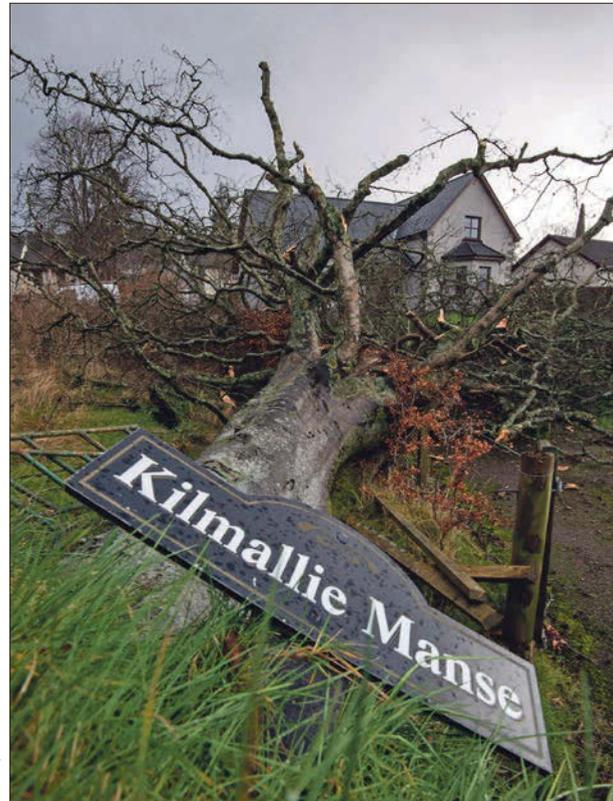
by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

An ancient beech tree that had stood near the entrance of the old manse at Corpach and could possibly have had a link to the 1745 Jacobite Rising, sadly could not withstand the ferocity of Storm Dennis which battered Lochaber at the weekend.

The high winds, which measured more than 60ft tall, had stood sentinel at the bottom of the old church road, which is now the entrance to Kilmalyn guest house.

The high winds knocked the tree over onto the driveway of the neighbouring Kilmallie Manse.

According to Norman Clark, owner of Kilmalyn and who also runs Clark Pods, the tree's circumference of 118 inches meant it was probably somewhere between 135 and



Sign of the storm – the ancient beech tree which was blown over blocking the driveway of the Kilmallie Manse.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

out across the Highlands following the defeat of Jacobite forces and the hunt for the fleeing fugitive Prince Charles Edward Stuart.

Mr Clark is now hoping to use some of the fallen ancient timber from the beech tree to create furniture and worktops.

Damage-wise, Lochaber seemed to have escaped Storm Dennis's attentions with relatively little damage.

The worst was probably the small landslip on Saturday above the A82 near the Hidden Valley car park in Glencoe, while the Corran Ferry Service was suspended on Sunday morning for approximately 24 hours.

The B8007 on Ardnarmurchan was also closed for a number of hours due to a fallen tree.

225 years old. 'It looks as if it was planted over a marker stone and might, just might, have been planted to replace a tree of note that was cut down by Cumberland's men as a reprisal for the 1745 rebellion,' Mr Clark told the Lochaber Times this week.

The Duke of Cumberland had commanded the British Army at Culloden in 1746 and today, at least in many parts of the Highlands, is still remembered by the grisly nickname 'Butcher Cumberland' due to the barbarity and cruelty meted

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Lundavra cafe boosts local groups



Lundavra Primary School split the proceeds from their recent community cafe between the local judo club and Lochaber Autism Support Group, with each receiving more than £50. Photograph: ABrighside Photography

Michelle and Gasper are two who have been helped by the missionary work; and, below, Mabel Wallace.



Guild's Mabel to follow in missionary's footsteps

by Richard Mason
rmason@obantimes.co.uk

A Lochaber woman is following in the footsteps of missionary David Livingstone and travelling to Zambia to visit a project which supports teenage mothers.

Mabel Wallace said she was looking forward to seeing the inspirational and empowering work being carried out in Kanyama – a district on the edge of the African nation's capital, Lusaka.

The 66-year-old from Fort William is a member of the Church of Scotland Guild, which has donated more than £40,000 to the Journeying Together project.

Run by the United Church of Zambia, it supports 50 girls who live in a densely populated area that is often struck by severe flooding during the rainy season.

Poor drainage and sanitation – very few homes have toilets – can lead to outbreaks of cholera and dysentery, with babies and small children most at risk. The project, spearheaded by Deaconess Mable Sitchali, provides core training in essential skills like nutrition, parenting and sex education, and works to build confidence in the girls and challenge social injustice. They are given the opportunity to return to school to finish their education or provided



with vocational training in a skill to enable them to make their own money.

Mrs Wallace, session clerk of Duncansburgh MacIntosh Parish Church, said: 'I am very excited to be given this opportunity to visit and see first-hand how the money Guild folk have given is being used. It will be great to see how the project is working to support the girls and their children.'

'The Guild's three-year strategy is called 'One Journey – Many Roads'. So I am looking forward to sharing the journey and many roads alongside the others in the group at the end of February.'

Kanyama has a population of 365,000 people, of which 51 per cent are under 18, and there are only five primary schools and one high school.

Karen Gillon, associate secretary of the Guild, said: 'The

United Church of Zambia is doing fantastic work to tackle the vicious cycle of poverty by providing opportunities for people who simply want the ability to help themselves.

'Some of them are victims of domestic violence, rape or sometimes they just fell in love with a boy, got pregnant and he then disappeared.

'It is about giving young women a hand up, not a hand out, because what they really want is the chance to finish their education, get a job and give their child the best possible start in life.

'Whatever their circumstances, the project is about showing these girls they are valued and loved by God and equipping them with the skills that they need to thrive.'

Mrs Gillon said she was proud that the Guild, which supports six projects, was raising money for such a worthwhile cause, adding: 'Scotland has always been an outward-looking, caring country and our connections with Zambia go back a long way to the days of the missionaries like David Livingstone. As Scots, we want to do right by people, whether it is our neighbours here in Scotland or in Zambia.'

'As Christians, we are brothers and sisters, and in families you talk to each other, learn from each other and take care of each other.'

Activists in call to save Scotland's Amazon

Extinction Rebellion Scotland members, including those from Lochaber, are backing the Protect the Mhoine campaign calling for international support in rejecting the Space Hub Sutherland planning application.

They say the Flow Country – as it is known and which is regarded by many as Scotland's equivalent of the Amazon in terms of environmental importance in that it is Europe's largest peat bog and carbon sink – is under serious threat from the spaceport development.

The Space Hub Sutherland project has now submitted its application to the Highland Council for the development of a rocket launch facility over 800 acres of the Flow Country, on the A'Mhòine Peninsula.

Kate Willis, who co-founded the Fort William area branch of Extinction Rebellion Highlands and Islands, told us: 'The Scottish Government and Highland Council have declared a

climate and ecological emergency. The development of the Mhoine spaceport, and the environmental impacts and carbon emissions resulting from its construction and regular launch of rockets, is contradictory to this declaration.

'Investment must focus on development of a green low carbon economy and rewilding, particularly in sensitive areas such as the Flow Country.'

Fort William youth environmental activist and Lochaber High School student Holly Gillibrand added: 'The idea that, in the midst of a climate and ecological emergency, a spaceport may be built on a rare ecosystem and a site of globally important carbon storage is ludicrous.

'Politicians talk about restoring peatlands and protecting species, but when you're in a hole, you don't keep making it deeper; you stop digging. We need to stop making this even harder for ourselves.'

WHAT'S ON

Friday February 21: A family fun beetle drive will be held in Nether Lochaber Village Hall at 6.30pm for a 7pm start. Entry is £4 per person (£2 per child), which includes refreshments.

