

Call to shine a light for Love A Lorry Week



Oban RNLB pop-up shop helps save lives at sea

WIN £200
worth of LOVE OBAN Vouchers

£20 Gift Voucher

TOKEN 3 INSIDE!

Oban to sparkle and shine despite Covid humbug

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



The first of Oban's official Christmas lights are being switched on tonight.

Covid has cancelled the town's customary switch-on celebration and reindeer parade but the seasonal show of sparkly lights marking the countdown to Christmas will go on.

More than £7,000 has just been awarded to BID4Oban from Oban Common Good Fund to pay for the installation of the town's lights and to buy new lights for trees going outside The Rockfield Centre and in Argyll Square.

In addition to that £7,300, BID4Oban is also to receive a further £2,200 linked to the town's main four large trees which are due to go up on Monday November 23 in Argyll Square, Stafford Street, Dunollie Road opposite Farmfoods and at the end of Lochavullin.

The trees are being donated by Tilhill Forestry but BID4Oban is making a donation to a charity

of its choice. The tree lights will switch on as the trees go up. The first official festive lights to brighten up the town will be the small Christmas trees attached to lampposts across Oban, which have been programmed to light up this evening, Thursday November 19, the same time as Oban traders stay open late for Christmas shoppers. The hope is for shops

'We need to get people out shopping locally. It's absolutely vital.'

to open late every Thursday to get tills jingling in the run-up to December 25.

BID4Oban chief executive Andrew Spence said: 'We need to get people out shopping locally, it's absolutely vital.'

Thanks to the Oban Common Good Fund, Oban Community Skatepark also got an early Christmas present bringing it £5,000 closer to its fundraising goal for a feasibility study.

Skatepark chairman Mark MacQueen said supporters

were delighted the bid got its full amount, driving the project forward.

It is now planned to commission a digital feasibility study, costing about £12,000, before Christmas and go on to engage as much of the community as possible in a consultation in the New Year.

The consultation will seek input from targeted businesses as well as other organisations, groups and individuals across Oban.

The survey will be online rather than face-to-face at this stage because of Covid, added Mr MacQueen.

Money from the Oban Common Good Fund was given to secure match funding already on the table for the study. A chunk of funding was promised from the MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust and the outcomes of three other bids submitted to big funders are also eagerly awaited, said Mr MacQueen.

'We are delighted to hear the good news from the Oban Common Good Fund.

Continued on page three.



Fumiko Miller is spreading a little festive cheer for good causes with her upcycled CD Christmas decorations.

Fumiko spreads festive cheer

Oban care worker Fumiko Miller is spreading festive cheer by upcycling unwanted CDs and old greetings cards in aid of Mary's Meals.

Fumiko is sending some of her decorations to Etive House and Eader Glinn care homes and others will be going to the Mary's Meals shop in Oban's Stevenson Street for people to put on

their own Christmas trees in return for a donation.

Mary's Meals' Double The Love campaign, backed by The Proclaimers, currently sees the UK government match public donations to the charity until January 31 next year helping the charity feed even more hungry school children in Liberia.

No change in Argyll and Bute restrictions

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has reiterated Argyll and Bute may be able to drop down a Covid level 'soon', writes Ellis Butcher.

Announcing the latest protection levels on Tuesday in the Scottish Parliament, she said the Highlands would remain in level one and Argyll and Bute in level two.

But she made a special plea to everyone living in these areas: 'Please do not assume that being in one of the lower levels means you can ease up. On the contrary, having fewer restrictions means the virus has more opportunities to spread.'

The changes announced today, she said, would provide the 'best possible chance' to ease restrictions in all parts of Scotland for Christmas – albeit in a 'limited and careful way'.

The majority of Scotland's 32 council areas saw no change after the new tiers were brought in three weeks ago.

But from Friday, 11 local authority areas will move from level three to level four – Scotland's toughest restrictions. They include Glasgow, Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire, East and West Dunbartonshire, East and South Ayrshire, Stirling and West Lothian.



mathesons
FURNISHINGS

20% OFF
SILENTNIGHT BEDS*

Mathesons Furnishings

Tweedmill, Soroba Rd, Oban | 01631 565195

Tues - Fri: 9am - 5.30pm | Sat: 9am - 5pm

info@mathesons.co.uk | mathesons.co.uk



Silentnight

*Limited Period Offer

OT

Argyll and Bute provost dies, aged 81

Argyll and Bute Council's Provost, Len Scoullar, has died aged 81.



A councillor since 1999, serving the Bute South ward then the Isle of Bute ward, he became provost in 2013, succeeding Councillor Isobel Strong. He also previously owned and operated the Black Bull Inn in Rothesay, was vice chairman of Bute Community Council and chaired Rothesay Winter Garden Trust.

Len passed away on Sunday November 15 after a battle with illness.

The council confirmed the news on Monday. He is the second serving Argyll and Bute councillor to die in as many months, following the death of Councillor Ellen Morton in early October.

Council leader Robin Currie said: 'It's difficult to imagine the council without Len. He served as a councillor for more than 20 years and was devoted to the area, especially to his beloved Bute where he'd lived for more than 50 years.'

'Len worked hard to support our people and communities, including speaking up for the future of our islands.'

'His genuine wish to help others made him a natural fit for the role of Provost, for which many will remember him most.'

'We will miss Len and send our condolences to his family at this difficult time.'

Pay row between RMT and CalMac continues

by Ellis Butcher
ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk



A pay dispute between the RMT union and CalMac rumbled on this week.

On Monday, the union claimed the ferry operator had 'rejected' a recent approach from arbitrators ACAS to step in.

Yet CalMac said in response it had not yet reached that stage, adding that it remained 'open to dialogue' with the four unions representing ferry workers.

The disagreement has escalated in recent weeks and hit the headlines, with the RMT warning it plans to ballot members on industrial action.

Earlier this month, it branded CalMac's pay offer 'derisory' and condemned it as

a 'serious kick in the teeth' to staff following their efforts to keep services afloat during the pandemic.

Union leaders claimed it amounted to a pay cut for crews and workers who have provided 'lifeline' services to Scotland's west coast islands.

CalMac says it remains 'open to dialogue' with the four unions.

Yet with capacity slashed in 2020, the company hit back by saying the pandemic had seen it suffer 'significant and unprecedented' financial pressures which could last for years.

CalMac maintained that the pay offer it tabled for staff

was 'fair and generous' and matched the current rate of inflation.

It said it remained 'committed' to rewarding staff for their work this year.

On Monday, Mick Cash, RMT general secretary, said it was 'extremely disappointing' CalMac had 'rejected' an offer from ACAS.

Talks

Mr Cash said: 'I have informed the company that my union remains available for talks to avert any dispute and despite this they rejected the offer from ACAS to get involved and work with all parties to lift the potential of a dispute that would be damaging to the local economy and bring unnecessary additional stress and pressure to islanders.'

However, CalMac denied the

situation has reached the point of requiring ACAS.

Robbie Drummond, managing director of CalMac, said in a statement: 'We have made a fair and reasonable offer to staff reflecting the cost of living. We remain open to dialogue with our four unions at any stage.'

Meanwhile, Transport Scotland, the Scottish Government's transport agency, said it holds no sway over pay policies at CalMac after also coming under union cross fire.

A Transport Scotland spokesperson said: 'CalMac pay policy sits outside the coverage of the Scottish Government's pay policy and, as such, this is a matter for CalMac and the unions concerned.'

'We would urge management and unions to continue

to engage in meaningful dialogue to reach a mutually agreeable outcome that avoids impacting staff and ferry users at an already difficult time for communities.'

Last week, the MV Isle of Lewis swiftly returned to service after a deep clean following three crew members testing positive for coronavirus.

The vessel was back on the Oban to Barra route from Monday November 9, with a relief crew in place, after being cleaned by a specialist company.

Robert Morrison, operations director for CalMac, said that in line with strict procedures, the vessel was returned to Oban without passengers and underwent a deep clean before being returned safely to service.

POLICE FILES

■ At approximately 5pm on November 7 at Boots the Chemist, George Street, Oban, a 39-year-old man allegedly tried to steal cosmetics. He was charged and a report will be sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

■ At about 10.15am on November 9 at Glenshellach Road, Oban, a woman, 24, allegedly used a public communication network to cause fear and alarm to

another woman. She was charged and a report will be sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

■ About 9.30am on November 10, a house on Soroba Road, Oban, was searched by police. A 22-year-old man was charged with being in possession of cannabis and a report was sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

■ Between 5pm and midnight on November 11, the door of a flat at Scalpay

Terrace, Oban, was damaged. Police are investigating.

■ Between 8.45am and 11.30am on November 10, at Dalriach Road, Oban, the front passenger side of a parked White BMW 118 was damaged. Police are investigating.

■ At about 2.30pm on November 12 at Tesco car park, Oban, a Grey Nissan X Trail car was damaged. Police are investigating.

■ About 6.20pm on November 14 at Powell Place, Connel, a man, aged 83, allegedly drove a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol. The man was arrested after providing a positive breath test. A blood sample was subsequently taken for analysis.

■ At approximately 12.30am on November 14 at Fionnphort, Isle of Mull, a man, aged 42, allegedly assaulted

a woman. The man was arrested and charged and a report will be sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

■ **If any member of the public has information in relation to the above, or to any incident, they should contact their local police station on telephone number 101 or, anonymously, through Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.**

Covering the whole of Scotland!

Bringing you heavy duty sheds garages summerhouses and much more!



B E S P O K E

TIMBER BTS SERVICES

Heavy duty base with every build! We use only the best of materials 100%!
Including a 3x2 regular framing plus vapour barrier, then cladded with 19mm tongue and groove boards. From a small garden shed to a double garage.....

Bespoke timber services have your back!

Call: 07494 854813

www.bespoketimberservices.com

Oban to sparkle and shine despite Covid humbug

Continued from page one.

'We've already had a fantastic response from the community excited about the skatepark potential and are delighted with the support so far to get it off the ground.

'We need to keep that support going,' he added.

A recent appeal in The Oban Times for people to go to the skatepark's Facebook page and give it a like, saw the number of likes jump from 200-plus to 717 and 'growing daily', said Mr MacQueen.

'The more support funders see us get, the bigger our chances are of getting their backing. A huge thank you to everyone who has liked us so far.

'Keep it coming,' he added.

Islands consider options in boundary shake-up

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Kerrera and the slate islands could see themselves split from Oban as part of a ward boundaries review.

Views on whether Kerrera, Luing, Seil and Easdale should remain part of a single Oban ward or be linked with a new Mull, Iona, Coll and Tiree ward, is part of a consultation being carried out under the microscope of the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland.

The consultation, which runs until January 26 next year, is looking at a proposed shake-up of local government across Argyll and Bute, including changes to numbers of councillors, wards and ward boundaries and their names.

Those changes locally include the possibility of Oban being placed in a ward of its own, extending southwards to Melfort



The Atlantic Bridge, which crosses over to the Isle of Seil.

and represented by four councillors – including Kerrera, Seil, Easdale and Luing. Currently Oban is split into Oban North and Lorn and Oban South and the Isles, represented by eight councillors. However, those islands could join a newly created Mull, Iona, Coll and Tiree ward. The commission is keen to give people a say.

Zim Knight, Seil and Easdale Community Council convenor, said the general view so far, after canvassing opinion, was

that its island would be 'better suited' to sticking with Oban.

'We have little to do with Coll and Tiree but lots to do with Oban. The general view so far is that we are happier to be part of a ward with Oban where we are better suited. Our challenges here are different to the challenges facing people on other islands more distant from Oban. As a community council we won't be objecting to the boundary commission's proposals at the moment. We are

still canvassing opinions and have put it out on our Facebook page. We will officially respond by the due date,' he said.

Over on Luing, its community council convenor Mike Barlow said members were still 'finding out about the pros and cons' of staying with Oban or going to the island-only tier.

'We are gauging it all at the moment, finding out what the pros and cons would be. We'd encourage individuals to look at the proposals and have their say. The more engagement, the better informed the outcome will be,' he said.

The commission states island-only tiers would 'better reflect local ties for island communities' and their 'special geographic circumstances'.

Argyll and Bute Council is currently represented by 36 councillors across 11 wards. The commission suggests reducing the number of councillors to 34 and increasing the wards to 12.

Argyll and Bute Council officials have already tabled a three-page response declaring itself 'disappointed' that a reduction in councillors is on the cards and saying the island ward proposals had raised a number of concerns about 'electoral parity'.

The boundary commission said population changes is one of the main reasons for the review. Argyll and Bute's electorate is expected to shrink from 66,725 in 2018 to 65,834 by 2024. The Islands (Scotland) Act 2018 also requires the commission to review the six councils in Scotland which contain inhabited islands, including Argyll and Bute.

A series of recommendations will eventually be made to the Scottish Parliament.

For more information, visit consult.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk/reviews/argyll_and_bute_council_area_public_consultation

ONLINE OPEN WEEK

23 - 26 NOVEMBER

Considering a career change?
Or are you thinking about
new opportunities?

Book a 1-to-1 appointment
to speak to an expert about
your study interests and future
career goals!

BOOK YOUR PLACE

argyll.uhi.ac.uk/openweek

**University of the Highlands and Islands
Argyll College**

**LIVE ONLINE
EVENTS**

How to: UCAS Applications
Pathways in Horticulture
Teaching for Graduates (PGDE)

Keep an eye on our
website as we add
more events!

OT

Objections lodged over plans to cut councillors

A public consultation is under way on a proposed shake-up of local government across Argyll and Bute.

The Edinburgh-based commission started the process in 2019 and is proposing a number of changes in a public consultation which runs until January 26 next year.

Changes locally include Oban being placed into a single ward of its own, represented by four councillors.

However, two 'island-only' wards served by two councillors each would be created for Islay, Jura and Colonsay; and Mull, Iona, Coll and Tiree.

Argyll and Bute Council is currently represented by 36 councillors across 11 wards.

The commission suggests reducing the number of councillors to 34 and increasing the wards to 12.

The 11 current wards are Cowal, Dunoon, Helensburgh and Lomond South, Helensburgh Central, Isle of Bute, Kintyre and the Islands, Lomond North, Mid Argyll, Oban North and Lorn, Oban South and The Isles, and South

Kintyre. Under the proposed new system there would be 12 wards – Kintyre; Islay, Jura and Colonsay; Mid Argyll; Mull, Iona, Coll and Tiree; Oban; Lorn; Cowal; Dunoon; Isle of Bute; Lomond North; Helensburgh Central; Helensburgh and Lomond South.

Douglas Hendry, executive director, wrote: "The council rejects any reduction in the overall number of councillors for Argyll and Bute."

The boundary commission said population change was one of the main reasons for the review. Argyll and Bute's electorate is expected to shrink from 66,725 in 2018 to 65,834 by 2024.

"The population, and therefore the electorate, of any local authority area is constantly changing. It is our responsibility to make recommendations that ensure each councillor represents as nearly as possible the same number of electors."

The Islands (Scotland) Act 2018 also requires the commission to review the six councils in Scotland which contain inhabited islands.

Pop-up shop helps to save lives at sea



RNLI fundraisers will be popping-up with a souvenir shop on Oban's North Pier every Saturday from now until Christmas, writes Kathie Griffiths.

From 10.30am to 4pm, winter storms depending, the charity's gazebo will be stationed on the North Pier to help bring in more funds for the life-saving charity's work.

Oban's lifeboat station is one of the busiest all-weather lifeboat stations in the UK, on stand-by 24 hours a day, 365 days per year.

RNLI fundraisers Alison

Rennie and Phil Hamerton, right, are among volunteers who will be helping to run the lifeboat pop-up shops on the North Pier until Christmas every Saturday.

BUY NOW PAY LATER

65 years trusted with your home for over

2022

Secure your conservatory order today and pay no more until 2022.