There will also be a raffle. Funds raised will go to help Nether Lochaber Senior Citizens' Association.

Tuesday February 25: Pancake tea in Caol Church Hall. From 2pm-4pm. Tickets are priced £3.

Wednesday, February 26: Lochaber Music for All presents Palisander recorder consort in concert. Kilmallie Hall, 7.30pm. Tickets at the door.

Tuesday March 3: Fort William Accordion and Fiddle Club present a musical evening from 7.30pm. Guest artists will be the Alan Gardiner Trio. Railway Club, Inverloch. Admission £5. Tea and raffle extra.

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Cruise ships are scheduled for visits to Fort William

by Richard Mason
rmason@obantimes.co.uk

As the tourist season draws closer, the schedule for cruise ships coming to Fort William this year has been released and the first one will be here very soon.

A total of 14 ships have been confirmed to stay for a day or more in Loch Linnhe, with travellers coming from the UK, Europe and America.

The Fort William Marina and Shoreline Company (FWMSC) books all the ships to come into the area and brings passengers onshore via its pontoon.

Liaising with the cruise companies is volunteer Sarah Kennedy, FWMSC secretary, who said: 'We have three maiden visits to Fort William this year which will be officially welcomed by ourselves and the Highland Council.



The cruise ship Artania on its maiden visit to Fort William last year. Photograph: FWMSC

'The biggest ship coming will be the Aida Aura with 1,300 passengers and 400 crew. She came in last year and everything went well. This is a German ship and they tend to have quite a high percentage of passengers

going on tours. When the Aida Aura was in last year, one independent shop in Fort William told us that they had smashed all their records on that day, and the West Highland Museum had a very good day as well.'

The FWMSC has estimated that marine tourism, which includes smaller, non-commercial boats using the pontoon too, has brought in £924,000 to Lochaber since the pontoon was installed in 2016.

FWMSC has projected to potentially add more than £600,000 to that figure over the next two years and 17 cruise ships have already confirmed visits to Fort William next year.

This money is not just spent in Fort William but spread across Lochaber, with many coach trips going out during the day to places such as Nevis Range, Glencoe and even as far north as Urquhart Castle, near Inverness.

Mrs Kennedy said: 'There are some groups that will focus on film locations such as Harry Potter, Skyfall and Braveheart. However, not many will go on the steam train to Glenfinnan due to big group bookings having to book a year in advance.

'Some of the cruise ships have also twigged that they can get to Urquhart Castle in the same time or less than go-

ing from Invergordon, which is traditionally the place they would go to. Some will even hire cars to go on their own excursions.'

There will also be regular entertainment in Cameron Square, including Gaelic singers, pipers and Lochaber Geopark talks.

Passengers spend an average of £30 per person while onshore and while not everyone spends this much, businesses do see a benefit.

The big spenders, however, are the crew who often spend upwards of £100 on snacks such as crisps and chocolate.

The FWMSC's goal is to have a pier that allows the ships to dock right next to it and accommodate 14 serviced berths for yachts and other small boats to stay. They feel that this will maximise Fort William's potential as town accessed by sea.



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Knoydart community set to celebrate hall opening

Mainland Britain's last wilderness, accessible only by boat or an 18-mile hike over the hills, is home to Knoydart Community Hall, writes Mark Entwistle.

And now its 100-plus community, driven by a tiny committee of seven local volunteers, has transformed a parlous whitewashed 1950s post-war building slap bang in the middle of Knoydart into an exciting new music and creative arts venue which will throw its doors open for the first time next month.

Having secured £30,000 plus in its Crowdfunder last year and secured funding from multiple external sources, as well as a Super Silent Auction which brought in more than £13,000 and their innovative buy a brick scheme for their supporters wall, the community has shown perseverance, hall love and a lot of volunteer hours which have finally paid off.

Hosting more than 100 community activities per year, including meetings, social events and get-togethers means it really is the heart of the community.



Shooglenifty will play a sell-out gig at Knoydart's new hall.

The 'new' hall looks very similar from the shore and will retain that 'old style' feel, but now has a new space and sprung floor to withstand the very best of west coast ceilidhs.

Dedicated meeting rooms double as social areas and lots of storage. New toilets, wheelchair access, outdoor spaces and a modern kitchen, which will double as the bar for events and functions, mean the community will finally have the facilities it needs.

The community has planned a grand opening for Friday March 27, with speeches and live music from local young musicians, a light

lunch buffet and fizz while the ribbons are cut and the glasses are raised with locals, dignitaries and everyone who has played a part.

From 6.30-11.30pm there will be a community 'bring a dish' night for a great night of good food and craic.

As part of the official opening, the hall will put on its first live gig with none other than Shooglenifty taking the stage on April 4. Supported by Angus Binnie, Murdo Cameron and Kenny Knowles, aka A.M.K, the gig has sold out after tickets were snapped up in a record-breaking 20 minutes from going on sale.

Room 13 initiative plants seed for creative growth

by Kirsteen Bell
fort@obantimes.co.uk

Room 13 in Caol is trialling a block of Studio Access sessions for artists working within Lochaber and beyond.

The Other Artists Thursdays – OAT days – hope to plant the seed for greater creative connections within the community.

The studio's large windows look out onto the Ben and out over Caol bay, purpose-built to let in swathes of light from the east and south, and making it the ideal creative space even in the darker winter months.

For many Lochaber artists, regular access to a working environment such as this was previously not possible. The OAT days, which are available every second



Other Artists Thursdays – a space full of light.

Thursday until June, will allow artists to access studio facilities, network, learn new skills and learn more about Room 13.

Ali Berardelli, a Fort William artist and board member of Room 13, told the Lochaber Times: 'There's a thriving creative com-

munity within Lochaber and Room 13 has studio space and facilities available now to visual artists and designers who find sharing working practice valuable and enjoyable.'

The studio also has a range of equipment available for hire, including an etching

press. Those already familiar with the equipment can be given a brief introduction, or there are also opportunities to attend a day-long workshop in its use.

Ms Berardelli also teaches on the creative courses at West Highland College, and students from several of the courses offered there have been using Room 13 as a drawing and printmaking resource.

She said: 'The success of the students' experiences at Room 13 encouraged the staff and board of trustees to open up the space to the Lochaber Life Drawing group, which meets monthly.'

As a result, artists can now also rent the Room 13 studios to run creative workshops. Since moving to the studio, the Life Drawing

group has been attended by consistently large numbers, demonstrating the interest within the community and further afield, with participants also attending from Oban, Inverness, Mull and beyond.

Some of the senior pupils involved in Room 13 have also been attending the sessions. For Room 13 artist-in-residence Richard Bracken, this is one of the key benefits of opening up the studio in this way, as one of the missions of Room 13 is to give young people access to creative opportunities that build confidence and develop skills relevant to their own aspirations.

He said: 'We are keen to widen the network of Room 13, to involve the wider local community as well as the young people

and artistic community.' Ms Berardelli added: 'As a board member of Room 13 International, I am delighted to see the reach of the charity extending from young people and children to adults who have a desire to continue to make and share in the process of creative practice.'

'The studio being made available also brings valuable income to the charity thus allowing the continued service to the Caol community.'

'As an international charity, Room 13 network is continually evolving and this development within the base at Caol encourages further creative education across all sectors of our community.'

Artists who wish to use the space or get involved in any way are encouraged to get in touch with Room 13.

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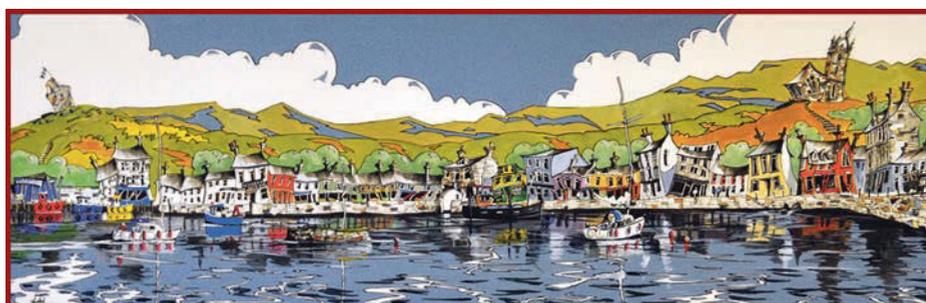
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Glencoe massacre remembrance

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Unlike last year when the heavens opened, this year saw those attending the annual commemoration of the Glencoe Massacre of 1692 relieved to be met with blue skies and sunshine.

With some of Scotland's most famous mountains boasting a picturesque covering of snow, it made for a moving scene as those attending made their way behind a piper from the church, where a service was held, to the nearby stone memorial cross.

Around 50 people gathered to mark those who fell in treacherous events of February 13, 1692.

Local residents from Glencoe and Ballachulish were joined by several visitors from elsewhere.

Last Thursday's events began with a service in St



Lochaber High School piper Ronnie Macintosh leads the annual march to the monument, left; Ros MacDonald of the Glencoe Heritage Trust, above, with the wreath she laid at the memorial.

Photographs: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Mary's Church at Glencoe, which was conducted by the Reverend Simon Mackenzie.

The traditional procession to the tapering Celtic cross memorial followed, with

piper Ronnie Macintosh from Lochaber High School leading the way.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Clan Donald Highlands and Islands Society by society council member Ann McGhee; by Ros MacDonald on behalf of Glencoe Heritage Trust and by the National Trust for Scotland. Also in attendance was society council member Mrs Lois MacDonnell of Glengarry.

The 23rd Psalm was then sung, followed by the piper playing The Lament at the memorial. A Gaelic address was given by Brigadier John Macfarlane of Taynuilt.

Ros MacDonald, who was attending the service for the 39th year, said she was pleased with the turn-out at the event, which is now jointly organised by the Highlands and Islands Clan Donald Society and the Clan Donald Society.

'It's been an almost perfect

day, slightly on the cold side, but it's lovely to see some blue skies and a bit of sunshine for the event - last year's weather was truly terrible and everybody got soaked,' she said.

'I think there were more people here this year than last, although I was sorry not to see any of the school pupils as has been the custom in the past.'

Asked why she thought such events as the massacre commemoration were still important, Mrs MacDonald said: 'There is a saying that if you don't know where you come from, you won't know where you are going, and I think that remains very true. Events like this help keep history alive and keep it relevant.'

Mrs MacDonnell added: 'It is good to see that a lot of people still think it is important that such anniversaries are marked.'

'The massacre may have happened hundreds of years

MacPhail

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The Fergie MacDonald album review will have to wait for another week as I've still not managed to get a copy. I was very surprised that on our travels of the past few weeks in western USA that I've not been able to find one anywhere.

From Sonoma, to Bodega Bay, to Long Beach and Las Vegas, not one of the shops we visited had it in. Perhaps Fergie hasn't finalised his trade deal with Trump yet! I'll get one as soon as I arrive back in Scotland and it will definitely be in next week.

In the absence of the album review, I'll give readers a flavour of my winter travels. Holidays, until fairly recently, were very unusual for me but, by chance, I ended up on two different 10-day excursions back to back in the past month.

The first was an activity-based stay at a resort on the north-west side of Lanzarote and the second was a long-planned trip to visit my auntie and uncle in Sonoma, California. Both were very different, thoroughly enjoyed and were a great way to escape Ciara, Dennis and their

other miserable friends who were relentlessly battering everyone at home while we were away.

Ania and I flew to Lanzarote on January 30 and not since I was fishing over 15 years ago have I done so much exercise in a week. Being a lazy musician is not conducive to living a healthy lifestyle and, now being in my forties, I can no longer get away with doing very little physical activity if I'm going to maintain any reasonable fitness.

The Lanzarote experience was a great way to kick-start a range of new activities, some of which I'll hopefully keep up. Swimming lessons, stand-up paddle boarding, jogging, yoga, Pilates, indoor-cycling and an absolute hell-like class called cross-fit were all tried. I'm not too bad at lifting or throwing something heavy once, but with this cross-fit carry on it was lifting things 30 or 40 times then running round a 400m track and doing it again and again until I was a sweating, swearing, staggering, peching mess that could barely stand up or breathe!

To make it worse, there were

old caileachan firing away at it no bother at all.

After being back home for two days, I headed off with Andrew to California. Since I was around 15, I have been planning to visit my mother's sister and her husband, who live in Sonoma just north of San Francisco, but it took a twisting of arm from Andrew to actually get me to finally book it. Similarly, he has been wanting to visit the ocean liner Queen Mary, which is moored at Long Beach for just as long, so we decided to combine the two desires and headed off across the Cuan an Iar (western ocean).

Andrew has many talents and attributes, but one thing he excels at is travel logistics and inserting plenty of mischief and great experiences into any journey, so I left most of the planning to him.

He absolutely surpassed himself on this trip and once I get Fergie's review done, I'll give a few tales of our escapades.

Both holidays were hugely enjoyed but, as I write this in Las Vegas airport, I am very happy at the prospect of getting home in a few days!

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erred in poignant ceremony



Above, piper Ronnie Macintosh marks the end of the two-minute silence; Scott MacDonald arranges the wreaths at the foot of the memorial. Scott, 31, right, has attended every ceremony since the age of five when his family travelled from Kirkcaldy to mark the event.

in the past, but people were still living with its impact for a great many years after and some say are still living with its effects even today. So it is vital we continue to mark anniversaries such as this one.'



Massacre of Glencoe

It was on a freezing cold winter's morning in February of 1692 that a regiment of soldiers carried out an act so heinous and contrary to Highland custom that, more than three centuries later, its name still retains the power to evoke strong emotions.

Glencoe is home to one of the most stunning mountain vistas in Scotland, but it is also the place where in the early hours of February 13, 1692, some 38 men, women and children of the MacDonald clan – or the Maclains as they were more specifically known – were murdered by troops acting on behalf of the government and whom they had billeted in their homes.

The MacDonalds had been rebels, but had taken the oath of allegiance to King William and so felt safe to extend the custom of Highland hospitality to Captain Robert Campbell and his 120 soldiers for the fortnight before the massacre.

But Campbell had been told to 'put all to the sword under seventy' in an early morning surprise attack, while his hosts

were asleep. It was to be an example of what could happen to other Highland clans considered a possible threat to the new regime in London under King William of Orange.

Among those murdered was chief of the MacDonalds of Glen Coe, Alasdair MacDonald, known as Maclain. As well as those who died by sword, bayonet and musket, others later died of exposure in the bitter winter conditions after being forced from their burning crofts.

Although such violence was not uncommon in the Highlands at this time, what made this shocking was that it had been 'slaughter under trust'.

But if it was intended as a way of cowing the MacDonalds and their various clan branches into submission, the plan backfired and the memory of the black deeds carried out at Glencoe ensured Clan Donald's support to the Jacobite risings of 1715 and 1745.

The power of the Glencoe Massacre – or Mort Ghlinne Comhann, in Gaelic – to evoke strong emotions lingers to this day and it is that power which continues to draw people from near and far to the annual commemoration at the memorial.

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Forbes in historic cabinet promotion

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

After garnering praise from all sides of political spectrum at the Scottish Parliament for her assured handling of the budget last week, Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Kate Forbes has been rewarded with promotion to the role of Finance Secretary.

Ms Forbes, previously Minister for Public Finance and Digital Economy, was touted as front-runner following the budget to replace previous Finance Secretary Derek Mackay, after he was forced to resign amid allegations of inappropriate online messaging of a 16-year-old boy.