Visit our website for more information

info@cairngormgroup.co.uk
www.cairngormgroup.co.uk

1 Longman Drive, Inverness IV1 1SU Tel: 01463 238000
Tyock Industrial Estate, Elgin IV30 1XY Tel: 01343 545315
6-8 High Street, Thurso KW14 8AG Tel: 01847 894956

Credit is subject to application and status. Terms and conditions apply. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. [Cairngorm Conservatories/Kitchens/Windows] is a trading style of Inverness Glass Company Limited, Longman Drive, Inverness, IV1 1SU (FRN 916751) who act as credit broker offering credit only from Hitachi Capital (UK) PLC

Great Offers on Bottled Gas



Ready and waiting for you...
47kg Propane – **now only £59.95**
19kg Propane - **£29.95**
13kg Butane - **£29.95**

Free delivery and connection within 20 miles of Fort William and we'll take your empty away
All other prices available on our website

www.bennevisgassupplies.com

Ben Nevis Gas supplies

Office open 7 days 9am – 6pm
Ben Nevis Holiday park
Camaghael, Fort William, PH33 7NF
01397 703446



Time's running out - is your business ready for a new start with Europe?

The way the UK does business with Europe changes from January 1, heralding a new start. All companies that trade with the EU need to act now to make sure they are set to go.

CHANGE ON how we trade with Europe is fast approaching and all companies need to be ready now to make sure they can do business.

Those companies acting now will be best placed for the UK's new start and to take advantage of new opportunities from January 1.

Unless businesses have all the correct processes, contracts and agreements in place they will not be able to trade with the EU from that date.

They will need to make import and export declarations to move goods between the UK and the EU, as currently happens between the UK and countries outside the EU.

JUST THE BUSINESS

If you run a business, it is important you check what you need to do now by visiting gov.uk/transition

Very few businesses make their own import and export declarations and use someone else to deal with them, such as freight forwarding companies and fast parcel operators. They

will often be able to complete your import and export declarations as part of their service. Now is the time to speak to these companies so you have everything in place by 31 December. Further guidance is among list of customs agents and fast parcel operators at www.gov.uk

To help with changes to trade the UK Government has put a range of support measures in place. These include introducing new border controls in stages up until July 1 2021 and providing more than £80 million to boost the capacity of the customs intermediary sector. It

has also provided £705 million for border infrastructure, staffing and IT, to ensure border systems are fully operational when the UK takes back control of its border after the end of the transition period.

■ This article is part of a paid-for Partnership with the UK Government



PORT OF DOVER: New border controls will be introduced in stages up until July 1, 2021.



STRONG RECOMMENDATION: Rob Coy, Commercial Manager, PBS International Limited.

‘We have found it simple to navigate the gov.uk/transition website for information’

EXECUTIVES AT plant and seed producers PBS International appointed an expert and turned to the UK Government website to help them be ready for January 1.

Commercial Manager of the East Coast-based company Rob Coy said: “The gov.uk/transition site has evolved into an excellent source of information and I would strongly recommend it to businesses who are either

continuing, or planning, to export to the EU.

“We have found it simple to navigate and find the relevant information on importing and exporting from January 1 2021.”

Alongside its core markets of the USA and South East Asia, it exports a significant number of pollination control products to several EU countries including France, Germany, Austria,

Netherlands & Belgium. Shipments range from small packages through to large crate consignments.

The company set up an implementation team that has met regularly throughout the transition period to ensure it identifies the relevant procedures and documentation that will come into force from January 1.

During the transition period, it has also worked with

suppliers in Europe to ensure that they are also aware of and prepared for the changes ahead. In terms of materials, it has increased its stock levels to mitigate any risk of potential delays in the supply chain.

“At PBS, we have the advantage of many years of export experience so we already have in place an EORI number for our business which is imperative for future EU trade,” said Mr Coy.

Check, Change, Go

To find out more about the UK's new start go to gov.uk/transition



Let's get going >

OT

Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD
editor@obantimes.co.uk



We're delighted to have new neighbours moving into Stevenson Street, by the time you read this on Thursday. Go Naked Veg will be up and running, providing a welcome addition to the shopping experience in Oban – and what a shopping experience it is.

I hate to tell you, but I have now finished my Christmas shopping and wrapped most of it. I don't want to seem smug, but I am.

Now is definitely the time to do your Christmas shopping if you haven't started already because it, too, is very different this year. I tried to choose what I thought would be quieter times of the day to shop as many of the smaller shops can only have a few customers in safely at one time and it was nice not having to jostle to get a good look at things.

To make it easier, I also broke my shopping into lots of little trips to buy for about three people at a time, which meant I got to stop for a cuppa and cake lots of times – there's method in

WHERE IS THIS?



my madness. In saying all that, I'm aware I'm in the fortunate position of being in work and being able to afford to shop for Christmas this year. Many others are not as lucky.

Hope Kitchen and the Salvation Army are collecting gifts for those less fortunate so, if you can, please contribute as it is even more needed than ever this year.

The photograph last week was of the flower beds opposite West Coast Motors and this week's is probably somewhere you've walked past hundreds of times.

Delivering Covid-clean ferries delays Mull post

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Extended turnaround times to keep ferries Covid-clean have cut five return sailings a week from Oban to Mull.

The change to sailing times, because of the now 30-minute rather than 15-minute turnarounds needed to clean the boat between batches of passengers, is also having a knock-on effect on Mull's post.

With the winter timetable up and running, delays to the post are causing concern among some on the island with claims first-class postage from Mull is getting a third-class service.

The Oban Times understands that since the introduction of CalMac's new winter timetable, Royal Mail has moved mail destined for Mull to the second ferry leaving Oban each day – and the mail coming back is not leaving Craignure any earlier than

5.10pm or 5pm on a Saturday.

The later time means that once back in Oban, the mail misses its connection to Glasgow sorting office and therefore is left overnight in the town before continuing its journey the next day.

Mull's newly-formed com-

'At the moment there does not appear to be easy solutions.'

munity council was briefed on the situation at its inaugural meeting last week.

Convenor Graham Alexander said: 'It is an issue of great concern and at the moment there does not appear to be easy solutions.'

But he paid tribute to the island's hardworking posties, saying: 'Our postal staff have been amazing and have worked tirelessly during

Covid. It is frustrating and we will make every effort to raise awareness, especially if folk are sending time-sensitive correspondence.'

A first-class letter to London posted into a mailbox away from a main road on Mull on a Monday afternoon, for example, would not be collected by a postal worker until about noon on the Tuesday. That letter would not get to Oban until the Wednesday evening and would then have to wait until Thursday morning to be taken to Glasgow sorting office, arriving there in the afternoon, meaning the earliest it could be delivered to London would be Friday morning.

Businesses using Royal Mail will also be impacted.

Joe Reade, chairman of Mull and Iona Ferry Committee, told The Oban Times that the committee would normally have plenty of time to consult on timetables before they are

introduced and, in turn, would run consultations with the community on any possible amendments. But this year, due to Covid, its members only had days to respond.

He continued: 'There was therefore no time to perform any kind of meaningful local consultation and, in any case, the options open to us were very limited. In dialogue with CalMac, we ensured all the key public transport links were maintained, including co-ordinating the timetable with the Iona service, but the need for 30-minute turnarounds made it impossible to maintain the departure times that Royal Mail were used to.'

'While this is an immediate problem that hopefully Royal Mail can overcome, we are also concerned that next summer's timetable may again have to be rewritten to accommodate 30-minute turnarounds,' added Mr Reade.

BUY NOW PAY LATER

trusted with your home for over 65 years

2022

Secure your kitchen order today and pay no more until 2022.

Visit our [website](http://www.cairngormgroup.co.uk) for more information

Cairngorm Group
tougher.warmer.smarter

1 Longman Drive, Inverness IV1 1SU Tel: 01463 238000
Tyock Industrial Estate, Elgin IV30 1XY Tel: 01343 545315
6-8 High Street, Thurso KW14 8AG Tel: 01847 894956

www.cairngormgroup.co.uk

Credit is subject to application and status. Terms and conditions apply. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. [Cairngorm Conservatories/Kitchens/Windows] is a trading style of Inverness Glass Company Limited, Longman Drive, Inverness, IV1 1SU (FRN 916751) who act a credit broker offering credit only from Hitachi Capital (UK) PLC

The Ideal Gift
SCOTTISH CALENDARS 2021

FROM **£12.99** including P&P*

FROM **£8.99** including P&P*

FROM **£8.99** including P&P*

Enjoy Scotland at its best all year round with our selection of stunning calendars. To see all the images from our 2021 range visit:
www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

*additional P&P charges will apply to EU/ROW

ORDER ONLINE at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk
or call us on **01778 392014**

OR POST ALL ORDERS to: Wyvex Media Subscriptions, FREEPOST RUAC-JUXA-GYAU
Warners Group Publications plc, The Maltings, West Street, Bourne, Lincolnshire PE10 9PH

Month of resurfacing starts on A85 and A828

A four-week project to resurface sections of the A85 and A828 started on Monday night, November 16.

The £685,000 scheme will see three sections of the A85 and one section of the A828 improved, said BEAR Scotland.

The works encompass the A85 west of Saulmore, east of Connel and the Pass of Brander, as well as a section of the A828 south of Ledaig.

More than 2.4km (1.4m) of the A85 and A828 will be resurfaced to create safer and smoother journeys, said BEAR Scotland.

It is hoped all work scheduled would be completed by Tuesday December 15, subject to weather. The project is programmed as follows:

A85 west of Saulmore: November 16 to December 1, 12 nights, excluding Friday and Saturday nights.

A 10mph convoy system will be in place between 8pm and 6am.

A85 east of Connel: December 3 to December 4, two days. A 10mph convoy system will be in place between 7am and 6pm.

A828 south of Ledaig: December 7 to December 8, two

days. A 10mph convoy system will be in place between 7am and 6pm.

A85 Pass of Brander: December 9 to December 15, five days, excluding Saturday and Sunday. A 10mph convoy system will be in place between 7am and 6pm.

Outside working hours, traffic management will be reduced at each site, although a temporary 30mph speed limit will remain in place because of traffic travelling over a temporary surface.

Workers will be operating to strict physical distancing protocols.

Eddie Ross, BEAR Scotland's north west representative, said: 'This investment will upgrade the existing surface, greatly improving the quality and safety of these sections of the A85 and A828. The traffic management programmed is essential to the safety of our teams and motorists, however, we have taken steps to minimise disruption to Dunbeg residents by carrying out the work west of Saulmore overnight and avoiding works during typically busy periods.'

Visit www.trafficscotland.org for more information.

Oban Rotary to the rescue in Uganda

The Rotary Club of Oban is coming to the rescue of people thousands of miles away in Uganda, East Africa.

It has sponsored a motorbike ambulance serving the district of Mbale and is one of a fleet serving the population.

Since they were introduced in 2014, club officials say the ambulances have proved 'crucial' to providing emergency services across the area.

In particular, it helps pregnant women in a country which has one of the highest fertility rates in the world. More often than not, they live far away from skilled medical care and in locations where transport is either not available or is unaffordable.

A spokesman for Oban Rotary said: 'Since 2014, the fleet of eRangers - as they are called - have carried out 31,308 emergency calls, over 50 per cent of which have been maternity-related and a great many will have been life saving.



Oban Rotary Club's eRanger motorbike ambulance in Uganda.

providing communities with the means to take advantage of distant and widespread health-care resources. They are able to safely and comfortably carry one patient and an outreach medical worker, plus emergency supplies for on-site treatment. It can also greatly reduce the time taken to get essential and urgent medical assistance to remote communities.

Rotary International has also been working to help eradicate Polio and the movement has raised around £570 million worldwide. Oban Rotary has participated in the scheme and readers may remember the successful crocus scheme it ran which involved selling handmade lapel crocuses to raise funds.

Rotary said it is pleased the curse of Polio has almost been eradicated.

Oban Rotary has contributed to this campaign and the eRanger sponsored by Oban Rotary, which bears the club's name, has responded to 1,129 emergencies.

'Most of these relate to pregnancies or children under the age of five years old suffering from life-threatening illnesses.'

'Oban Rotary's fundraising and charitable giving is

generally regarded as focused on local good causes and while on the whole this is very much the case, like other clubs, Oban has an international dimension given that Rotary is a worldwide movement which includes in its endeavours support for third world countries.'

The eRangers have been developed to provide transport to and from local health-centres,

SEPTIC TANK SERVICES

Callum Simpson

- ✓ SEPTIC TANK EMPTYING & CLEANING
- ✓ SEPTIC TANK INSTALLATION
- ✓ GROUNDWORKS & LANDSCAPING
- ✓ CRANE HIRE

In Partnership with
Turley Bros.

We won't be beaten on price, service or quality



Turley Treatment Tanks

CONCRETE TANK - 40 YEAR WARRANTY

www.septictankservicesltd.com 07917 358285 / 01546 607046

Accredited Installer

OT

Dervaig Primary School has playtime covered

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Dervaig Primary School has it covered when it comes to improving its playground.

Two years ago the school started working on revamping the play area with support from the community and well-wishing organisations.

Thanks to generous donations, the school now has a shelter for outdoor learning and play, installed over the October break by Scotplay, and it has been in constant use since, said Tracy Mayo, chairperson of the school's parent council.

'It definitely has their seal of approval,' said Tracy, who, along with the rest of the school, is looking forward to inviting people to come along and experience the comfort of the shelter for themselves - when Covid allows. Another addition



to the playground has been picnic benches and parasols for brighter days and a number of all-weather large wooden blocks, a bit like 'delux Lego' says Tracy, which the children can use to let their imaginations run wild and build all sorts of shapes and structures.

A grant of £2,500 from the Waterfall Fund started the school on its fundraising

journey, said Tracy, adding: 'We have a fantastic community which has supported us so far - former students, residents, parents and extended families, staff, visitors to the island, The Bellachroy, Dugie's Premier, Turus Mara, Calgary Arts, Ony Boa, binman Colin Morrison and his wonderful calendars, The Quin family, Argyll Trust and so many more. Thank you

Dervaig schoolchildren enjoying their new shelter.

all for helping us make the children's dream a reality.'

There is still plenty more fundraising to do and grants are being sought to buy a water cascade, more outdoor blocks, waterproofs, raised beds for growing vegetables and to sow more plants for outdoor learning and a forest school tying in with the already well-established community orchard in the village.

Tracy added: 'We are very conscious of how lucky we are to have the support we do and the need to be sensitive in our fundraising activities given the impact Covid-19 has had on our community and other communities around the world.'

To make a donation, visit www.dervaigprimaryschool.co.uk/school-playground

Taste of Argyll launches Christmas competitions

A local businesswoman has rustled up a pair of Christmas competitions to help spread some festive cheer, writes Ellis Butcher.

Katherine MacKenzie, of family-run Taste of Argyll, is inviting young people to take part in a Christmas-themed cake competition and a Christmas card advert competition.

For the cake competition, baking enthusiasts should to come up with a cake on a festive theme. Entries should be covered and wrapped for health and safety reasons and handed in to the Taste of Argyll deli at 29 Combie Street, Oban, along with a £5 entry fee. Money raised from the cake competition will be distributed to local charities.

The deadline for under-12s entries is December 7 and the deadline for 12-to-16-year-old entries is December 14.

The winner will receive a Love Oban voucher.

The Christmas card advert competition is free to enter. Katherine wants people to devise a Christmas themed thank



Katherine MacKenzie.

you advert that she can use in the paper and on social media. The competition is open to those aged eight-to-14-years. Entries should be dropped off at the Taste Of Argyll deli by December 24, with the winner again receiving vouchers.

Both cakes and cards will be judged with the help of The Oban Times.

Katherine said: 'This is a way of thanking everyone for their support during these hard times. It's been a difficult year for everyone and this gives children and families something Christmassy to do.'

Win!



ARRDHU HOUSE
- ROOMS & SPA -

Tel: 01855 821 210

enjoy@ardrhuhouse.com

www.ardrhuhouse.com

a Spa treat with breakfast or afternoon tea for two at beautiful Ardrhu House

We all need something special right now to make us feel good in body and soul; to lift our spirits and inject some joy back into life. Ardrhu House has the perfect solution with its 'Spa La Carte' approach to wellness.