Ms Forbes, who was confirmed in her new post by a vote of MSPs on Tuesday, also made history by becoming the first female politician and first Gaelic-speaker to deliver



Kate Forbes MSP who was confirmed as the new Scottish Government Finance secretary on Tuesday.

a budget statement in either the Scottish or Westminster parliaments.

As well as delivering a 32-minute speech outlining the Scottish Government's spending priorities, Ms Forbes, 29, responded to almost an hour's worth of questions from opposition members in the chamber.

Commenting on news of

her elevation to First Minister Nicola Sturgeon's senior ministerial team, Ms Forbes told the Lochaber Times this week: 'I am a Highland MSP, first and foremost, but I am delighted to be taking on new responsibilities as Finance Secretary in the Scottish Government.

'It is, of course, an exciting new opportunity, but I

recognise the scale of the responsibility as well. I hope I do the Highlands proud. Who says Gaelic-medium students can't do whatever they want to!'

On delivering her budget statement, she said: 'It was obviously in unexpected circumstances, but I was amazed to learn I was the first woman and first Gaelic-speaker to deliver a budget statement.

'I was moved by comments from people who felt I had done the region proud.

'I recognise people will consider and debate the substance of the budget, but I'm grateful that my home team were right behind me on Thursday.

'The father of a little girl in the Highlands got in touch to share her homework with me, and she'd written that I had inspired her as a young Highlander. It means a lot.'

Isles families benefit from welfare payments

A total of 215 families from the Western Isles have benefited from new welfare payments introduced by the Scottish Government.

The Scottish Government opened the Best Start Grant for applications in December 2018. It provides parents or carers who get certain benefits or tax credits with financial support during the key early years of a child's life.

In the first year of their introduction, payments worth £620,491 have been made to island families. The Best Start Grant provides payments to eligible families at the birth of children, at nursery age and at school age.

Alasdair Allan MSP, who sits on the Scottish Parliament's Social Security Committee, commented: 'The SNP are determined to use our powers to build a social security system built on dignity and respect.

'The Best Start Grant provides crucial financial support to families at key stages of their children's lives, and I'm delighted that hundreds



Alasdair Allan MSP.

of families in the islands have already benefited.

'This is just one of the ways the SNP in government are working to tackle child poverty - with the first payments of the innovative new Scottish Child Payment set to be made this year.

'It's also very welcome to see the work being done to make sure Scotland's new social security regulations and payments are properly island-proofed following passage of the Islands Act 2018.'

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. Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is 31 March 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.

Unique legacy that is Canna House set for re-roofing and other repairs

Built in the 1860s by the then laird, Donald MacNeill, for his young wife, Isabella, Canna House may not be as old as many of the other historic properties in the Highlands and Islands, but a new programme of conservation and repair works will ensure it retains its place as certainly one of the most important, writes Mark Entwistle.

The former home of Dr John Lorne Campbell and his American wife, Margaret Fay Shaw, Canna House is their legacy.

The couple dedicated their lives to capturing and preserving Hebridean culture and traditions, and it now holds a nationally important archive of Gaelic culture and language.

Recordings and writing jostle with unique photographs and even a collection of butterflies and moths in the Victorian villa, which, along with the island itself, passed into the ownership of the National Trust for Scotland in 1981.

The trust is now in preparatory stages before embarking on an 18-month programme of conservation and restoration that will include re-roofing and repairs to the building's fabric.

Canna House has been



Canna House.

largely preserved intact since the couple sat cataloguing their vast archive of recordings of the stories, histories and songs of native Gaelic speakers alongside Celtic, Norse and other historic cultural treasures.

Ms Shaw, in her memoir, *From The Alleghenies To The Hebrides*, recounted her impressions when she saw Canna House for the first time in August 1938. She said: 'It had a melancholy air, as though the home of sick Brontës.'

Dr Campbell died in 1996, with his wife passing away, at the age of 101, eight years later in 2004.

Dr Campbell's wishes were always that Canna House should 'remain a centre of Gaelic traditions in music, language and folklore' and the planned 18-month programme of works is designed to ensure that.

Clea Warner, the National Trust for Scotland's general manager for the Highlands and Islands, told the Lochaber Times: 'Canna House is at the heart of the legacy left to us by John Lorne Campbell and Margaret Fay Shaw.

'It's our hope that, weather permitting, work will begin in the spring or early summer.'

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be believed if you tell anyone. We will always believe you and we will listen to you. The Helpline is free and 100% confidential. The team will not pressure you to make any decisions.

You can call us on 0800 027 1234. You can also email us at helpline@sdaafh.org.uk or chat to us on webchat at www.sdaafh.org.uk.

If you are looking for support in your local area, Lochaber Women's Aid are here for you. Lorraine Revvitt, Manager at Lochaber Women's Aid says:

"We provide a one-to-one service for all women who have experienced domestic abuse. We can offer you emotional support and practical help with things like finances, housing and legal issues. We also have children's workers available for your children to discuss any concerns they have. You can contact us on 01397 705 734. We will never judge you, and we will always believe you and listen to what you want."

Reaching out can be scary and difficult, but we are here for you and you are not alone. One caller to the Helpline, when asked what they would say to someone else thinking about reaching out, said:

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Or, for 24/7 support, call Scotland's Domestic Abuse and Forced Marriage Helpline in confidence on

0800 027 1234

For anyone experiencing domestic abuse or forced marriage, or for those worried about someone else.



LT

LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to editor@obantimes.co.uk
or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

Brilliant future is in prospect for MSP Kate Forbes

Politics can be a strange business at times, with many people involved in it deemed less than trustworthy.

However, that is palpably not the case when it comes to Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Kate Forbes, who has this week been elevated to the office of Finance Secretary within the Scottish Government.

Regardless of party politics – and the Lochaber Times resolutely refuses to endorse any party – it is a remarkable rise to prominence for Ms Forbes.

She had already made history this month by becoming the first woman in either Holyrood or Westminster to present a budget and by becoming the first Gaelic speaker to do so.

An alumnus of Cambridge and Edinburgh universities, Ms Forbes was only first elected in 2016 but has been a rising star in the Holyrood firmament ever since.

At the age of just 29, she has made history again this week and we offer our

Well done to activists for Knoydart campaign

Sheer determination can, it seems, just about move mountains.

At least, that is the gist of our story this week from Knoydart, where local people have successfully driven the transformation of a rundown 1950s post-war building into a splendid new music and creative arts venue.

The good people of Knoydart can now look forward to the venue opening next month. It will be the bedrock of what is mainland Britain's most remote community.

Long may they continue to enjoy the fruits of their labour.

True cost of independence?

As someone who has travelled widely in Scotland and who values the advantages of living in the United Kingdom, I wonder if the extensive costs of independence have been fully taken into account?

The polished performances of SNP leaders Nicola Sturgeon in Edinburgh and Ian Blackford in Westminster fail to clarify the true cost of independence for Scotland.

The estimated population of Scotland is 5.5 million. One assumes the costs of public services, including defence expenditure, would be borne by the Scottish exchequer. In this event, it would be reasonable to compare Scotland with a country of a similar size, such as Denmark, which has a population of 5.8 million.

Denmark's gross domestic product (GDP) is \$330 billion, giving a GDP per head of \$60,000. In contrast, Scotland's GDP per head is in the region of \$42,558.

In Denmark, 10.4 per cent of GDP is spent on health provision and 7.6 per cent on education.

The cost of defence in Denmark is approximately \$4.7 billion, which is below the two per cent target of NATO nations. However, Denmark, like Norway and other NATO countries, maintains an army, navy and air force which can only be adequately manned by compulsory conscription.

Finland and Switzerland, which are not members of NATO, also resort to conscription. How could an independent Scotland avoid these implications? Non-nuclear nations have proportionately larger conventional forces.

The average Dane pays 45 per cent in income tax to maintain its current budget. Denmark does not have another neighbouring population, like the rest of the United Kingdom, of 61 million, to contribute significantly towards its public finances.

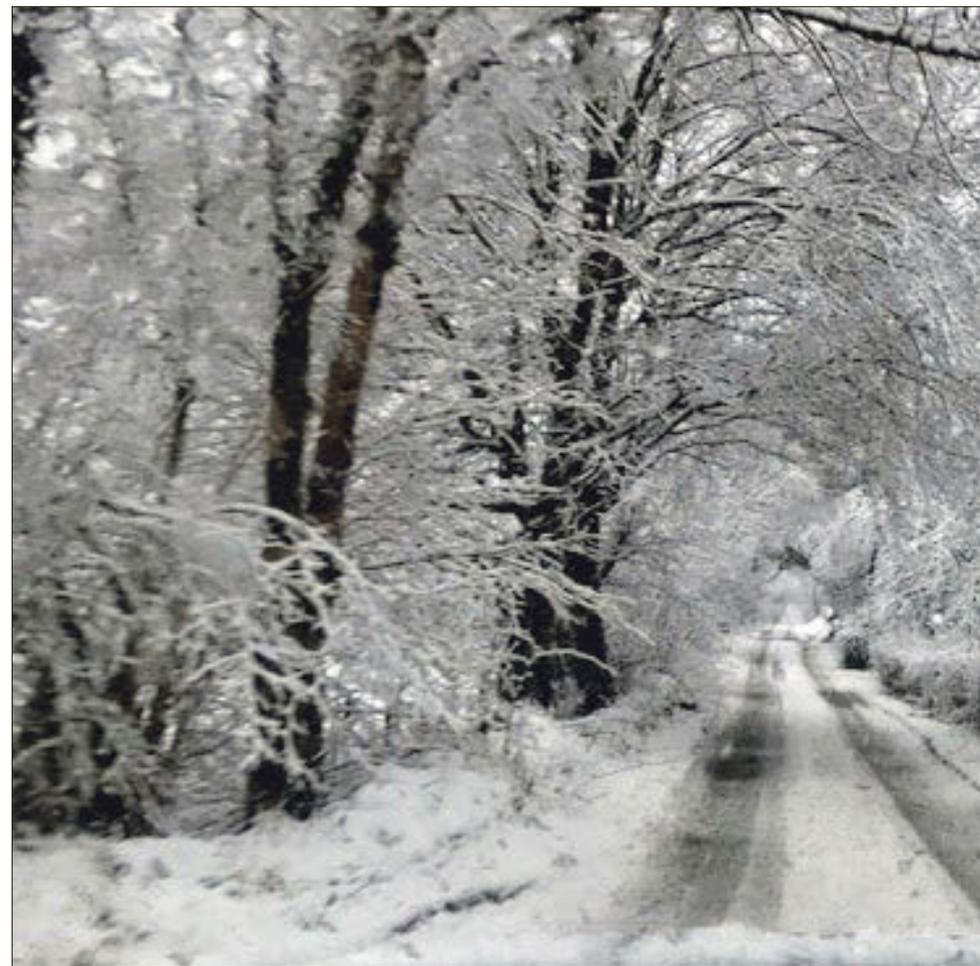
Before we are enveloped in further rhetoric, is it not incumbent on politicians and economists to point up the true costs of Scotland going it alone? The Scottish Parliament has been granted the right to raise taxes. How would the Scottish population greet a drastic increase in income taxes and the introduction of military conscription? Is it not time for all the relevant issues to be debated?

Thomas Morris, Coventry.

Admiration for campaigner

I read in The Guardian – I live in France so don't get to read the Lochaber Times that

YOUR PICTURES



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

editor@obantimes.co.uk, 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

much – that Holly Gillibrand, 15, has been striking to raise people's awareness of the climate crisis for more than a year.

For any person, irrespective of age, to choose to strike week after week in all kinds of weather demonstrates a level of commitment most of us never achieve. It's true, every year millions

of people commit to improving their health, fitness, whatever but by the end of February those commitments have been long forgotten. But Holly hasn't forgotten. She has stuck it out week after week, possibly even experienced ridicule by others, but has continued, no matter what.



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DISTRICT NEWS

LOCHABER



Siobhan Toal, left, and Charis Sneddon have benefited from the scheme run by Lochaber Housing Association.

Photograph: Lochaber Housing Association

A number of young people have successfully gained employment after being given quality training opportunities as part of Lochaber Housing Association modern apprenticeships.

Last week they wished good luck to Charis Sneddon, who played a key role with Lochaber Care and Repair.

Charis has secured a position as a health care support worker with NHS Highland for six months. She will then progress to a degree course in adult nursing care at university.

She said: 'Supporting the elderly and vulnerable has encouraged me to pursue my career further and work within the nursing sector. I have gained valuable life skills during my apprenticeship with Lochaber Care and Repair and I am very grateful for the opportunity they have given me.'

Another success story is Siobhan Toal, who is staying within the organisation for a further two years.

She will continue to build on her confidence and skills within corporate services as the association rolls out its new IT system.

Acting chief executive Margaret Moynihan said: 'An apprenticeship qualification is something that we at the association are very passionate about.'

Nimble Fingers on show at Arisaig



The project saw old tea towels recycled into these handsome seagulls.



Arisaig Eco Project was delighted to welcome the Nimble Fingers initiative back to the village for a further three weeks of creative sewing and woodwork sessions during January and February.

This recycling project jointly being run by the Arisaig Community Trust's Eco Project and Nimble Fingers involved supported people from the learning disability community of Fort William and attendees from the Mackintosh Centre Care Home in Mallaig.

Staff from the Montrose Centre (part of NHS Highland Adult Health and Social Care - Lochaber) facilitated these sessions along with Alison O'Rourke, Arisaig Eco Project's manager.

The sessions were held at the Land, Sea and Islands Centre and at 'Bill's Shed'.

Mrs O'Rourke commented: 'Everyone involved seemed to really enjoy the opportunity of being in Arisaig together.'

'Weekly sessions worked well, as over time friendships were made and this helped to build confidence within the group.'

'We shared time together, stories, music, skills and ideas, and were able to provide creative sessions with everyone having a go at some sewing, recycling and woodwork.'

'It also offered the opportunity of other Arisaig residents to drop by and have a chat with the group, bring in some sewing or just have the time with each other.'

'We are so pleased with the fabulous seagulls that were made - using recycled tea towels - and our driftwood bug houses, bird box and step stool.'

'The display of seagulls will be on display at the Land, Sea and Islands Centre soon. Thank you so much to all the participants and staff.'

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Picking up energy-saving light bulbs from Falck's Erin Hunter is Annabelle Sutton, front, with other pupils. Photograph: Iain Ferguson

Bright idea by Fort Augustus pupils

Fort Augustus pupils with a bright idea are encouraging the local community to be more environmentally friendly with their lighting.

First year and primary seven pupils from Kilchuimen Academy and Primary School are distributing LED light bulbs free of charge to people who live in the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston area.

First year pupil Gydja Warmisham said: 'Last year primary six and seven pupils at Kilchuimen Primary School came up with the idea for a project to replace people's light bulbs with more sustainable LED ones which use less energy and last much longer.'

'We won £1,500 at Falck Renewables Sustainable Communities Awards and also received £300 from the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company, which has funded buying the LED light bulbs and we carried the project over to our first year at the academy.'

Anyone who lives in the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston can drop in to Kilchuimen Academy and collect up to five LED bulbs or call 01320 366296 for more information.

Erin Hunter, community relations manager at Falck Renewables, owner of the Millennium Wind Farm south-west of Fort Augustus, said: 'We were very impressed with the pupils' idea to help the community move to more sustainable light bulbs and delighted to help with funding to make it happen.'