Ardrhu House in Onich, just 9 miles from Fort William, is beloved by visitors and locals-in-the-know, and has answered the call with its holistic treatment menu offering an indulgent treat whilst maintaining a safe environment. Personalised Gift Vouchers are available making this the perfect gift to share with a friend or loved one!

The spa team comprises an Ayurveda practitioner, herbalist, aromatherapist and sound healer; all coming together to weave the magic of Ardrhu House for a bespoke spa experience. World-famous brands like Ila and Temple Spa are part of the ranges of products used for these exquisite treatments available exclusively in Scotland at Ardrhu House.

Treatment choices vary in length and include a therapeutic range for insomnia, restlessness, anxiety, stress and exhaustion. The massage treatments are popular with male and female customers and a couples' visit includes some amazing rituals to be shared together side by side in the same treatment

One lucky winner will win a half-day spa treat for 2 which includes:

- 90 minute treatment of your choice, for 2 people
- Breakfast or Afternoon tea for 2 people
- Access to the emerald steam room, Finish sauna, hydro-jet shower and the outdoor Jacuzzi with stunning views over looking Loch Linnhe.

Prize value
£180!

Enter the competition today for your chance to win! Simply tell us, Ardrhu House sits on the edge of which loch?

You can enter the competition via the Oban Times & Lochaber Times website at <https://wyvexmedia.wufoo.com/forms/qqv324j16clnww/>

The winner drawn at random from all entries will be notified on Friday 27th November - so don't delay, enter today! Entries close at 5pm on Thursday 26th November.

For more details on the spa offering at Ardrhu House, visit <https://www.ardrhuhouse.com/spa>

T&Cs: The winner will be notified by email/telephone where provided. The prize redemption will be valid until 31st March 2021, excluding Christmas and New Year. All entries will be disposed of after the competition in line with GDPR rules. No cash alternative. Editor's decision is final. For full T&Cs see the entry form online.



Love a lorry? Shine a light

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Road haulage boss Dave Alsop is asking people to show their love for lorries.

Mr Alsop from Seil who employs a staff of 18 and has a fleet of 10 lorries is backing a call from The Road Haulage Association encouraging people to take to their doorsteps tonight (Thursday November 19) at 8pm and shine a light for all the truck drivers, warehouse staff, managers, technicians, mechanics, fitters and others in the logistics industry who have kept the country moving during Covid.

'This is the sixth annual Love A Lorry Week, which is probably more poignant than ever this year as it is the lorries which have been keeping the nation running throughout Covid-19, with drivers who have had to venture into areas where the infection is rife and very often not even being allowed to use basic toilet and food facilities because others



have deemed them to be a contamination risk,' said Mr Alsop who started up his road haulage business in 1989.

During Covid, Mr Alsop's drivers have been trucking up the road miles delivering to supermarkets, a big DIY chain's distribution centre and bringing up NHS medical supplies from the south.

Drivers have often been on the road for a maximum of

nine hours a day behind the wheel, often a 15-hour working day if loading and unloading times are included. 'It's a vital and demanding job all lorry drivers do, as well as the staff back at the offices.

'Often drivers have to stay away from home in their cabs.

'Luckily nowadays they are rather cosy and can be self-sufficient but they can still get a rough deal from other

Lorry drivers John Morgan and Stuart McLachlan have more than 70 years trucking experience between them, supplying shops and warehouses with goods.

road-users who get 'stuck' behind them.

'Not many people know that HGVs here have a legal speed limit of 40 mph. When frustration sets in, people don't tend to remember that the lorry in front might be carrying their week's shopping to the supermarket shelves.

'It would also be helpful if car drivers pulling in at lay-bys, didn't hog the middle, so lorries can pull over if they need a break or to let other road users get by,' said Mr Alsop.

'They are the ones that keep this great industry on the road. It would mean a lot if people would stand on their doorstep tonight and shine a light to say thank you,' he added.

Oban's independent music shop to go online in new year

The owners of an independent traditional music shop in Oban are moving the business entirely online.

Jean and Arthur Gillies of Oban Music, 20 Argyll Square, have said it will stay open for the time being while its popular website www.musicscotland.com is redesigned.

No date has yet been set to close the doors of the shop, but it is expected it will shut by January or February 2021.

Mr Gillies said the retail side is no longer viable, while the website is performing stronger than it was pre-Covid.

It is believed Oban has had a music shop on the site for at least 45 years. The business has long been the place to go for instruments, accessories, CDs and music books, with a strong emphasis on traditional Scottish, Gaelic and Celtic music.

The Gillies, originally from Campbeltown, have run it for a total of 13 years after taking over in 2008.

But 2020 has seen a double whammy for music retailers – the pandemic hitting the high street and Scotland's thriving



live music scene also being decimated by Covid restrictions.

Mr Gillies said: 'It's very sad, there's no doubt about it. Music shops on the high street are quite rare. People thought it was great Oban still had a music shop. Tourists would come in and comment on it, so it's a sad situation.'

He added: 'The high street has been hit and hit for a number of years now and Covid has just come along and compounded that. That's the situation we find ourselves in.'

Mr Gillies said the newly-revamped website will be expanded to sell as wide a range of items as possible including CDs, DVDs, sheet music, guitar, whistle, chanters and piping accessories, he said.

UK Government Scotland

NHS

I wash my hands to protect my colleagues.

HANDS FACE SPACE

OT

Global interest in Ulva's Boathouse

Interest in taking over Ulva's popular Boathouse cafe and restaurant has come from as far afield as Australia, South Africa, Uganda, the USA, Canada, Norway, France, Italy and from the across the UK.

A staggering 69 expressions of interest were made and those serious about taking it on have until November 26 to send in a business plan to be viewed by a panel before a final decision is made.

The Boathouse, one of the key attractions on the tiny community-owned island just off Mull's west coast, has been catering for visitors since 2007. The opportunity for new management came up when the current tenants gave up the lease. Every year the island, measuring just 12kms long by 4kms wide with a current miniscule population of six, welcomes thousands of visitors.



We will have a panto in Oban – Oh yes, we will!

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



With a swish of a fairy god-mother's wand, Oban will have a panto this year – Oh yes, we will!

Despite Covid restrictions on packed theatre audiences (Boo!), pantomime enthusiasts are keen to not let the virus spoil our festive cheer.

Spotlight Musical Theatre Company, which last Christmas brought Camelot to the Corran Halls stage, has teamed up with Oban's Phoenix Cinema to put on a December screening of its filmed 2015 panto hit, Puss In Boots, by Ben Crocker.

Spotlight's Kevin Baxter said: 'We are determined not to let the Grinch that is Covid, steal Christmas.'

There will be screenings on Saturday December 12 at 2.30pm and on Sunday

The 2015 Puss in Boots cast. Photograph: Debbie Day.



December 13 at 1pm and 4pm. Tickets, priced £2, will go on sale soon via the cinema's website at www.obanphoenix.com and the panto crew are hoping to pack in as big a safe crowd as possible to each of the shows. Sticking to current Covid rules, one adult can take up to six under 12s.

'We filmed the 2015 show as a way of helping us analyse our performance, but Stevie Day

did such a good job of editing it we have an audience-ready version we can put on for 2020.

'It won't have the same atmosphere as a live panto – we've had to take out the community singing – but there will be members of the cast in costume at the screenings acting as ushers so we can make it as much fun as we can, while keeping it safe,' added Mr Baxter.

Puss in Boots tells the tale of penniless Jack Miller and his faithful cat, Puss. Jack falls for the beautiful Princess Esmerelda but the wicked ogre Grimgrab has plans to wed her. He employs the services of bad fairy Pernicia to oversee her kidnapping by Jack's hapless brothers Jasper and Jethro. Luckily Pernicia's sister, the good fairy Priscilla, is never far away to ensure

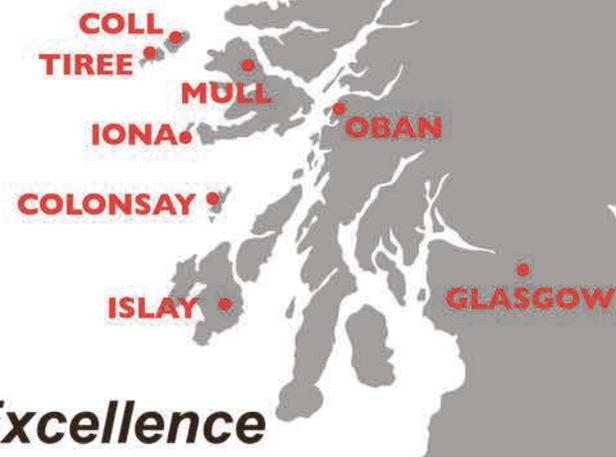
things don't get too out of hand. Attempting to help, but often unknowingly hindering Jack and Puss, are Queen Wendy, King Wally and Bobbie the Royal Page.

Also staging some seasonal shenanigans of its own will be The Rockfield Centre, which is challenging friends, workmates and families in the community to come up with a home video homage to the wonder that is pantomime. Whether it is recreating a favourite panto scene or cramming the plot into a few minutes, telling cheesy jokes or dressing up ultra-glam as the Dame, anything goes – but remember it has to be suitable for a family audience, said the centre's arts co-ordinator Fee Shaw. Entries of no more than five minutes must be emailed to arts@therockfieldcentre.org.uk by December 10.

DEREK WILSON

CARRIERS LTD

DAILY SERVICE OBAN - GLASGOW
MULL, COLL, TIREE, COLONSAY, ISLAY



Building on 30 years of Service Excellence

Covid precautions in place

- ❖ **Freight forwarding and courier service**
- ❖ **Furniture, appliances, feed, automotive spares, glass, building supplies, etc.**
- ❖ **"Won't ship to the Scottish Highlands & Islands?"**

Have your items delivered via our Glasgow depot!

Tel: 01631 562655 email: dwoban@gmail.com

Units 2/3 Crannog Lane, Lochavullin, OBAN PA34 4HB



Staff from Oban's Glow Hair and Beauty Salon went the extra mile to raise funds for Martyn's Monday Club.



Glowing example of generosity

Stylists at an Oban hair and beauty salon have been setting a glowing example and raising cash for charity.

Six staff from Glow Hair and Beauty in Combie Street took on the challenge of each walking 500,000 steps during October, totalling an amazing three million steps, and raising more than £1,370 for Martyn's Monday Club.

Sam MacLennan, who works at the salon, said: 'We certainly put in lots of legwork and

if any of us fell behind one day, we made sure we made up for it the next day.'

Lorraine King from Martyn's Monday Club added: 'Thank you so much to all the staff at Glow for this amazing feat of endurance and thank you to everyone who sponsored them. All of us at the club really appreciate the effort you went to to raise these much-needed funds. We will use it locally to continue to raise awareness of mental health issues and to prevent suicide.'

100 club winners

The Kilmore Hall 100 club winner for October was L Mudie with the November winner A Robertson.

There are some numbers available for the 100 Club draw. Contact David Mudie on 01631 770268. This will help raise more funding.

A new Kilmore Hall kitchen extension will be started in January 2021 after many fundraising events over the years and various grants. More funds are still needed – all donations greatly appreciated.

Applications open for new Scottish Child Payment

The Scottish Government is launching a new benefit scheme for families.

Scottish Child Payment starts on February 15 2021 and will give families on certain benefits and tax credits an extra £40 every four weeks for each child under six.

Social Security Scotland will deliver the benefit on behalf of the Scottish Government. It is expecting huge demand which is why they are asking families to apply now.

By taking applications early, they can make sure they have all the information they need to check eligibility. This will help them make a decision on an application and, if eligible, make payments as quickly as possible once the benefit starts.

To get the payment a child will need to be under six years old on Monday February 15. Families also need to be getting one of these – Child Tax Credit, Income Support, Pension Credit, Working Tax Credit, Universal Credit, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or income-related Employment and Support Allowance.

If anyone applies before Monday February 15, the payment will be calculated from Monday February 15.

Make sure to get all the money due by applying in advance.

If anyone applies after Monday February 15, their payment will be calculated from the date they apply.

Social Security Scotland delivers a number of benefits for families. This includes Best Start Grant Pregnancy and Baby Payment, Early Learning Payment, School Age Payment and Best Start Foods.



Applications for these and the Scottish Child Payment all use a single, straightforward form.

Mhoraig Green, strategic lead for social justice, Citizen's Advice Scotland, said: 'We are really looking forward to the new Scottish Child Payment. We know lots of families in Scotland are facing tough times at the moment and are struggling to make ends meet and this new money will help to make their lives easier.'

'What's really important is that everyone who is entitled to the payment makes a claim when applications open in November.'

'Citizens Advice Bureau is working in communities across Scotland to help people access the social security they are entitled to. If you are unclear about whether you are entitled or you need help applying then please get in touch and our Money Talk teams will be able to help you.'

Stacey Bush, 36, of Girvan, South Ayrshire, said: 'I have three children aged three, five and 17.'

'When my husband was furloughed and out of work we didn't have a lot of money. I relied a lot on my nan and my mum. This new payment would mean I wouldn't need to do that. I could put it towards shopping.'

'We struggle so it would help to take the stress away – clothes, shoes and I'd probably like to spend it on a day out. We don't ever have the money to do fun things with the children, so I'd like to spend it on something like that.'

For more information or to apply for Scottish Child Payment, visit mygov.scot/benefits or call 0800 182 2222.

Column sponsored by the Scottish Government

Apply now for Scottish Child Payment

Scottish Child Payment is a new benefit from the Scottish Government. It starts on 15 February 2021. It will give families on certain benefits and tax credits an extra £40 every 4 weeks for each child under six.

Social Security Scotland will deliver this benefit on behalf of the Scottish Government. It is expecting huge demand. This is why they are asking you to apply now.

By taking applications early, they can make sure they have all the information that they need to check eligibility. This will help them to make a decision on your application and, if eligible, make payments as quickly as possible once the benefit starts.

To get the payment your child will need to be under six years old on Monday 15 February. You'll also need to be getting one of these - Child Tax Credit,

Income Support, Pension Credit, Working Tax Credit, Universal Credit, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA).

If you apply before Monday 15 February your payment will be calculated from Monday 15 February. Make sure you get all the money you are due by applying in advance.

If you apply after Monday 15 February, your payment will be calculated from the date you apply.

Social Security Scotland delivers a number of benefits for families. This includes Best Start Grant Pregnancy and Baby Payment, Early Learning Payment, School Age Payment and Best Start Foods. You apply for Scottish Child Payment and all of these using a single straightforward form.

For more information or to apply for Scottish Child Payment visit mygov.scot/benefits or call 0800 182 2222.



Fairer
Scotland
Scottish
Government



Social Security Scotland
Tèarainteachd Shòisealta Alba

OT

History retold for harbour's future

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Over the past 260 years, Oban harbour has grown from a sheltered beach where cargoes could be landed to almost the ultimate in multi-user ports.

As an online consultation about the harbour's future gets under way, members of Oban Community Harbour Development Association (OCHDA) have been taking a look back at its history.

The consultation, which began on November 10 and will run for a month, wants to hear people's views as part of a plan to develop a community-led harbour authority for the town.

To have your say go to ochda.scot. Protected by Kerrera and the MacDougall stronghold at Dunollie, the 'little bay' has always been a key landing point from the sea highways of the West Coast, writes OCHDA.

'The harbour's formal recognition began with the creation of a Customs Office in 1760. Ships would anchor offshore because the early North Pier was highly tidal, so smaller boats would lie alongside, as they still do. The building of the South Pier in

1814 was soon followed by the first of many steamer services to be dominated by David Hutcheson. Oban's current role as a transport hub had begun.

'The middle of the 19th century brought a series of national and local Acts relating to the management of piers and harbours.

'At first, Oban seems to have resisted the creation of a harbour trust – too much administration and not enough revenue. It was the Act authorising the Railway in 1878 which first created an Oban Harbour Authority; its boundary was the line between the Brandystone and the Dog Stone which appeared on all charts until recently.

'The area excluded waters close to the existing North and South piers and to the new Railway pier which is, of course, entirely on reclaimed land. The tide would have come up to the old stone wall you can still see at the beginning of the appropriately named Shore Street.

'By 1896, the Town Council owned both the North and South Piers and managed the Harbour Authority. The Lighthouse Board arrived in 1904 and the council built Port Beag slip in 1909. Apart from the com-



In the 1920s, the harbour area is getting busy. Photograph from Bob McCulloch.



By 2003 it is becoming a risky area with boats manoeuvring in a confined space, says OCHDA.

Photograph from Bob McCulloch.

mandeering of the harbour during the Second World War, nothing

happened for more than 60 years. The Town Council had a piers committee and a harbour master and the accounts appear in the records but in the seventies the changes began.

'The first roll-on, roll-off linkspan heralded a massive increase in ferry traffic but, more importantly, local government reorganisation allocated piers and harbours to Strathclyde Regional Council, which seemed blissfully unaware of its responsibilities as the Oban Harbour Authority, with none of the Acts establishing it having been repealed.

'Harbour regulation was essentially abandoned and a generation

seems to have forgotten we ever had a harbour authority.

'In 1988, the South Pier was passed to CalMac, now CMAL, and since 1996 the new Argyll and Bute Council has recognised the significance of the harbour and helped to create a development group, now Oban Bay Management Group. It proposed in 2012 that a trust port should be established, quite unaware that from an historic and legal perspective, one could already exist.

'More force was added to the drive to restart or recreate the authority by reports which stated the obvious – that increasing ferry and other traffic meant an authority with legal control over ship movements was essential before there was a serious incident.

'So that's the story. Over 260 years, Oban harbour has grown from a sheltered beach where cargoes could be landed, to almost the ultimate in multi-user ports – fishing, ferries, lighthouse base, fish farm and other commercial traffic, cruise liners from the smallest to the largest and hundreds of leisure boats.

'By next year it may once again be controlled by an organisation based in Oban and working for Oban.'



STOVECRAFT

Lorne Street, Lochgilphead,
Argyll PA31 8LU,
Tel: 01546 603111

We don't just do stoves



from trusted
manufacturers



hunterstoves

Mendip Stoves



Lots
of unique
Christmas
gifts available
in store

01546 603111

Opening hours: Open Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 5pm

Contact us on

07470 699572 at any other time.



Tony Cave is warning people to be vigilant.

Businessman hits back against fraudsters

by Ellis Butcher
ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk



A business owner turned the tables on fraudsters who thought they could trick him into handing over his bank details.

Tony Cave, owner of Craighard Decor, Oban, received a suspicious message to his business number purporting to be from 'Visa Card Fraud Department' but immediately suspected it was a scam. Tricksters said he needed to call back about a suspicious £100 transaction on his account.

Tony had 20 years' experience with the Royal Bank of Scotland and worked as a business manager before setting up his own business in Craighard Road.

He knew Visa would never ask customers to give out details such as card numbers over the phone so decided to put the people behind the nuisance call on the spot.

As a voice answered: 'Visa Card Fraud department, how can I help you?' Tony asked them: 'You tell me?'

He challenged the trickster to first provide his card number, balance and direct debits before being prepared to discuss his account over the phone.

The flummoxed scamster quickly became abusive at Tony's line of questioning and slammed the phone down on him. Tony believes the call originated in Africa and said: 'I told him it was a scam and the guy at the other end of the line basically wasn't very happy that I told him it was a scam!'

'They prey on vulnerable peo-

ple and those who are buying a lot of stuff at this time of year and are more susceptible.'

Tony is also the chairman of business group Bid4Oban and urged local companies and residents not to be taken in.

'I've spoken to other people about it and they have said they have had phone calls recently as well,' said Mr Cave.

He also received three phone calls saying that a £90 direct debit to Amazon Prime was going to be deducted from his bank account unless he rang back – when he is not a customer of the subscription service.

A Visa spokesman confirmed it would never call or email cardholders to request personal account information.

Visa said: 'If you believe you shared personal or card account information by responding to a malicious email, text message, or telephone conversation, please call the phone number on the back of your card immediately. In addition, report all suspicious emails, texts and calls to phishing@visa.com.'

Visa's network of security partners can get to work and 'disrupt' fraudsters if they hear about cases, it said.

Marjorie Gibson, of Scotland's national consumer advice service, consumeradvice.scot, said scam calls can be 'deeply upsetting'.

She said: 'Any scams should be reported to us so we can gather intelligence, pass instances to Trading Standards, and help take action against those responsible.'

For more information, visit www.visasecuritysense.com

Early bird Glasgow train hits the buffers

The 5.21am rail service from Oban to Glasgow will cease to run indefinitely from December this year meaning commuters will have to find an alternative if they want to make it to the city for 9am, writes Fiona Scott.

The suspension of the service is part of a 'level of service' review by rail operator ScotRail who revealed this week that passenger levels are down by around 80 per cent across all routes for this time of year.

A ScotRail spokesperson said: 'While our timetable plans have not been finalised, one service we can confirm will be suspended is the 05:21 Oban to Glasgow Queen Street.'

'We recognise this is the first train of the day for many communities and its temporary removal will be inconvenient.'

'However, that particular service didn't run between March and August this year and we received no requests to reinstate it.'

'We hope the reduction in passenger

demand will last for a short period of time and services can quickly be reinstated. We will be letting customers know soon what changes they can expect to services in December.'

As from Monday drinking alcohol on trains or at stations in Scotland will be forbidden. The temporary policy was announced last week with the aim of supporting public health measures and keep people safe during the Covid pandemic.

PHARMACY FIRST FOR MINOR ILLNESS

If you have a minor illness this winter, your local community pharmacy is the first place you should go for advice and treatment. The NHS Pharmacy First Scotland service is now available to everyone living in Scotland. In most cases you won't need an appointment, and it can save you a trip to the GP practice.



REFERRAL TO OTHER SERVICES

Your community pharmacy will have measures in place to help keep you and pharmacy staff safe during the coronavirus pandemic. Only a limited number of people will be allowed inside the pharmacy, and you will be asked to wear a face covering, use hand sanitiser and keep a two metre distance from others when you visit.

Harry McQuillan from Community Pharmacy Scotland said:

'Community pharmacies are part of the NHS and can provide a safe and professional service for those with minor illnesses, supplying NHS treatment where necessary.'

The NHS Pharmacy First service is available to everyone living in Scotland and you can access it from any community pharmacy to receive advice and treatment. You can also find self-help guidance for a range of common conditions on the NHS Inform website.

Your local community pharmacy will be doing everything it can to help keep people safe during the coronavirus pandemic, and you can help them by following the guidance when you visit."

For more information visit nhsinform.scot



ADVICE ON YOUR SYMPTOMS

Trained pharmacy teams are able to provide advice on how to manage a range of common conditions, such as aches and pains, allergies, skin complaints, tummy upsets, runny or blocked noses, cold sores, and for women, urinary tract infections. They can also supply NHS treatment, including certain prescription only medications, if necessary.

If you need to speak with a pharmacist, you'll be asked to provide details about yourself (such as name and address) to help them provide a record of care. As with other NHS services, everything you share is confidential, and many community pharmacies now offer private consulting spaces.



TREATMENT IF RECOMMENDED

If your condition needs treatment the pharmacist cannot provide, they will help you access the right care by directing you to the appropriate place.



OT

Dalmally rounds off strangest of seasons with prizegiving

Official competition at Dalmally Golf Club has concluded with the annual prizegiving rounding off the strangest of seasons.

After a delayed start, the club managed to run a reduced programme of events but unfortunately, like most if not all Argyll clubs, no open competitions. Nevertheless members enjoyed some of the best playing conditions in terms of weather and course condition in recent years.

The season ended, as is traditional, with a fun mixed ladies' and gents' game and the club presentations. Topping the list of lady winners was Rena Ritchie, taking the trophies for the nine-hole eclectic series, the Simmers Quaich, Two Club

and a Putter and the overall Order of Merit.

Also among the ladies' prizewinners were Alison Livingstone and Maud Marshall, taking the Tyndrum Trophy.

The Gents' Club Championship, Scratch and Handicap, went to Graeme MacKechnie, who also picked up trophies for the Gents' Match Play, Two Clubs and a Putter and runner up in the Order of Merit.

The Leisure Sport Trophy, the Strathorchy Trophy, the Autumn Stableford League and the winner of the Order of Merit went to Stephen Ross.

Other gents' winners included Gary Wilson, Cowan Cup and the McIntyre Greensomes;

James MacMillan, McIntyre Greensomes; Alan Campbell, Gents' Senior Champion; David McGregor, Summer Stableford League and Owen Moran, Most Improved Player. Lewis MacMillan took the Junior Trophy and Andrew MacMillan, Most Promising Junior. Commenting on the season, club captain Graeme MacKechnie said: 'Despite the Covid crisis, Dalmally has seen record numbers of visitors and while bar and food income was down, green fees held up well.

'The main challenge to Dalmally was the loss of income from open competitions but the club had been successful in obtaining government assistance, like many other clubs, which had been



Dalmally Golf Club prizewinners 2020.

gratefully received.' Graeme also announced the launch of a new winter membership scheme, with full playing membership available from November until March 31 2021 for only £60. The captain thanked all the members who had worked voluntarily for the club over the season, especially Jim and Alison Livingstone

for their tireless efforts on the course, assisted by Martin O'Keeffe, as well as all the members who had participated in working parties, planting trees and shrubs and helped with club house and course maintenance.

Presenting Jim, Alison and Martin with small tokens of thanks from the club and the

ladies' and gents' sections, he reminded members: 'While Dalmally has weathered the covid storm we, like all other small clubs, will have a number of serious challenges next year and the continued efforts of members will still be needed.'

The day concluded with an enjoyable, socially distanced lunch.

Time to refuel?

- Breakfast Rolls
- Toasties
- Daily Lunch Specials
- Homemade Soup
- Lavazza Coffee

Serving hot food
6am-1.30pm
Monday to Friday
Fuel Station open 24/7

24/7 launderette
SELF SERVICE
WASH & DRY

£2 £8 £4

Esso HALFWAY FILLING STATION
Dunbeg, Oban PA37 1PX Tel: 01631 562784 Open 24 hours

MM MORRISON

VEHICLE HIRE

Local pick up available
Competitive rates

WIDE RANGE OF VANS FOR HIRE

Morrison Motor Repairs
Unit 1 Creran Marine, Barcaldine
by Oban, Argyll PA37 1SG

Tel: 07825 581171
Email: morrisonmotorrepairs@gmail.com

MACLEOD Home improvements... All under one roof!
CONSTRUCTION LIMITED

- Roof Repairs
- Porches
- Plumbing
- Joinery
- Gutters
- Extensions
- Electrical
- Refurbishment

For any Enquiries please get in touch:

macleodconstruction.co.uk
sales@mkmacleod.co.uk
01546 602989

MacLeod Construction Ltd
@macleodconstruction
Kilmory Industrial Estate,
Lochgilphead, PA31 8RR

Adventure tourism week gives Argyll firms a boost

by Ellis Butcher
ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk



Adventure, wildlife and marine travel businesses are being urged to sign up for Scotland's first Adventure Tourism Week.

Held virtually and running between November 16 and November 20, it has been organised by national tourism body VisitScotland in partnership with Wild Scotland and Sail Scotland.

A selection of businesses will showcase how they have adapted to the pandemic and webinars will examine the importance of the sector to Scotland's tourism industry.

VisitScotland reports that the



Cycle tourism is growing in popularity. Photograph: Svenja Timmins, Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland.

pandemic has seen an increase in outdoor adventures, with cycling, running and open

water swimming growing in popularity among Scots during and post lockdown.

Scotland's landscape and climate make it ideal for adventure and nature-related activities, from mountain biking, sailing and rafting to foraging and wild camping, said tourism officials.

The pandemic's effect on adventure tourism in Scotland and emerging global trends will also be discussed.

Malcolm Roughead, chief executive of VisitScotland, said: 'With wellness and outdoor pursuits, such as cycling, walking and wild swimming, becoming a focus for many during and post lockdown, adventure travel has been identified as an area for potential growth in the domestic market.'

'Adventure Tourism Week is an opportunity for the industry to hear from leading experts on trends and areas where businesses can collaborate and adapt in a sustainable way as we navigate through the pandemic.'

Alan Rankin, Sail Scotland chief executive, said: 'This event will provide a positive stepping-stone for future planning, provide a much-needed confidence boost to businesses and help focus attention on the sector that can be at the very heart of tourism recovery in Scotland.' Douglas McAdam, executive chairman of Wild Scotland, said: 'We are blessed in Scotland with some of the most

impressive natural landscapes and wildlife on the planet and this, combined with our world leading approach to responsible access, make Scotland a unique and special destination for responsible adventure, wildlife and activity tourism.'

'Adventure Tourism Week will give us the chance to showcase this, learn from each other, discuss how best we can further develop the amazing potential we have and work together to ensure our industry in Scotland plays its part to really drive the sustainable recovery in the tourism sector and the Scottish economy.'

To register, visit <https://www.visitscotland.org/news/2020/adventure-tourism-week>

Advertorial

Vattenfall proposes new wind energy project in Argyllshire



Edinbane Wind Farm has been operational since 2010 – 18 turbines with a total installed capacity of 41.4MW. Image courtesy of Vattenfall.

Vattenfall is in the early stages of exploring the development of a wind farm at Musdale. The project is around 9km south east of Oban and will consist of up to 26 turbines with a maximum blade tip height of 200m.

An online exhibition and consultation will be launched on December 8 at www.vattenfall.co.uk/musdale to provide further information on the proposal, and a newsletter will be sent to local households in advance of the exhibition to help raise awareness.

One-to-one calls will also be available, for people to discuss the proposal with the project team and ask any questions that they may have.

Frank Elsworth, Vattenfall's UK Development Director for Onshore Wind, said: 'Scotland is a front runner in onshore wind



Frank Elsworth.

energy compared to the rest of the UK and is reaping the benefits for the environment, communities and businesses.

'Vattenfall wants to work with the local community and businesses to explore how we can create opportunities and benefits for the local area through community investment, skills development, jobs and employment.'

Alison Daugherty, Senior Project Manager for

Vattenfall, explained: 'We want to discuss our plans with the local community early, so that they can influence the design of the project and discuss the opportunities that the wind farm could create locally. I would like to encourage the community to visit our online event and get involved in the consultation by sharing their thoughts and ideas with us.'

'We look forward to collaborating with the people who live and work here as we develop the project.'

A Scoping Report for the project was submitted last week to the Scottish Government. If consented, the wind farm could produce enough electricity to power around 117,500 UK homes annually.

Further information can be found on the project website at www.vattenfall.co.uk/musdale.

Musdale Wind Farm Proposal

Vattenfall is in the early stages of exploring a potential 26-turbine wind farm at Musdale, approximately 5.5 km south east of Kilmore village, near Oban.



An **online exhibition** and pre-application consultation will be launched on **Tuesday 8th December 2020** via the project website at www.vattenfall.co.uk/musdale to engage with the local community on the project.

The exhibition will provide a variety of information for people to learn more about the project, as well as an opportunity to arrange one-to-one calls with the project team during the consultation period to discuss the project and ask questions.

People can also request hard copies of the exhibition information, from the date of the event, by calling 01434 611300.

We're keen to understand people's thoughts and gather feedback on the proposal as part of the consultation. Anyone wishing to provide feedback should submit their comments in writing to Vattenfall via the online exhibition survey, by email to musdale.windfarm@vattenfall.com or by post to Musdale Project Team, St Andrew's House, Haugh Lane, Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 3QQ.

The consultation closing date for feedback to Vattenfall on the proposal at this stage is **Tuesday 2nd February 2021**. There will be a further opportunity to comment on the project later in the design development process.