Angela Williams, chief officer of Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company (FAGCC), who nominated the project for the Falck award, added: 'We are delighted to support this project which was the brainchild of the local school children. The £300 donated by FAGCC for the purchase of the light bulbs will help reduce electricity bills and reduce CO2 emissions. We wish them every success.'

Retro Roamer

fort@obantimes.co.uk

More Roamerisms from the early 1990s

With Lochaber District Council taking the local initiative to mark the 50th anniversary of VE Day later in 1995, perhaps a re-enactment of the Fort's VE dance could form part of our local authority's programme. I've been reminded by a member of the Leishman family of the staging of the 1945 celebratory open air dance in Gordon Square.

The Crofters' Dance in Claggan Community Centre last Friday night was a cracker. The music, the company, the hall and the buffet were great. Oh – and so were the drinks! I must admit, though, I'd never heard of the Claggan concoction called 'whisky and tomato juice'!

On Saturday, a member of our local vehicle-borne emergency services was trying to extricate his motor which had sunk into the grassy sward alongside the riverside fence at Claggan Park. He'd been having a look at Fort William FC's triumph over Caley Thistle. But, when he tried to drive away at the end of the game, he found he was experiencing severe wheelspin. The more he tried to get out, the more he got stuck. However, the cavalry, in the shape of E Cars were swiftly on the scene – and to the rescue – to drag out a most embarrassed fella who has now become known locally as 'stick-in-the mud'!

Optician David Anderson and I emerged from a West End restaurant with a takeaway apiece. It was pouring rain. My car was parked across at Waverley House. David had stopped outside the Hyperhut. As I stepped into my motor, I saw David quietly shepherding away a somewhat inebriated local gentleman who had tried to take a back seat in his car! 'I assure you, sir, this is not a taxi,' David explained, gently, to the man who had with him, not a takeaway, but a carryout, and was now half in and half out of the car. In the end,

our worthy staggered away quite happily, and before David could give him one of his business cards.

A bouquet now. Well done, Finlay Finlayson and his Crannog staff for gaining the Booker Prize for Excellence for best caterers in the UK. Loyd Grossman delivered the words of welcome at the Park Lane Hotel ceremony. Said he, in his transatlantic voice: 'From Fort William, in the West Highlands, I'd like to introduce Finlay Finlayson – so good they named him twice!'

I was intrigued to read in a north newspaper its interpretation of the address of a campaigning Inverness mum who is raising money for Raigmore Hospital's Special Care Unit. 'Burn Bra, Westhill', it read.

I liked the Nevis Radio 'warning' of an avalanche in Fort William High Street because so much snow was sliding off the roofs. I wasn't so keen, however, on our local station's forecast which advised it would be minus seven in the Fort that night. In fact it wasn't 'keen' at all, as it rained all night.

A Herald columnist was waxing lyrical about his 'wee goldie' – a dram of Dew of Ben Nevis – when a knock came to the door of his Glasgow office. Outside stood Art Sutter, entertainer and broadcaster, whose former full-time occupation was as a whisky salesman, much of which was for Ben Nevis Distillery.

Meanwhile, the Duncansburgh Parish Church newsletter advised us that the guest speaker, addressing the Woman's Guild on 'Counselling on Alcohol', would be Mrs Coke!

I note, yet again, that there are moves afoot, alongside our pedestrianised High Street – by a body of Highland Regional councillors with no Lochaber affiliation – who want us to pay double for our local car parking. And this while motorists in

their own wards don't have to pay a bean to park their cars in Dingwall, Nairn or wherever. Aye, they're good, right enough, these Wise Men from the East, as former Kilmallie councillor Tom Kirkwood was wont to call them. No wonder Tom had a saying when regional council seats were not contested at election time that this was 'a triumph for apathy'!

On Tuesday morning, I overheard one of the 'chaps' from CHAP (Contractors), working on our High Street enhancement scheme, shout, jocularly, to a colleague: 'Come on, we're away home. We can't work in these dry conditions. Its no' raining the day.'

Have you seen the roadside signs on the A830, between Lochailort and Mallaig? Very inviting, they aren't. 'Drop Over Edge' is how they read.

I'm often chided for never telling stories against myself. Here's two. The first was brought to mind by The Yank's successful attempt at getting his own phone number from directory inquiries. Years ago, when I was working in Dan Ryan's betting office, I had occasion to phone home to Claggan. The numbers in the bookie's were Fort William 201 and 508, with the phones side by side on the counter. Our home number was 501. I dialled from 201 to speak to the folks at home. As soon as I did so the 508 number rang. I picked it up, to discover there was nobody there, 'Hello,' I ventured. 'Try pressing button A.' No reply. Then it dawned on me. I'd been ringing the other number in the betting shop, instead of home. So I ended up talking to myself. 'What's new?' says you.

And how was I to know, last Sunday, that the lens cap had to be removed from the Big Screen unit at the Pulp Mill Club before we could start to watch the Manchester United v QPR cup match?



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Bradbury gives backing to Royal Bank RugbyForce

Royal Bank RugbyForce, the Royal Bank of Scotland's grassroots programme, delivered in association with Scottish Rugby, kicked-off last Wednesday with Oban's own Magnus Bradbury helping to spearhead the launch.

The Scotland international and former Boroughmuir player is one of the elite stars supporting the campaign this year and features in a series of short films encouraging clubs across Scotland to sign up to Royal Bank RugbyForce in 2020.

'Community clubs play such a vital role in nurturing the next generation of rugby talent and many professional players take their first steps onto a rugby field at a local club,' he said.

'Royal Bank RugbyForce is an excellent initiative which supports grassroots clubs and it's great to see them getting the funding they need to develop the rugby stars of tomorrow.'

Now in its twelfth year, the nationwide rugby initiative supports amateur clubs by providing funding to improve facilities and attract new members and encouraging clubs to become true community hubs with a sustainable future.

Since launching 12 years ago, more than £500,000 has been distributed and this year's campaign will see a celebration of the grassroots



Boroughmuir Rugby Club youth player Ollie Blyth Lafferty (13), women's Scotland internationalist Sarah Denholm, men's Scotland internationalist Magnus Bradbury, men's Scotland internationalist Blair Kinghorn, women's Scotland internationalist Rachel McLachlan and Boroughmuir Rugby Club youth player Zak Griffiths (14) at the launch last Wednesday. Photograph: Stewart Attwood

game. On August 8 and 9, the bank and Scottish Rugby will host Royal Bank RugbyForce weekend where clubs will host events for their local community and unveil how they will use bank support as they prepare for the new season.

Bradbury joined fellow Scotland internationalists Blair Kinghorn, Sarah Denholm and Rachel McLachlan in a bid to urge clubs to think how they could use Royal Bank RugbyForce

support and how to apply.

For 2020, Royal Bank RugbyForce will offer two hero clubs a package to help them create a totally unique RugbyForce day, including event management, activation assistance and a visit from a Scotland international – making it easy for them to show attendees how they can benefit from being involved in their local club.

Another eight clubs will be offered £1,000 in financial support, with all other

RUGBY

entrants being in with the chance of being awarded £250. All qualifying clubs will receive support packs to help them host their own Royal Bank RugbyForce weekend.

Applications for funding are open now and can be made via the Royal Bank RugbyForce website at: <https://www.scottishrugby.org/clubs-and-schools/support-for-clubs/rugbyforce>

10-PIN BOWLING



Nevis Centre 10-pin bowling alley.

Alleycats now uncatchable in 10-pin scratch division

After week 12 of the Lochaber Building Supplies 10-pin bowling leagues at the Nevis Centre in Fort William, the scratch division is still led by Alleycats, who are now uncatchable at the top with only two weeks left to play on 58 points.