Any comments submitted to Vattenfall on the proposal at this time are not representations to the determining authority (Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit). Should a formal Section 36 application for consent be submitted for this proposal there will be an opportunity at that time for people to submit formal comments to the determining authority.

This online exhibition is being held remotely in line with Scottish Government Covid-19 guidance on pre-application consultation events.

VATTENFALL

Go-ahead given for house and two cabins at Fishnish on Isle of Mull

Plans for two self-catering cabins near a ferry terminal on Mull have been given the go-ahead, writes Ellis Butcher.

A house and formation of access are also part of the plans for the site at Fishnish, close to the slipway for the Lochaline ferry.

A report by an Argyll and Bute Council planning officer said the development would 'readily integrate'.

The plans by Mr and Mrs Greenhalgh were explained by planning agents the Kearney Donald Partnership.

Their statement said: 'The site is situated in a long-established rural residential area, which

also includes a number of self-catering properties.

'The proposals are for a single storey residential house and two self-catering cabins (pods), providing a much-needed addition to the housing stock on the Isle of Mull and visitor (or self-catering) accommodation, respectively.

'The scale of the proposal is primarily driven by the accommodation requirements, however, also takes into account the size and distribution of nearby properties and the natural attributes of the site.'

The self-catering pods have been positioned within a wooded area of the site.

'The pods themselves would be raised slightly on stilts to ensure minimal disturbance on the land - they are small in footprint, single story, and screened from the road by trees,' said the planning agents.

'The overarching consideration of the proposal is to ensure the natural elements and character of the site work in harmony with the build.'

The council planning officer said it was an appropriate small scale development.

'There are also no significant adverse impacts on the woodland or natural heritage and there are no privacy or amenity issues.'

Skye project receives boost for coastal project

A Skye project is among 18 to have receive a slice of £194,349 funding from Historic Environment Scotland.

Climavore CIC has been awarded £13,816 for the Collective Coast project, which will focus on the coastline and waters on the Isle of Skye, work-

ing with intergenerational and marginalised groups to capture oral histories. Recordings, a short film, an exhibition, a series of radio shows and a cookbook will be developed.

Grants of £3,000 to £20,000 have been awarded to projects which deliver benefits to the

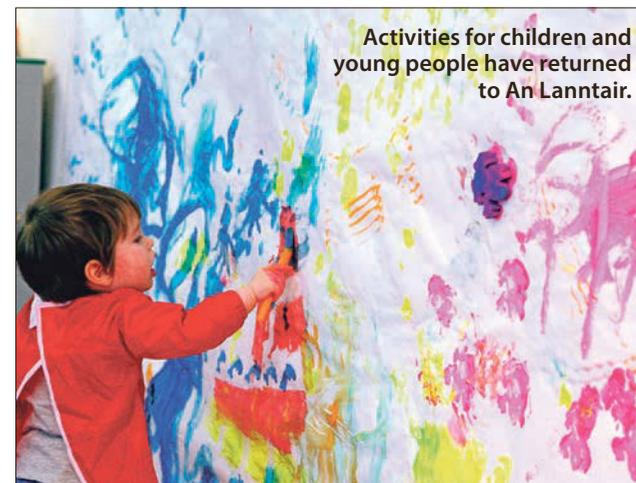
local community through outreach and education, repairs to stabilise historic or marine structures, developing traditional skills and increasing understanding of Scotland's coastal heritage, plus those working on measures to enhance resilience and adapt to climate change.

Family fun on Lewis better thanks to

While the stage is dark - there is no music, no dance, no theatre, nor stand-up comedy at An Lanntair arts centre at the moment - things are looking bright for youngsters on Lewis and Harris.

To date, the centre team has organised more than 400 creative sessions for children and families in community venues across Lewis and Harris since An Lanntair's Full Circle project started in November 2018 - adding to the charity's weekly Art Labs for young people run in Uig, Tarbert, Brager, Lionel and Stornoway over the past three years.

Now these popular activities have been restarted and expanded, with An Lanntair welcoming new staff into its education and outreach team, launching a range of Stepping Stones children and family workshops.



Activities for children and young people have returned to An Lanntair.

Removing barriers to accessing the arts, Full Circle delivered a programme of regular, free, high-quality arts activities, funded by the Aspiring Communities Fund, with support from the European Social Fund;

and has worked specifically with parents facing multiple disadvantages through Action for Children and Community Learning Development.

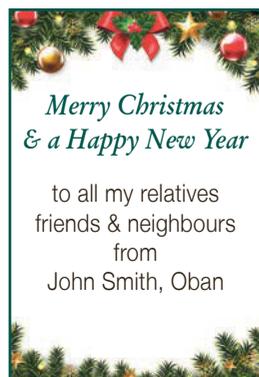
Moira Macdonald, Full Circle project manager, explained: 'Over the first 18

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

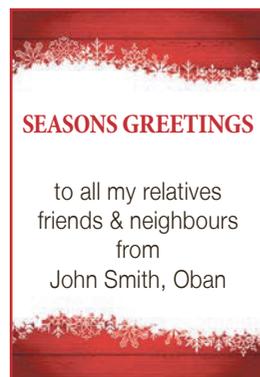
Published on 10th December

SEND A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO FRIENDS FOR JUST £20

A



B



C



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

OBAN TIMES, LOCHAVULLIN IND EST, OBAN PA34 4HB

phone in your message on 01631 568000 or email adverts@obantimes.co.uk

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

PAY BY CHEQUE / PO or Phone in your message quoting your Master Card/Visa Number

Deadline Friday 4th December. To appear Thursday 10th December

MESSAGE 20 words maximum

*NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

..... Tel.....

20 words maximum PRIVATE ADVERTISERS ONLY

A **B** **C**

PLEASE TICK A BOX FOR THE TEMPLATE YOU WISH TO USE.

*(NOT FOR PUBLICATION)

SUBSCRIBE

to Scottish Field and choose a **FREE** bottle of Glasgow Gin, Leith Gin or Arran Malt*

The Perfect Christmas gifts for those that love all things Scottish



Save 25% on the cover price only £10.69 per quarter delivered direct to your recipients door.

Call 01778 392014 and quote Noel1 or go to scottishfield.co.uk/subscriptions

The award winning monthly glossy lifestyle magazine. Scottish Field brings you the very best interiors, antiques, gardens, wildlife, motoring and country news along side entertaining and informative writing. Get ahead of the field and Christmas wrapped up with a subscription to Scottish Field magazine

*Terms and conditions apply. For over-18s and UK-based subscribers only. Minimum one year subscription to Scottish Field. Offer ends 31 Dec 2020. While stocks last. Limited stock available, first come, first served basis. By claiming this offer, you agree that you are of UK legal age for purchasing and consuming alcoholic drinks.

for the facts drinkaware.co.uk

Lewis just got to An Lanntair

months of the Full Circle project, Arts Workers Moira Maclean, Ruth O'Dell, Christine Richings and Heather Moger led creative sessions in community venues all over Lewis and Harris.

'Parents and grandparents in every venue got on board with the ethos of the project and joined in being creative with their child. The children had new experiences of making, playing and music; and importantly, the families got inspiration for incorporating creativity at home.'

Performer and theatre-maker Catriona Hill; multimedia artist Robbie Thomson, and sound and moving image artist Alicia Matthews have now joined the team of art workers, and, Covid-restrictions allowing, Stepping Stones will deliver a series of free-to-access, fun workshops to keep children

and young people entertained. Weekly Family Music and new Dance and Movement sessions for pre-school children and their parent or carer are taking place in community venues and online; with weekly Creative Play and Mini-Make sessions again happening in An Lanntair.

Art Labs is reopening - creative studio spaces for young people in various venues in Lewis and Harris - and the weekly Film Lab workshops return, delivering specialist tuition in film and documentary making to young islanders.

An Lanntair's education and outreach team continues its multi-artform activities with nurseries and Sgoil Araich, starting with the delivery of BirdBox, a themed resource box full of books, musical instruments, art materials and puppets, accompanied by ac-

tivity ideas, songs and videos.

A wealth of online resources are also available at www.lanntair.com - including a new online creative play initiative for young families to enjoy over winter - as the team keep adding to An Lanntair's downloadable resources and creative videos.

The downloadable Hebridean Handbook - created and beautifully illustrated by Lewis artist and teacher Alice Macmillan - proved extremely popular; and in a bid to ease pressures, An Lanntair also provided free family art packs, with art supplies sent to pre-school and primary-age children, as well as delivering a selection of art materials to children at Hillcrest, the local children's home run by Action for Children.

For full details, please visit www.lanntair.com

McCaig's Tower to turn purple

McCaig's Tower in Oban will glow with purple light on Thursday November 19 in recognition of World Pancreatic Cancer Day, writes Ellis Butcher.

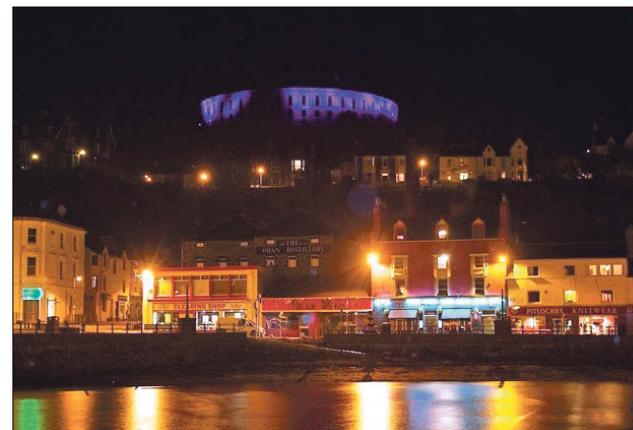
It is part of the Purple Lights for pancreatic cancer campaign organised by individuals affected by the disease.

It is a way to remember loved ones lost to pancreatic cancer as well as supporting those living with and beyond the disease, as well as raising vital awareness during Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month in November.

Adrian Beard, of Connel, has recently undergone major surgery to remove a tumour on his pancreas.

Through BID4OBan, he organised for McCaig's Tower to light up in memory and support of all those who are currently suffering or have passed away from the cruel disease. Adrian's mother passed away from it in May 2015.

Mr Beard said: 'I am delighted to be raising awareness of this dreadful disease by taking part in the Purple Lights for pancreatic cancer campaign.'



McCaig's Tower lit up in 2017.

'I hope that by lighting up McCaig's Tower in purple, I will help put a spotlight on a disease that many people still know so very little about.'

Purple Lights for pancreatic cancer is supported by UK based charities Pancreatic Cancer UK, Pancreatic Cancer Action, Planets and Guts UK.

The campaign involves lighting purple focal points in villages, towns and cities all over the UK on World Pancreatic Cancer Day which is on Thursday (November 19).

Almost 10,000 people are diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in the UK each year. Sadly, less than seven per cent of those diagnosed survive five years or more.

Despite being the UK's fifth biggest cancer killer, the disease receives only two per cent of UK cancer research funding.

Anyone who would like to take part or find out more about Purple Lights for pancreatic cancer, please visit purplelightsuk.org or e-mail info@purplelights.org.uk

COMPETITION TIME

WIN £200 OF LOVE OBAN VOUCHERS



With Christmas around the corner and pockets tightened this year wouldn't it be great to give that special someone exactly what they want!

Courtesy of our friends at BID4Oban, one lucky reader will win £200 worth of Love Oban Vouchers COMPLETELY FREE OF CHARGE.

All you have to do is collect 3 tokens over three weeks starting on 5th November, get them to us by 10am Thursday 26th November and you will be entered into a prize draw to win this fantastic prize.

What are you waiting for, give the gift of Oban and start collecting your tokens!

ENTRY FORM

Name.....
 Address

Telephone

email I have included my 3 tokens (please tick)

Your entry must be received by 10am Thursday 26th November. Send your entry to Oban Times, Love Oban Competition, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate Oban PA34 4HB

As part of BID4OBAN's commitment to encourage local people to spend locally, they introduced "Love Oban" a very straightforward voucher scheme that encourages local people to support local businesses.



HOW TO ENTER

All 3 tokens must be sent in a single envelope to Oban Times Love Oban Competition Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate Oban, PA34 4HB. One token from each week is required, multiple entries are allowed, but must be submitted in separate envelopes. Photocopied tokens will not be accepted. Winners must agree to take part in publicity. Employees of Wyvex Media Ltd and their immediate family are not eligible to enter. The editor's decision is final.

[View www.bid4oban.co.uk/love-oban/spending-vouchers/overview/](http://www.bid4oban.co.uk/love-oban/spending-vouchers/overview/) to find out where you can spend the vouchers.

T&Cs: Winner must be able to collect vouchers from the BID4Oban Office, 43 Stevenson Street, Oban PA34 5NA at 10.30am on Monday 30th November. Digital Subscribers, please email a copy of your digital subscription email with a screenshot of each token to adverts@obantimes.co.uk. You will be interviewed by one of our trained journalists and photographed and this will appear in the Oban Times on Thursday 3rd December. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition. Entry data will be deleted/disposed immediately upon the competition entry deadline and in a manner appropriate to GDPR regulations. Entrant's details will not be used for any other activity.

Music videos celebrate Scotland's nature reserves

Stunning videos, featuring award-winning compositions inspired by Scotland's national nature reserves, have been released by NatureScot and Highland arts organisation Fèis Rois.

The first competition of its kind in Scotland encouraged entrants to connect with nature by writing music inspired by the coasts and waters of Scotland's beautiful nature reserves, as part of the celebrations for the Year of Coasts and Waters 2020.

The 11 music videos are being launched online to help connect people to nature through music. The competition, In Tune With Nature/Air Ghleus le Nàdar, was judged by a panel of well-known faces from the Scottish music industry, including Gaelic singer Julie Fowlis; BBC broadcaster and journalist



Taynish nature reserve was the inspiration behind the music from Malin Lewis, a piper, fiddler and smallpipe maker from the Isle of Skye, and Roo Geddes and Neil Sutcliffe, musicians from Glasgow and Stirling respectively.

Vic Galloway; Scottish Music Centre Director Gill Maxwell; and singer-songwriter Karine Polwart. Compositions entered ranged from classical to pop, with songs written in Gaelic, Scots, Shetland dialect and English.

The winners each received a £500 cash prize and, when

Covid-19 restrictions were eased, had the opportunity to visit the nature reserve that inspired their music with filmmaker Graeme Roger from Wildbird. These compositions and accompanying videos, which feature footage recorded on the Isle of Rum, Beinn Eighe, Forvie, Isle of

May, Tentsmuir, Caerlaverock, Creag Meagaidh, Loch Leven and Taynish, are now available to watch on the NatureScot website.

Singer-songwriter, Iona Lane, whose entry was inspired by the Isle of Rum, said: 'The nature reserves in Scotland are all wonderfully beautiful

places. Having the opportunity to write music about the spectacular Isle of Rum was a true honour and a delight that kept me in touch with nature whilst being locked down in a city.

'Visiting Rum was even wilder than I could have imagined. Exploring an island that has nature, wildlife and sustainability at its heart was a terrific experience; one that I will never forget.'

Ben Ross, NatureScot's head of nature reserves, added: 'It's wonderful to see the creativity and love of nature shown in these pieces and videos. Under the lockdown, composers had to experience the nature of our amazing national nature reserves virtually or think back to past visits. So it's particularly fitting that they've been able to visit and have their music set to images of our lovely

nature reserves. These sites have such an amazing variety of wildlife, as well as stunning beaches, mountains, lochs and rivers for people to enjoy. It's hard not to be inspired by such beauty.'

Fiona Dalgetty, chief executive of Fèis Rois, commented: 'We were overwhelmed at the quality of entries for In Tune With Nature and it is a pleasure to finally be able to share the brilliant music and creativity produced during lockdown, and filmed in the nature reserves, that inspired the musicians. It has been important to us, over the last few months more than ever, to provide support and motivation for musicians whilst also providing people with new music to lift spirits.'