British Legion Fort William move into second place on 42 points followed by Team With A Bowling Problem who drop to third place on 41 points after losing 5-0 to leaders Alleycats.

The handicap division is still very close with positions changing every week as the top group of teams sometimes play one another.

Alleycats head the table with 39 points after beating previous top side Team With A Bowling Problem 5-0 who drop to fourth place on 34 points.

Peaky Bowlers move into second spot on 38 points with British Legion Fort William in third place on 35 points.

This week's top individual scratch game came from Pam Weller (Alleycats) with a 199 followed by Brian Johnstone (Alleycats) with 187. Johnstone also had the top two-game scratch series of 346, the top handicap game of 235 and the top two-game handicap series of 442.

The best team scores this week all came from Alleycats with the top scratch game and season high of 671, the top two-game scratch series of 1215, the top handicap game of 864 and the top two-game handicap series of 1601.

The top scratch averages over the season so far are currently held by Weller with 158 followed by Tony Whitelocke (Alleycats) and Steve Day (Team With A Bowling Problem) both with 148.

LOTTERY NUMBERS

Lochaber lottery numbers

Ballachulish Shinty Club Lotto: Numbers were 2, 3 and 19. No winners so £600 for next draw.

Caol Community Centre Bingo Club Lotto: Numbers for draw on 16/2 were 8, 14 and 16. No winners so £1000 next time.

Caol Regeneration Lotto: Numbers for draw on 13/2 were 12, 13 and 16. No winners so £500 jackpot for draw on 20/2.

Fort William Golf Club Lotto: Numbers for draw on 13/2 were 3, 4 and 19. No winners so £900 for draw on 20/2.

Dee steps out to march for Daddie

Oban's first lady of rugby, Dee Bradbury, will be donning her hiking boots once the 2020 Six Nations tournament is over and taking on a challenge far from her comfort zone.

On March 27, the Scottish Rugby president will join a like-minded 25 brave adventurers, made up of MND research professors, ex-national and international rugby players and friends of Daddie Weir and his Foundation, and will head to the High Atlas mountains in Morocco to #MarchForDaddie.

The team will be marching 50km over two half days and one full day, challenging themselves with gruelling ascents, steep descents and little flat.

To cap it all, they will be camping at night, enduring the cold mountain temperatures.



Scottish Rugby president Dee Bradbury.

Keeping them going will be the thought that every step they take will raise valuable funds for the My Name's Daddie Foundation, and through this, will be taking Daddie, who was diagnosed with MND in June 2017, one step closer to his goal of finding a cure.

Dee felt compelled to sign up for the #MarchForDaddie after watching some emotional footage featuring the former Scotland lock at a lunch she was attending.

Despite being 'terrified' of what lies ahead, the 55-year-old mother of two has found an inner strength through her association with Daddie and his family.

'He is an iconic former player and the warmth and dignity within the family is humbling,' she told us.

'I don't know if I could ever present like that in the same set of circumstances, which is why I decided to do this.'

'If Daddie and his family can adapt and face their daily challenges with such courage, then to walk 50km in the mountains in Morocco becomes insignificant in comparison.'

RUGBY

Currently fulfilling her role as president of Scottish Rugby, Dee flew out to Rome on Monday, ahead of Scotland's Six Nations clash with Italy, and admits she hasn't had much time to train for the march.

'The date of the trek is looming up very quickly and once Six Nations is over, it will be time to go to Morocco. I've never contemplated anything like this before, and if it wasn't for the reasons behind it, I would never have considered it,' said Dee.

Dee is footing the bill for the trip herself but aims to raise as much money as possible for the cause via her just giving page. Go to <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/dee-bradbury> to give her your support.



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LT

ART OF FAT LOSS

A healthy attitude to the not-so secret art of shifting fat

In the first of a new regular column on nutrition, Lochaber adventure athlete and coach Ben Turner gives us the low down on the not-so-secret art of fat loss.

'I am struggling to lose stubborn body fat' is probably the most common thing I hear in the world of nutrition.

This is closely followed by the intention to follow one of many fads, anecdotes, bro-science 'facts', stories from magazines or social media 'professionals' that do more to confuse people than help them.

Fat loss boils down to one main principle in exercise and nutrition –

'calories in v calories out'. Despite how overly simplistic this sounds, it's not that simple.

Firstly, when people record their calories in a food diary – no, this is not for everyone – they are usually inaccurate. Things are missed, portions are guessed and tracking apps are fraught with error. The list goes on.

Ultimately, the beginning of fat loss is to eat less. While eating less, if you move more you will end up making this process a lot easier. If you are largely sedentary in your work, move more in any and every way.

Make it social, invite your friends, get to the gym – a good gym is not a scary place to be – or, even better, aim at something. Make it personal, make it challenging and tell your friends about it. This gives direction and accountability.

Secondly, if your aim is to lose fat or body weight, instead of heading to Google or the 'Facebook experts', write down everything you eat for a week. Be specific, be detailed and, most of all, be honest.

Fat loss is not something you can try once and hope it just continues to work.

In most cases, it is a lifestyle change that introduces healthy habits.

After this week, look at what you are eating. Are you snacking three or four times a day? Are you eating sporadically?

Are you rushed off your feet and missing meals only to hit the vending machine or that lunch deal at the shop?

These are lifestyle factors as well as diet factors and play the main part in making you feel better, achieve your goals and bring back that confidence that might have left with the weight gain.

If you need help, seek the advice of a nutritionist.

Have an honest conversation with someone who can help you.

This will make your journey specific to you. Evidence denotes the principles while experience denotes the methods. Cookie cutter approaches do not work.

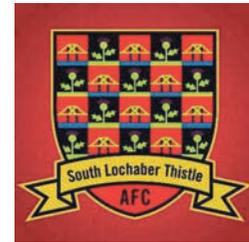
Do you need advice? In my nutrition seminars with The Wolfhouse Gym, I will be cutting through the all too common misconceptions, the five-minute fixes and the false claims, unpacking the simple, evidence-based principles behind fat loss that you can adapt for yourself.

Come along and have a chat. Details are available on the Wolfhouse website.



Ben Turner.

Jags show true colours with emphatic win over Calderglen



South Lochaber Thistle	6
Calderglen	2
GGPL Division One	

South Lochaber Thistle finally broke their new year's duck recently with an emphatic win over Calderglen AFC writes Peter Newman.

The Kinlochleven side had been struggling to get off the mark since the turn of the year but blew away the South Lanarkshire team.

Things began badly when midfielder Cameron Grant was forced off injured in the 10th minute. He was replaced by Lochaline's Cameron Bolton, who would go on to secure another man of the match award.

Things picked up soon after, however, and only 18 minutes were on the clock when rangy midfielder Andrew Maclean soared over the defence to open the scoring with a trademark header.

Skipper Martin Munro doubled the lead with a well-taken finish before Bolton powered in a pile driver of a volley which swept over the keeper into the top corner for 3-0 at half-time.

Striker Erik Tot was forced off with a damaged shoulder and was replaced by substitute Sean Noble.

Calderglen were staring down the barrel of a heavy defeat, but an individual error allowed them back into the contest straight after the interval for 3-1.

Fullback Kieron Lopez was in rampaging form and showed this to full effect as he galloped 50 yards through the opposition, only to be chopped down unceremoniously for a stonewall penalty.

Penalty specialist Noble made no mistake with an impish dink to see the Jags lead 4-1.

A further individual error allowed Calderglen to sneak their second goal for 4-2 but first Noble then Maclean



SLT's Andrew MacLean puts this Calderglen defender under pressure.

Photographs: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

completed their braces for a final score of 6-2.

Manager Alan Gray commented: 'That was a long overdue result.'

'We've had flashes of showing what we can do since the new year but today it just clicked.'

'This was much more what I expect from the lads and a long overdue win which was testament to their hard work. We got exactly the response we wanted after last week's disappointing performance.'

'Cameron Bolton and Sean Noble were superb off

FOOTBALL

the bench and showed the strength in depth we have in the squad.

'I'm really grateful to the lads for how they have trained this week and pleased they got their just rewards.'



Michael Roger powers past a Calderglen opponent.

Left: Erik Tot makes a tackle.



Pictured from left are, Robbie Coltart, Lundavra; Jack Stephen, Caol; Lewis Luxton, Caol; Andzelina Gereslmuka, Lundavra; Lucy Valentine, Banavie; and Cerys Denholme, Lundavra.

Caol boys and Lundavra girls dominate primary schools badminton tournament

Caol Primary once again dominated the boys' competition at this year's Lochaber Primary Schools Badminton Championship, taking both first and second place.

However, it was Lundavra who dominated the girls' event, with a first and third place.

Pupils took part in a round robin format tournament, competing to earn a place in the quarter-finals. Tension mounted as pupils were knocked out and the semi-finalists took to the court.

Fresh from battle, the losing semi-finalists came back on court to fight it out in a third/fourth place playoff.

In the final, Andzelina Gereslmuka,

a talented swimmer and all-round sportsperson as well as badminton player, beat Banavie's Lucy Valentine, who also makes a bit of a splash at swimming events.

Cerys Denholme, from Lundavra, took the bronze in the play-off match against Caol's Caira McKelvie.

In the boys' tournament, the final saw Lewis Luxton fighting off Jack Stephen, both from Caol Primary.

There has been some great coaching at the school from PE teacher Carol Cairns, aided by Connor MacAlister who has been doing a work experience placement, during which he has been pushing the standard of play.

The play-off for third place saw

BADMINTON

Robbie Coltart, from Lundavra, beating Banavie's Sebi Mrazek.

Organised by High Life Highland's Active Schools co-ordinators Fiona Beattie and Bridget Thomas, in conjunction with the primary PE staff Sandra Chisholm and Carol Cairns, the event attracted entries from seven primary schools: Banavie, Bun-Sgoil Ghaidhlig Loch Aber, Caol, Inverloch, Lundavra, Spean Bridge and St Columba's.

Many thanks to Lochaber High School for hosting the competition and to the third year pupils who refereed on the day.

Bob returns in World Golf Championship

Oban's Bob MacIntyre returns from a two-week lay-off today (Thursday) in the World Golf Championship in Mexico. The tournament is only open to the world's top 100 players and with a huge \$10.5m prize fund and significant world ranking points up for grabs it gives Bob a real opportunity to kick-start what has so far been a frustrating opening to his season.

The Mexican tournament also heralds the start of a vital five-week period if Bob is to achieve his ambition of reaching the world's top 50 before the end of March and with it a coveted spot in the US Masters.

The Oban man is currently ranked 66th in the world so needs some strong finishes during February and March to give himself a chance of qualifying.

After the WGC event in Mexico, Bob moves on to

GOLF

Oman and then Qatar with both tournaments offering decent world ranking points. After those tournaments come a couple of smaller tournaments in Kenya and India which Bob may opt out of, depending on where his ranking stands.

His final opportunity for Masters qualification comes on March 25 at the WGC Matchplay in Texas. Unlike other WGC tournaments, the matchplay championship is only open to the world's top 64 and with Bob currently two places outside that mark, things could not be more finely balanced.

A strong finish this weekend in Mexico will go a long way to help release the pressure and fulfill Bob's dream of teeing it up at the Masters in Augusta.



Bob on the eighth tee at the recent Dubai Desert Classic where he finished in joint eighth place.

Photograph: Bob Graham



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WEATHER

Thursday
Hail showers and a fresh breeze
Temperatures 5°C to 7°C.

Friday
Heavy rain and strong winds
Temperatures 6°C to 9°C.

Weekend Outlook
Saturday
Strong winds and hail showers
Sunday
Heavy rain and a fresh breeze
Temperatures 3°C to 7°C.



TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday February 13, 2020** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Thur	03.57	3.2	10.09	1.3
	17.07	3.4	23.14	1.4
Fri	04.34	3.5	10.59	1.3
	17.07	3.4	23.14	1.2
Sat	05.09	3.7	11.38	1.2
	17.32	3.5	23.50	1.0
Sun	05.44	3.9	12.13	1.1
	18.02	3.7	***	**
Mon	00.24	0.9	06.18	4.0
	12.46	1.0	18.31	3.8
Tues	00.57	0.8	06.51	4.0
	13.18	1.0	19.00	3.8
Wed	01.29	0.9	07.22	4.0
	13.48	1.1	19.28	3.8

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd

Bob returns
in World Golf
Championship

Jags show true
colours with emphatic
win over Calderglenn

New gym for Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club

Members of Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club are celebrating a move to a new, larger, better equipped gym from which to continue their successes in the ring across Scotland.

The new base, in the former Breckenridge premises at Annat Point Estate in Corpach, is the third location for the club in its 12-year history, each move allowing it to develop further, offer more places and build a formidable reputation for producing skilled and talented boxers.

From its first year of operation it has been able to boast several Scottish champions at all age levels, recently adding a further accolade with Lochaber's first female champion.

National squad

Over the years the club has also provided several members of the Scotland national squad who have represented the country in major international competitions.

Numbers regularly attending training sessions have been growing steadily, outgrowing the space available in the last gym on the Ben Nevis Estate, although without limiting the standards being achieved.

The move has allowed the floorspace to be planned and laid out for the most efficient use of space for various aspects of work, circuit training especially now offering much more variety and room to participate than before.

Despite extensive modi-



In their smart new tracksuits for smart new surroundings are club coaches, from left, Vince Lopez, Adam Watson, Emma Lauder, Kevin Kennedy, Stephen Mcmanus (club working official) and Aiden Donnelly.

Photograph: Johnpaul Peebles, Abrightside Photography.

fications, redecoration and installation of equipment in the new building, club operations were only interrupted for one week and trying was quickly resumed as two young boxers, Josh Hunter and Josh Dieguno prepare for bouts in the Schoolboys and Juniors Scottish Open Championships in Motherwell this weekend, with good prospects of returning with medals.

Chairman Iain Ferguson

Over the years the club has also provided members of the Scotland national squad who have represented the country in major international competitions

said: "The new gym is already a big hit with everyone and, thanks to some very hard work from the coaches, looks absolutely fantastic.

"Thanks also to several local businesses and other club members who helped in transforming an empty shell into what it is now.

"There is much more space and better facilities, especially for our the growing numbers of female

members, along with a tremendous enthusiasm, busier sessions for all age groups and some great talent coming forward.

"We also have more coaches than ever before, ready to guide and develop this."

Training sessions are held every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, with juniors from 5.30pm and seniors from 6.45pm.

More details can be found on the club Facebook page.

GAMES POSTPONED

Weekend rugby and football matches fall victim to storms

Waterlogged pitches at both Banavie and Claggan saw the postponement of local rugby and football matches on Saturday.

Lochaber RFC was due to host Bishopton at Banavie, while Fort William FC was set to welcome Forres Mechanics to Claggan Park.

Lochaber RFC is due to host Cumbernauld on Saturday (kick-off 3pm), while the club's under-15s side is away to Stornoway.

Fort William FC, meanwhile, is due to play a home league game against Lossiemouth on Saturday, with the following Wednesday (February 26) seeing a night league game against Rothes, also at Claggan Park.

SPORTS DIGEST

New sports digest for Lochaber Times

Lochaber Times Sport will be starting a new sports digest column from next week which will feature details such as date, venue, start times etc of local sports fixtures, tournaments and so on.

If your sports club would like to be included, email details each week of the coming week/weekend's events to fort@obantimes.co.uk



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