To watch the In Tune With Nature films, please visit <https://bit.ly/3f4JM53>.

CALLING ALL BUSINESSES IN OBAN

APPLY NOW

FOR YOUR BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT GRANT

Business Improvement Grants 2020/2021

OPEN NOW

BID4Oban (Oban Business Improvement District) has been awarded £21,000 to support businesses within the BID Levy Area to improve the appearance of Shopfronts or alternatively Signage for businesses that may be located in some of the commercial areas of the town as part of the £63,000 Town Regeneration Fund from the Scottish Government.

Since its inception, BID4Oban has provided Improvement Grants in excess of £62,000 including £12,000 over 2020, some of which was to enable businesses to change their business models to enable outside trading. The new award will be combined with a further £7000 from BIDS own funds delivering a total funding pot of £28,000.

To find out about the terms and conditions visit www.bid4oban.co.uk

Many businesses have benefited from these grants to greatly improve the appearance of their business. **Lets us help you today!**

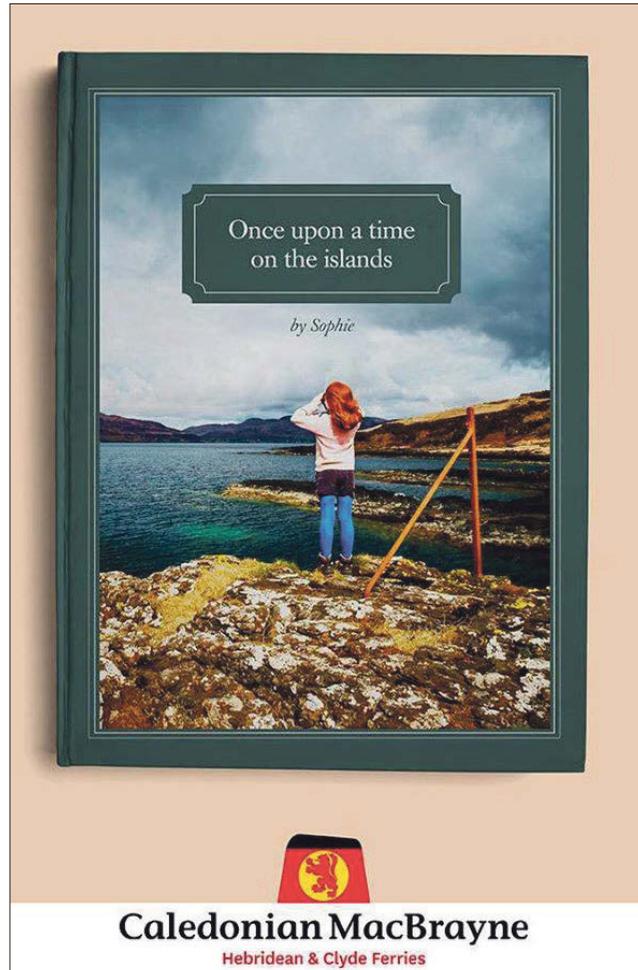


Oban Business Improvement District

www.bid4oban.co.uk



CalMac campaigns win top marketing awards



CalMac's marketing team won gold for its campaign Every Journey Tells a Story at the Marketing Society Star Awards 2020 virtual ceremony in October.

Advertising campaigns launched to raise awareness of CalMac and to attract passengers have landed top industry awards for its marketing team.

The UK's largest ferry operator won gold for Every Journey Tells a Story and bronze for #SeeUistSoon at the Marketing Society Star Awards 2020 virtual ceremony last month.

Welcoming the awards, CalMac head of marketing Andrew MacNair said: 'We are absolutely delighted with this recognition. I am really happy that the team's hard work has been recognised by the marketing industry.'

'Using video and attractive imagery combined with storytelling really helps us to promote the beauty of the destinations throughout the network.'

'These campaigns are fantastic examples of the fact that CalMac is extremely committed to supporting local communities, and we look forward to working with them on future campaigns.'

Graeme Atha, director of the Marketing Society, added: 'The Star Awards have been developed in line with the Marketing Society Scotland vision to help build a vibrant marketing community renowned for enlightened thinking, innovation and creativity.'

'With more than 100 judges involved, we also believe we have a very robust and transparent evaluation process in place.'

'To make one of the shortlists is a significant achievement and to win a Star Award is a real cause for celebration. We are delighted that

CalMac, as one of the fabric brands in Scotland, won bronze in the PR category and gold in the tourism category – especially in one of the most challenging years for the industry.'

Working with the Frame agency, CalMac's marketing team created Every Journey Tells a Story to promote its ability to help passengers take adventures and create special memories.

It brought to life people's real stories about embarking on a journey by sea and the emotion connected to the locations it serves.

The campaign achieved the highest increase in web visits to date, the highest ever social media reach of 2.5 million, and the biggest year-on-year ticket sales.

CalMac worked closely with Outer Hebrides Tourism and

Clarion Communications to design and launch #SeeUistSoon in a bid to attract visitors to the Uists.

The campaign included an Instagram-friendly map which detailed the best locations for taking images.

The maps showed the best photography opportunities, as well as the best traditional sights.

Island residents were encouraged to identify the most 'Instagram-able' spots and proceeds from the map sales went to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI).

This campaign resulted in 650,000 social media reach and a media coverage reach of 10 million.

Outer Hebrides Tourism increased its Instagram and Twitter following by 1,582 per cent and 43 per cent respectively.

ONLINE OPEN WEEK 23 - 26 NOVEMBER

Find your future and prepare for your UCAS applications, come along to one of our live events or book a personalised one-on-one chat with us about your interests and career goals.

BOOK YOUR PLACE

whc.uhi.ac.uk/opendays
01397 874 000

University of the Highlands and Islands
West Highland College

Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd agus nan Eilean
Colaiste na Gàidhealtachd an Iar

2021-22 PROSPECTUS
whc.uhi.ac.uk/prospectus
Online now!

West Highland College UHI is a company limited by guarantee (SC153921) with charitable status (SC024193)

OT

LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to editor@obantimes.co.uk
or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

Timely festive cheer

The announcement earlier this week that a number of organisations and clubs will benefit from the latest round of Oban Common Good Fund cash is great news.

The last nine months have been so difficult for everyone that some good news – and some festive cheer – was long overdue.

The town will really sparkle and shine thanks to the £7,300 being given to BID4Oban to pay for the installation of the town's lights and to buy new lights for trees for outside The Rockfield Centre and in Argyll Square.

And that's fantastic news Oban Community Skatepark also got an early Christmas present bringing it £5,000 closer to its fundraising goal for a feasibility study.

The group has waited so long to get to this point, so it's good to see things moving forward.

Passing of Len Scoullar

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Argyll and Bute Provost Len Scoullar after a battle with illness.

Councillor Scoullar served the Bute community faithfully for 20 years as a councillor and as the region's provost since 2013.

Our condolences are extended to his family.

The editor welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. However we reserve the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime phone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters will not be printed. Please email: editor@obantimes.co.uk or write to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.



The views expressed on our letters page are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of The Oban Times.

At the Oban Times we endeavour to ensure that all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time. If we have published anything that is factually incorrect, please email: editor@obantimes.co.uk; telephone on 01631 568000; or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timely, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO by email: inquiries@ipso.co.uk. We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

Fionnphort ferry berth

I refer to the planning application for a new breakwater and overnight ferry berth in Fionnphort 20/01499/PP.

There is to be no public consultation or environmental impact assessment and residents should have more opportunity to consider the impact of this development.

The rock breakwater will be 3.4 metres higher than the existing pier, obscuring much of Iona from the slipway and disregarding Local Development Plans 3,4 'conserving our outstanding environment'. I see no additional economic benefit to the community from the breakwater – see LDP 5 'supporting sustainable growth of our economy'. A similar height of breakwater is planned on Iona.

The current overnight berth makes it the only UK ferry that cannot be serviced by road, our hardy ferry crews putting the vessel into service by dinghy. CalMac created this problem when it built the overnight berth on another island instead of providing vehicular access on Mull to service its ferry.

CMAL will soon commission a bigger ferry for the route, requiring ongoing dredging at the slipway. Sediments will be shipped to Port Ellen for 'safe disposal'. The replacement hybrid vessel will require a powerful electricity shore connection to charge batteries for propulsion. However, Fionnphort has inadequate distribution and Scottish and Southern Energy Networks previously stated that future demand for the electrification of public transport would need to be met from renewable energy. Until then the ferry will presumably be charged overnight from a diesel generator in Fionnphort.

The planning application does not acknowledge electricity networks as a constraint and it makes no provision for generator noise or CO2 emissions. This does not meet with LDP STRAT 1 – policy for sustainable development, 2019 Climate Change Act, or LDP 10 'maximising our resources and reducing our consumption'.

This is an estimated £8.3m opportunity to harness wave energy and reduce CO2 emissions on the most iconic route in Argyll.

Nigel Burgess, Kintra, Mull.

Ganavan Sands shock

I was shocked to hear that there is a proposal to site mobile homes on the car park at Ganavan Sands. I cannot imagine that this idea has been at all well thought through.

This is a very well used area, enabling the people of Oban and visitors to benefit from the beautiful environment. Indeed, I believe the land

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

ailean@obantimes.co.uk

Cha mhiste sgeul mhath aithris dà uair! Gu cinnteach chan ann dà uair na mìle uair a thèid sgeul a' gheama ball-coise eadar-nàiseanta ud aig Alba ann am Belgràd innse, thar iomadh bliadhna! Cha b' urrainn dhan sgeulaiche a b' fheàrr farpais a dhealbh 's a sgrìobhadh le barrachd boil-aighir, iomagain, agus sàr thoileachas aig deireadh cùise, agus b' e tàmailt darribh a bh' ann gun d' fhàg riaghailtean dìon bhon choròna-bhioras nach robh e ceadaichte dha luchd-taice a bhith an làthair gus a' bhuil eachdraidheil seo dha Alba fhàicinn.

Ach bu mhath gun robh cothrom againn an gèam fhàicinn air telebhisean agus chuala sinn beagan chlàraidhean fuaime gan cluich gus fair-eachadh taice a thoirt dha na cluicheadairean, agus 's neònach gun cualas riamh roimhe ceathramhan den tionndadh aig Runrig air Loch Laomainn gun seinn an ire mhath gun sgar fad còrr air dà uair a thìde! Bha a' bhuaidh na bu mhilse buileach dha sluaigh na Gàidhealtachd leis gur e fear de na balaich againn fhìn, Ryan Christie, a chuir an tadhal do dh'Alba agus gun teagamh tha sinn moiteil à sàr chluicheadair òg! An dèidh dà bhliadhna air fhichead tha cothrom gu bhith againn sgioba Alba fhàicinn ann am farpais eadar-nàiseanta a-rithist, agus bidh an aon dùbhlán romhpa anns gach gèam! Thug subhachas buil a' bhuill-coise, agus a'

mhoit anns an sgioba, m' inntinn gu na mìltean air an robh a' mhòr-chuid againn a' cuimhneachadh air an t-seachdain a chaidh is sinn a' comharrachadh seachdadh is còig bliadhna bho chrìochnaich an Dàrna Cogadh. Gun spèis sam bith àicheadh dhan sgioba spòrs bhuail e orm gun deach uimhir de dhaoine òga a chall is iad ri uchd bualaidh cogaidh a' coileanadh gaisge nach tuigeadh ach neach a bha thall 's a chunnaic, agus nach d' fhuair aithne riamh airson na rinn iad. 'S math gu dearbh gun do thàrr uimhir às lem beatha agus gun d' fhuair iad dhachaigh gun cuid theaghlaichean agus gu beatha "àbhaisteach" a-rithist.

Tha fianais air cho ain-deònach 's a bha, is a tha, mòran de na laoch sin gus bruidhinn air na chunnaic 's na dh'fhuiling iad na dhearbhadh air cuimhneachain chràiteach a dh'iarradh iad a leigeil à cuimhne ach a tha tric nan tinneas inntinn leantainneach dhaibhsan a b' fheudar a bhith an cogadh. Ged a tha feadhainn aca a dh'fhoillsicheas an cuid bhuinn-cuimhne cogaidh le moit, agus tha làn-chòir aca sin a dhèanamh, tha cuimhne gheur agam air mar a thuir aon seann saighdear rium. "Cha do chuir mi orm riamh iad! Greadhnachas, airson a bhith a' marbhadh co-chreutairean!"

Bu mhath an t-amas dhuinn uile a bhith a' stri gus a bhith airidh air deagh chuimhne!

was gifted, in perpetuity, to the community for the health and well-being of all.

Given the lack of parking in the surrounding area and the low frequency of public transport, this proposal would prevent the existing access, currently enjoyed by all who visit. It would, in my opinion, create the very opposite outcome as enshrined in the original deed.

One also wonders about whether the existing infrastructure would be sufficient to cope with more properties. Additionally, in terms of the environment, has an impact assessment been carried out?

In conclusion, I would urge the local authority to reject this proposal and continue to ensure that the beach remains a wonderful asset for the community of Oban and everyone else to enjoy.

C Jess, send in by email

Churches need our support

My thoughts have returned to the recent letters regarding support for our priests and churches.

It seems that Covid is going to remain with us for longer and despite a chance to revise availability for all these support schemes, places of worship and priests were excluded yet again.

Why did we not use the time during the past schemes to look for the areas that we missed? I am sure there are plenty of them and rather than providing support with all the restrictions possibly returning, we are sentencing them to further decline.

If someone thinks that being a priest is only about caring for spiritual needs, they are truly mistaken. They are an integral part of our culture and community. Our priest is a valued member of Morar Community Council. I am a crofter myself and when one of my cows got stuck in a bog, Fr Stan was there along with other men to help me in my time of need. This is what community and support is about.

Are we truly going to forget about them and our churches?

Mairead Macdonald, Morar.



Mince Tarts

Ingredients

- Low calorie cooking spray

For the pastry:

- 225g plain flour
- pinch of salt
- 110g low-fat spread or butter
- Cold water, for mixing

For the filling:

- 16 level tbsp mincemeat
- 1 level tbsp icing sugar for dusting

• 2½ Syns each • 45 minutes • Makes 32

Santa will love these Slimming World mince pies!

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 190°C/170°C Fan/Gas Mark 5. Lightly spray some bun trays with low calorie cooking spray.
2. Make the pastry. Sift the flour and salt into a mixing bowl. Add the fat, cut up into little pieces. Gently rub it in with your fingertips. Add sufficient cold water to mix to a ball that leaves the sides of the bowl clean. Rest in the refrigerator for 30 minutes.
3. Roll out the pastry thinly on a lightly floured surface. Cut out 32 rounds with a 7½cm fluted cutter. Use to line the prepared bun tins.
4. Divide the mincemeat between the pastry cases. Roll out the remaining pastry trimmings and make some little stars with a small star cutter. Use to decorate the tops of the tarts.
5. Bake in the preheated oven for about 15 minutes, until the pastry is crisp and lightly coloured. Cool on a wire rack and dust lightly with sifted icing sugar.

Groups are Open!

Venue & Virtual classes

Oban Glencruitten Church Hall
Wednesday 9.30am-12pm, 4.30pm-6.30pm

Fort William - Salvation Army Hall
Monday 9.30am-12pm
Thursday 3.30pm-7pm

Please call/message Gillian 07796 040803



touching hearts, changing lives

Detailed recipes available at:
slimmingworld.co.uk

DISTRICT NEWS

'Water' special delivery for Islay

A special delivery has landed on Islay to improve water services on the island and help affordable housing.

As part of a £2.5 million Scottish Water investment, a state-of-the-art Transportable Treatment Unit (TTU) made its way under police escort across land and sea to its new home at Torra Water Treatment Works (WTW) on the island. The new equipment, transported from Rosshire Engineering's specialist factory in Muir of Ord, where it was built and partially commissioned off-site, will provide capacity for an additional 70,000 litres of drinking water each day. It means supplies from the existing Torra WTW will be boosted from about 810,000 litres of water to around 1,900 customers in Bowmore and Port Ellen.

The investment is part of an ongoing programme of works for the island and will be a help to housing developments similar to those already happening in Imereval and Bowmore.

Scottish Water Project Manager Anoushka Ainslie-McAlpine said: 'With the commissioning of this TTU, we'll be able to produce up to 70,000 additional litres of fresh drinking water every day. This will provide resilience by lessening some of the strain on the local network and reduce the risk of requiring to bring in additional water by tanker. Thanks go to Argyll



The new water treatment unit arrives on Islay.

and Bute Council and the community for their collaboration and support to get this work under way. We will continue to work closely with them over the months ahead to deliver the long-term benefits of the project, while minimising short term disruption as far as we can.'

Argyll and Bute Council granted planning consent for the new treatment building at the existing Torra WTW in 2019. Planning for a

new pipebridge has also been approved. It will cross the River Torra north east of the treatment works supporting a short section of the two kilometres of new water main being fitted north of Torra WTW. It is expected the TTU will be operational from spring 2021, once the installation of the new raw water main, being carried out by Colin Logan Contractors Ltd, has been completed.

At random

MARTIN LAING

editor@obantimes.co.uk



Positively inspiring

When I picked up last week's Oban Times, I was instantly struck by the wonderful sense of community togetherness across the town.

While there were the usual hard news stories from court and about Covid, there were so many articles chronicling the superb efforts by countless people in our area.

In no particular order or degree of importance, and with apologies to anyone I miss out, it was heartwarming to read of the £7,000 raised in memory of Brian MacDonald for Motor Neurone Disease, of the efforts by Oban's Salvation Army to gather gifts in its annual Christmas appeal to help disadvantaged children and of the linking up of Royal Mail with Hope Kitchen to do likewise.

Then there is the role of BID4Oban - yes, I mentioned it and its estimable chief executive Andy Spence last week - in organising the festive window dressing competition for businesses.

What a shame the splendid Oban Winter Festival cannot go ahead this year. It's a real blow for organiser Pamela Lockhart and her colleagues, though she will hate me for singling her out.

There was also the tale of the Oban Access Panel, which is striving to improve the lives of our neighbours living with disabilities. And there are many more.

Well done to everyone who gives so selflessly to make the Oban area such a great place to live and work.

Fairway to heaven!

It would be remiss of me to pen this week's ramblings without giving a nod to the fantastic success story that is Bob MacIntyre.

Young Bob set the heather alight last year when he won the Rookie of the Year gong on golf's European Tour and he followed that up this month with his inaugural title win and held aloft the handsome Cyprus Challenge tournament trophy.

It was a landmark achievement for the Oban sports star and will, I am sure, be just the first of many more to come.

What do you think? Send your comments to editor@obantimes.co.uk

GRAB a voucher for household furniture covid help

Lorn and Oban Reuse Initiative (LORI) is doing its bit to help families and individuals affected by the Covid crisis.

Households in and around Oban looking for essential items of furniture like tables, chairs, sofas and beds but struggling to make ends meet can now receive up to 30 per cent discount on goods bought from LORI.

The charity, which diverts more than 70 tonnes of furniture and household goods from landfill annually, has received grant support from the

Foundation Scotland Response, Recovery and Resilience (RRR) Fund administered through Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface.

The funds will be matched by LORI's to maximise the number of people who can be supported under the scheme.

GRAB Trust General Manager Graham Love said: 'The RRR Fund will help LORI support families and individuals at point of need. Vouchers are obtained at LORI and staff are on-hand to help.

'Covid-19 is having an impact on local employment, particularly in the hospitality, retail and service sectors.

'The new voucher scheme is designed to help support anyone needing a bit of extra help to get by in the Covid crisis.'

Situated at the civic amenity site south of Oban at Moleigh, LORI is accredited by Zero Waste Scotland and is one of a network of more than 130 reuse centres across Scotland offering quality reuse goods.

Sponsored by your local Citizens Advice team - They need you!

Volunteers now required in Oban.

Call **01546 60 5550** or email **info@abcab.org.uk** to find out more.



Gordon & Strathern Ltd HOME IMPROVEMENTS



Porches, Extensions, Roofline, Windows & Doors

TEL 01631 720074 or 07776402550
sales@homeimprovementsargyll.co.uk
www.homeimprovementsargyll.co.uk



Workshops available to let

Sizes ranging from 62 Sqm to 1500 Sqm on secure business park site
Onsite offices, accommodation, internal and external storage space
Flexible lease terms available

Contact MACC Developments Ltd Office on 01586 551555 or enquiries@maccdl.co.uk for further information



BUSINESS NEWS

Chalmers returns after seven months

Staff at Chalmers are back at work in Oban after the store reopened for the first time since lockdown.

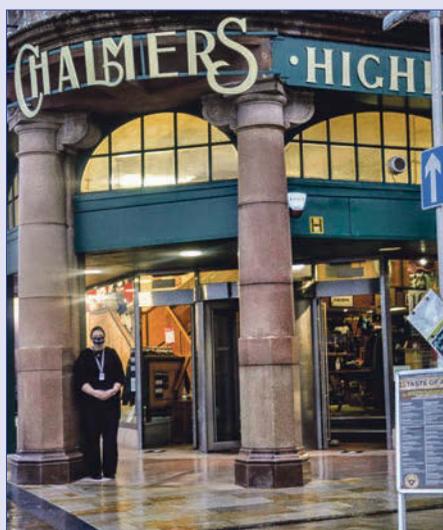
The premises at 42-46 George Street was swiftly transformed and restocked after word came through it could start trading again, despite its parent company, Edinburgh Woollen Mill, having formally entered administration.

Manager Helen Hetherington thanked all those customers who had supported the store so far.

Of the first day back, she said: 'It was a good day. We saw some familiar faces and it was lovely being back. It's mostly locals but we have seen a few tourists. All I would say is keep coming and keep supporting us.'

It is hoped a strong run-up to Christmas could see the shop saved after its near neighbour across Argyll Street had to close with the loss of up to four jobs.

Trading at Chalmers is said to date back 197 years with the distinctive building a landmark on Oban's seafront.



Manager Helen Hetherington outside the reopened Chalmers shop in Oban.

Tourism meeting hears of concern for the future

by Ellis Butcher
ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk



The leader of the Scottish Conservatives has met with Oban and Lorn tourism businesses to discuss their concerns.

Douglas Ross MP held a discussion via Zoom to hear about the future of the sector from a Highlands and Islands perspective.

Among those taking part were representatives from the Oban, Lorn Tourism Alliance (OLTA) and the Heart of Argyll Tourism Alliance.

After the event, Mr Ross said it was clear hospitality and tourism businesses in rural areas had been among the hardest hit by the coronavirus pandemic.

'This meeting with local stakeholders was invaluable to listen to their concerns and discuss what further support is required,' he said.

'It is clear the SNP Government need to do more to safeguard jobs and livelihoods in these vital sectors.'

Victoria Winters, a volunteer for the Heart of Argyll Tourism Alliance, said the discussion was welcomed.

She said: 'The meeting was an excellent opportunity to have an open discussion about the current crisis.'

She said issues included official guidance being published at the last minute, the impact of tier restrictions and smaller hotels and 'portfolio' businesses which are typical of the rural economy not fitting into categories for support.

She said they also touched on wider challenges that will affect the future economy such as crumbling infrastructure - 'literally, in the case of the A83'.

Also taking part was Donald Cameron MSP, shadow health secretary at Holyrood and a Highlands and Islands MSP.

He said: 'The feedback was very clear that while the furlough scheme has been a big help, too many businesses are missing out on other forms



Scottish Conservatives leader Douglas Ross, left, at an previous meeting with Donald Cameron MSP in Oban.

of assistance. A common complaint is that the Scottish Government's approach is too focused on the needs of big business in the Central Belt and that smaller, independent family-run firms, especially hotels which are so important here in the Highlands and Islands, are falling between the cracks.

'Tourism and hospitality is too important for the Highlands and Islands' economy to be allowed to wither away and Holyrood needs to wake up to the scale of the challenge we are facing here.'

The Scottish Government was approached for a comment.

Mr Ross added that Rishi Sunak, chancellor to the UK Government, had stepped up and delivered an extra £1.7 billion of funding to Scotland in recent weeks.

'That's money the SNP need to deliver to businesses immediately to protect jobs that are at risk and to ensure these businesses survive,' said Mr Ross.

In a separate intervention, Brian Wilson, a former Scottish Labour Party MP and chairman of Harris Tweed Hebrides, has called on the UK Government to abandon plans to end tax-free shopping for international visitors from the end of the year.

Mr Wilson, who lives on the Isle of Lewis and is a former UK trade minister under Tony Blair, has written to Mr Sunak.

He said that with retail and the supply sector 'reeling under the effects' of coronavirus and the 'decimation' of international tourism, it was 'frankly incomprehensible' to be thinking about getting rid of tax-free shopping.

He pointed out the proposed measure would leave the UK as the only place in the EU not to offer it.

'Since shopping is invariably quoted in every survey as one of the primary attractions for overseas visitors to the UK, it is difficult to see why you would want to discourage it in this way,' wrote Mr Wilson.

Wylie & Bisset giving free business advice to steer Scottish businesses through the Coronavirus crisis

Do you have a business that, through no fault of your own, finds itself confronting various pressing business problems as a direct result of the government restrictions to quell the spread of COVID-19?

CALL OUR DEDICATED HELPLINE

There are various options available to businesses and if you need a sounding board or to speak to a financial expert about your options, we are here to listen and offer free advice.

info@wyliebisset.com www.wyliebisset.com

**Call now on
0141 566 7096**

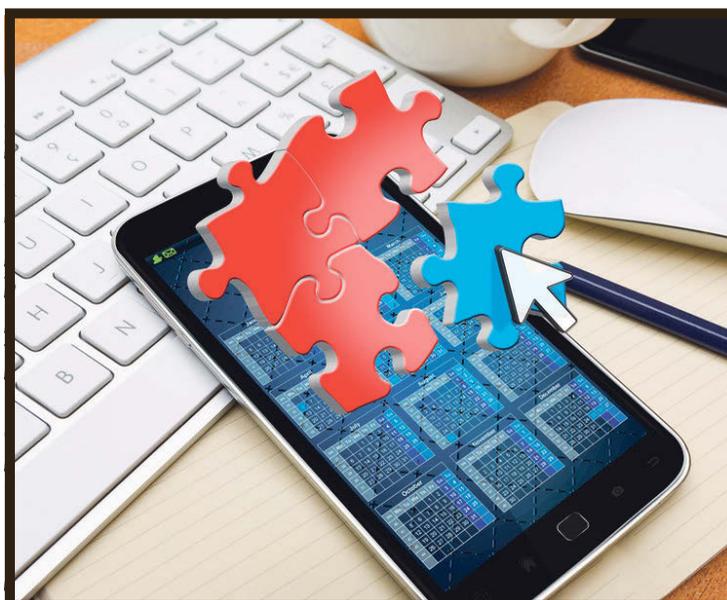
Wylie + Bisset
Chartered Accountants, Business & Tax Advisers

4 High Street, Oban, Argyll PA34 4BG

Tel: 01631 562478

168 Bath Street,
Glasgow G2 4TP

Tel: 0141 566 7000



Send us your business news by emailing editor@obantimes.co.uk or call 01631 568000

Firm makes a splash in South Atlantic

by Ellis Butcher
ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk



An Oban company has secured a contract to help a remote tropical island in the South Atlantic Ocean.

Tritonia Scientific, based at Dunstaffnage Marina, was selected ahead of international bidders to lead a project on the volcanic island of St Helena, a British Overseas Territory.

Situated 1,210 miles off the west coast of Africa and 2,500 from the east coast of South America, the island has rapidly become a haven for divers.

Its waters are home to a wide variety of tropical fish, shipwrecks and large marine animals such as whale sharks, which can grow as long as 62ft and have been estimated to live as long as 130 years.

Tritonia Scientific has now won the job of leading a feasibility study into the viability of siting a recompression centre on the island to treat divers when they get into difficulty.

'It was very satisfying when we heard and a great reward for all the effort put into the submission.'

Its work for St Helena will involve providing a range of recompression options which will be considered by the government there.

Martin Sayer, managing director of Tritonia Scientific, said: 'We have been in contact with St Helena regarding this study for many months.'

'However, when it went out for international tender we were not confident of getting the work. So it was very satisfying when we heard and a great reward for all the effort put into the submission.'

The latest contract win is far from being Tritonia's first overseas client.

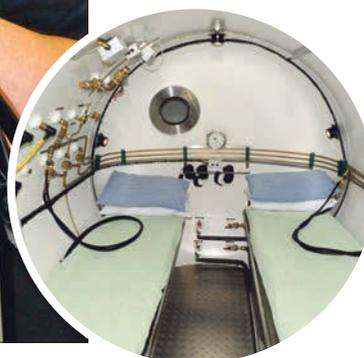
The firm already partners on some European programmes, has conducted work in Thailand and has a contract in Angola, south west Africa.

In addition to St Helena, it is also conducting operations in the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the Indian Ocean and acts as diving consultants to the British Antarctic Survey.

As for whether a trip to St Helena is on the



Tritonia Scientific's managing director Martin Sayer; and inset, Tritonia Scientific's Recompression Chamber at Dunstaffnage Marina.



cards for local staff, it appears coronavirus has put paid to that for the time being. Mr Sayer explained: 'The contract initially had funding for site visits.'

'Covid has impacted those plans so the study will be desk-based for now. Once travel restrictions are lifted, site visits may be required. The new airport has made St Helena more accessible but being a remote island in the southern mid-Atlantic still means travel is complicated.'

'There are daily flights from South Africa; these take about six hours and require a refuelling stop on the way.'

Tritonia employs eight full-time staff and owns and manages the recompression chamber at Dunstaffnage.

It is one of only three NHS-registered units in Scotland.

Before the company was established in 2018, most of its staff worked at the UK's National Facility for Scientific Diving, hosted at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS).

The recompression chamber at Dunstaffnage was located at SAMS from 1970 but SAMS stopped running it in 2018.

The Oban unit provides emergency year-round cover for diving incidents for the west coast of Scotland.

The company sub-contracts medical support to Lorn Medical Centre, Oban, which is responsible for providing on-call doctors specially trained in diving and hyperbaric medicine.

No word on future of Oban Argos

The future of Oban Argos appears unclear after the company announced plans to shut 420 branches across the UK, writes Ellis Butcher.

The move by owners Sainsbury's will see just 100 standalone stores left by 2024 as part of a far-reaching 'review' of its estate. It plans instead to open 350 smaller Argos stores at existing Sainsbury's supermarkets.

Collection points for Argos customers could also be added to other supermarkets and convenience stores, it said.

Sainsbury's was asked about the future of the Oban branch but said it had not yet released a list of which stores will close. The Oban branch remains open.

A consultation with staff is under way and some will be given a chance to have alternative roles within the business, the company said in a statement.

The majority of Sainsbury's stores in Scotland are across the central belt with none located in Argyll and Bute.

Since being closed in March, a total of 120 Argos stores have not reopened and will remain closed, Sainsbury's said.

Simon Roberts, chief executive of J Sainsbury PLC, said Argos sales had been strong over the past six months and it had gained almost two million new customers.

Mr Roberts said: 'Over the next three years we will make Argos a simpler, more efficient and more profitable business while still offering customers convenience and value and improving availability. We will work really hard to find alternative roles for as many colleagues as possible. Given the unprecedented circumstances of this year and the challenges facing our colleagues, I have informed the board I will waive any bonus entitlement for this financial year.'

**ORDER IN-STORE,
BY PHONE OR ONLINE**

COME AND VISIT OUR BATHROOM SHOWROOM

THE BATHROOM SHOWROOM

CITY PLUMBING SUPPLIES

the-bathroom-showroom.co.uk

OPEN: MON-FRI 7.30AM-5PM, SAT 8AM-12PM

WEEKLY VISITS TO MULL

Browse online at
www.cityplumbing.co.uk
Tel: 01631 657640

Grace in all its glories...

Morvern Lines

IAIN THORNER

ian.thorner@btinternet.com



Unless you have a member of the clergy visiting or staying with you and it comes to meal times, the chances are you are not likely to hear a grace or a blessing being said these days, although I know there are exceptions to this rule in some parts of the country.

I always feel there is something more than just quaint hearing Grace in a private house and perhaps, for that reason, it is always the more interesting. Even better if you are asked to give one and can!

If invited to do so there are some general rules to be observed. 1 This is not the opportunity to demonstrate your skills in the creation of rhyming doggerel; 2 It is not an opportunity to poke fun at colleagues or make 'in' comments about whatever concerns you and your friends outside the dining room or away from the table; 3 It is not the place to perform some hideous kowtowing or other ingratiating homage to the guest of honour; 4 You are not at a stand up comedy club.

Why say Grace or listen to a blessing? It is an occasion for the person saying it to lead those present into a place of thanks and reflection for the fare that is being placed before them. It is an opportunity to give thanks for the fellowship about to be had, and for those with whom it will be had. It is a chance, especially in a military or veterans setting, to remember those who are serving; a place to remember those who have served and to give thanks for service and commitment. At the right time and in the right place, it is an opportunity to give people the space to remember those who would once have been at table with you but are no longer here. It's a space for reflection – not eulogies. Do this wrong and you can destroy the whole thing.

The Grace can be delivered with humour and also be topical, but it is not the light entertainment before the meal. Some are awful. A good example of this being: 'May we not be like porridge, cold and stodgy, but like cornflakes, crisp and ready to serve!' And, of course, there's that wonderful Grace so favoured by travellers: 'God of goodness, bless our food, keep us in a pleasant mood. Bless the chef and all who serve us, and from indigestion, Lord, preserve us.



Miss Catriona Maclean of Ardgour following her ordination as the first woman elder in the Church of Scotland 1966. Photograph, the Oban Times Archives

Amen.' Or another old chestnut: 'For well-filled plate and brimming cup, and freedom from the washing up. We thank you, Lord. Amen.'

Length is often critical in Scripture and well summed up by Robert Leighton (1611-1684) Bishop of Dunblane and Principal of Edinburgh University, who used to say to his curates: 'So much the better the longer the text be, and the shorter the sermon be; for it is greatly to be suspected that our usual way of very short texts and very long sermons is apt to weary people more, and profit them less.'

The Rev Horace Newton (1844-1920) who owned Glencripesdale Estate, Morvern, was deeply religious. A canon in the Church of England, his prayers before meals were so long that the glass bowl of the coffee percolator would often over-heat and burst before he drew breath. John, the butler, would be summoned to deal with the mess bringing the rant to a close. One of the canon's great nieces told me that she and her sisters always prayed for an early explosion, especially on a fine morning when they wanted away to the hill or the river.

The Highlander's Grace was another marathon. I do not know who wrote it but it has the

touch of Harry Lauder about it: 'Lord of the glens and the bens, and the hills and the stills and the gills and half-mutchkins – hear our prayers. Bless all the big Floras and the wee Floras, and the big Archies and the wee Archies, and the Ranalds and Donalds and Dugalds and the rest of us, moreover. Bless all our wee cows and wee sows and our brave policemen, especially and send them blessings too. And Lord don't forget to send us some whisky, and after that, some more whisky; and send us hills of joy, and mountains of love, and rivers of prose, and oceans of whisky more especially. And Lord bless all our bonnie bagpipers too, moreover; and send them wind, Lord, gales of wind to fill their pipes. Lord, bless our big cows and our wee cows, and our big sows and our wee sows, and our policemen in particular. Make them brave, Lord, and always ready with their batons to knock 'tarnation' out of the Lowlanders. And don't forget, bless us all today and tomorrow, and the morning before, and Lord, do not forget the whisky, and the glory be thine for evermore. Amen.'

Hearing that, it would be a relief to turn to the Naval Grace, said to be one of the shortest.

The captain asks: 'Is there a padre aboard? No Sir, thank God' – ministers and coffins being considered bad luck at sea.

Four years ago Catriona Monro, a daughter of the manse, whose maternal family have lived in Ardgour for many centuries, published a lovely book called We'll Say the Blessing, which was a gathering of illustrated Graces. Ranging from the quaint to the light hearted, it caught the imagination of all ages and before long readers and friends were clamouring for more and offering suggestions. Inspired by its popularity Catriona has now produced a second volume with the same title and, like the first, is a pictorial kaleidoscope of Graces and memories.

In her introduction Catriona tells how it was based on her mother's Grace book which she started after her husband Ronald Torrie died in 1996. Ronald, a minister in the Church of Scotland, served in several parishes, from Kilchoman and Bruichladdich on Islay to Birnie and Pluscarden in Morayshire, with Gibraltar in between. Grace was always said before, or after, meals wherever the family went.

Catriona's dedication is doubly appropriate.



NORTH WEST MARINE
DIVING & MARINE SPECIALISTS

SPONSORS OF THE OBAN TIMES WEATHER AND TIDES

7 E Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HG
T: 01631 565740 F: 01631 565780
M: 07836 366419
Em: enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk
Web: www.northwestmarine.co.uk

**Chain, shackles and buoys
all available to purchase**

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday November 19, 2020** are listed below with differences for major ports listed underneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Thur	02.10	1.0	08.02	3.9
	14.42	1.1	20.16	3.5
Fri	02.58	1.2	08.51	3.6
	15.35	1.4	21.02	3.1
Sat	03.52	1.5	09.49	3.4
	16.35	1.7	22.01	2.9
Sun	04.54	1.7	11.20	3.2
	17.46	1.9	***	**
Mon	00.32	2.7	06.07	1.8
	13.16	3.2	19.13	1.9
Tues	02.08	2.8	07.32	1.8
	14.18	3.3	20.27	1.9
Wed	02.51	3.0	08.41	1.6
	14.59	3.4	21.15	1.7

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardishaig	-5.35	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Lochboisdale	+0.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Mallaig	+0.25	Dover	+5.30

WEATHER

Thursday
Sunny intervals / moderate breeze
Temperatures 5°C to 7°C.

Friday
Heavy rain with a moderate breeze
Temperatures 10°C to 12°C.

WEEKEND OUTLOOK

Saturday
Light rain and a fresh breeze
Temperatures 7°C to 11°C.

Sunday
Light rain and a moderate breeze
Temperatures 6°C to 9°C.

FRIDAY FORECAST



HIGH 12 LOW 10

14 MPH



Ardgour House – the ancestral home of the Macleans of Ardgour.

Photograph supplied by Iain Thornber.

It is to her Aunt Riona (1919-1988) after whom she is named. Miss Catriona Maclean, 17th Laird of Ardgour, was an enormous presence in the Highlands through a lifetime of public service and in 1966 she became the first woman to be ordained an elder in the history of the Church of Scotland.

We'll Say The Blessing II can be purchased at: The Highland Bookshop, High Street, Fort

William; The Mallaig Heritage Centre, Mallaig; Land Sea and Island Centre, Arisaig; Yeadons Book Sellers, Elgin, or direct from the author: catrionamonro@gmail.com for £17 inc p&p.

With Christmas going to be unusual this year with fewer shoppers out on the High Street, We'll Say The Blessing II makes an ideal present and one that can be ordered from the comfort and safety of your home.

Gone, but not forgotten – Jessie, Queen of Gaelic song

The article on Jessie N MacLachlan on November 5 caught the attention of a few people.

One of them was John MacLeod of Paisley, who said: 'Recently, I came across an account of her funeral in Glasgow In The Great War. There is a picture of the event at Cathcart Cemetery on May 17 1916, and a paragraph describing the occasion states, '...on May 17, the funeral of the world-renowned Gaelic ballad singer, Miss Jessie MacLachlan took place at Cathcart cemetery.

Two pipers preceded the cortege on the way to the cemetery playing The Flowers of the Forest and Lovat's Lament.



The pipers were the celebrated John MacColl and J McDougall Gillies, who were both friends of the deceased.

'As the coffin was lowered into the grave, the melancholy strains of MacCrimmon's Lament (Return I Shall Never) were played. Many floral tributes were laid including one from admirers in Australia.'

Later, friends set up the Jessie MacLachlan Memorial Fund and its administration was entrusted to, and is still carried out by, the directors of The Glasgow Celtic Society.

Her name is not forgotten as the fund provides a prize for

a ladies' solo singing competition at the National Mod.

Jean Morrison also got in touch saying: 'I am related to Jessie Niven MacLachlan on my maternal side.

'She is related to Rosemary Morrison (Dunbeg) and Jean Morrison (Dunbeg), Ann Logan (Dunoon) and their children, Duncan C Niven (Oban) and his family Annette and Brian Niven (Melbourne) and his family.

'My late grandad Duncan (Daisy) Niven, my late mum Elsie C MacDougall (nee Niven) and uncles William (Billy) Niven and Ewen Niven, all formerly of Croft Avenue, Oban. Ewen's widow Elma Niven (Melbourne) has the picture of Jessie on her wall at home.'

DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



The Cellar bar team were apparently first across the line, but what was the race, in which year, and who were these salty seadogs? We'd love to know, so if you recognise yourself or your friend or family member, email us at editor@obantimes.co.uk



We're not sure who these fine gentlemen are or what the occasion was, so if you know, or recognise yourself or a family member, please get in touch by emailing us at editor@obantimes.co.uk

HIGHLAND FASTENERS LTD

A practical but fun gift for the DIY'er in your life!

Wera Advent Calendar!

With a 24-piece complete tool kit, you won't need Santa's Elves to put up those Shelves!

ONLY £41.66 (plus vat)

Highland Fasteners Ltd, 23-25 Stevenson Street, Oban, Argyll
01631 570584 e-mail sales@highlandfasteners.com

Stoddarts

PLACE YOUR ORDERS NOW!!

STOCK VERY LIMITED OWING CURRENT SITUATION
DON'T BE DISAPPOINTED
FULL RANGE OF KIDS AND YOUTH MODELS IN STOCK
2 WHEELS AND QUADS
INCLUDING ELECTRIC QUADS AND 2 WHEELERS
SEND OR PHONE FOR DETAILS ON WHAT SUIT BEST FOR AGE GROUPS ETC.

TEL: 01631 564176 / 07799 692072
john.stoddarts@btconnect.com
www.stoddartsofoban.co.uk

FINANCE AND DELIVERY ARRANGED

Shop local, support local, use local

Town ambassador Kay McDonald continues her pre-advent journey this week with an insight into what the festive season means to her.

In the last edition Kay explored the shopping local opportunities and shared with us her thoughts as she ticked off the items on a list of gifts for around 30 friends and relatives covering an age range from 9-91.

Tonight, Thursday, she will be out soaking up the festive atmosphere in town again as the lights go on and the shops remain open slightly later than usual.

'Late night shopping night in Oban is

wonderful and even though there is no parade this year I am looking forward to just wandering around the shops, picking up a few more gifts and having a blether with folk as we all prepare for a slightly different Christmas,' she told us.

'I love Christmas shopping and I do think about it and plan it a lot, I aim to finish by December 15 and then have a night at home with a Christmas film on and do all my wrapping.

'Paper, ribbon, bows and then a gift bag, I'll spend a whole evening on the couch surrounded by everything I need and the place will be



in a total uproar by the time I'm finished.'

In the past Kay has enjoyed large family get togethers on the big day and this year will spend it with her husband John, son Craig and the latest addition to the McDonald household, Auron the dog.

'I love Christmas and it

was always a family day for us, when my parents were alive everyone came to us and brought part of the meal with them,' she said.

'We're down to three of us this year but I am looking forward to a very relaxed day, we may pop out and visit my brother, if the

latest Covid restrictions permit, and then come home to the full Christmas dinner with a wee glass of wine and then collapse to read one of the new books I always get a Christmas.'

In the mean time there is those all important decorations to get up. Another part of the festive season that our Kay relishes.

'When it comes to Christmas I'm a 'the more, the merrier' type of person,' says Kay.

'I buy one new tree ornament per year and I have a 7ft tree that will fall over if I add anything else. Every picture frame gets decorated and if I can squeeze it



 **Go Naked Veg Ltd** **SHOP NOW OPEN!**



BRINGING ALL YOUR PLASTIC FREE GROCERY ESSENTIALS TO THE HIGH STREET

COME IN STORE OR VIEW OUR RANGE ONLINE

51 Stevenson Street, Oban gonakedveg@gmail.com
07585 177444 www.gonakedveg.co.uk

CRAIGARD DECOR
COLOUR • DESIGN • INSPIRE • CREATE

PRE CHRISTMAS PROMOTION

All Stock Wallpaper - 10% discount until 22nd December 2020.

10% off Dulux paints (excludes Promotional items) until 22nd December 2020

In a rush? Phone in your order, pay at the time and collect at your convenience. Shop at your local independent Dulux Colour and Advice Store where Advice and Service Matters.

Wishing all our Customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Closed from 23rd December 2020 re-open Tuesday 5th January 2021.

10-12 Craigard Road, Oban, Argyll. PA34 5NP
Tel: 01631 562680

MADE IN ARGYLL



Open 7 days
Mon-Sat 10 till 5
Sun 11 till 4

On the railway pier opposite the station

All your handcrafted Christmas ideas in one shop.
Local Arts & Crafts from Local Crafters

OUTSIDE EDGE
There is so much!



Hill walking
Wild swimming
Stand up paddleboarding
Kayaking
Climbing
Ski-ing
Camping
Snorkelling
Sailing
Fell running

Tel: 01631 566617
6 MacGregor Court, Oban

Web: www.outsideedgeoban.com
Email: outside.edge@btconnect.com

Sponsored
by



Oban Business Improvement District
www.bid4oban.co.uk



in every stair has something too.

'My favourite decoration is the angel that my parents bought for my very first Christmas from Woolworths, my mum and I used to dress it every year but it's too delicate to go on the tree now so I just take it out and look at it.'

Next week Kay will divulge just what it is she loves about Oban and let us know about some family connections from her beloved home.

Kay McDonald sets to work getting the BID4Oban office ready for Christmas.



JULIE'S COFFEE HOUSE
NEW FOR CHRISTMAS

£10.95
per person
for afternoon tea



Please phone to reserve
33 STAFFORD STREET 01631 565952

THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFT!!!

A VOUCHER TO BUY YOUR VERY OWN HOT TUB

DON'T FORGET ACCESSORIES AND CHEMICALS!

TLC Spas Gift Voucher

TLC Spas

01631 566 655
www.tlcspas.co.uk

Avalon Hair & Beauty

SHOP NOW
AND FIND
THE PERFECT
GIFT



ITS CHRISTMAS AT AVALON
OUR CHRISTMAS SHOP IS NOW OPEN
GIFT CARDS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE & IN SALON

Avalon, Boswell House, Argyll Square PA34 4BD, Tel: 01631 563964. www.avalonoban.com

TASTE OF ARGYLL LOCAL PRODUCE FROM OUR FARM

LATE NIGHT SHOPPING EVENT 19TH NOVEMBER
10% OFF WHEN YOU SPEND £30 OR MORE
SPECIAL GIFT FOR THE FIRST 10 PEOPLE

• LOCAL PRODUCE • LOCAL CRAFTS • WE LOVE LOVE •
29 COMBIE STREET OBAN, TEL: 07882 226675
MON - SAT 9AM-5PM



LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

Skye's popular traditional music festival moves online

A popular Skye winter festival has moved online as strict restrictions remain in place to combat the spread of Covid-19.

The award-winning SEALL Festival of Small Halls takes place on Skye stages from November 26-28 and will live-stream the music of some of Scotland's best traditional musicians from three stunning island locations.

Small Halls, which won the BBC Alba Scottish Traditional Music Award for best community project last year, will include two concerts and the popular Big Cèilidh as well as an intimate evening of whisky tasting with tunes.

Nine of the country's most revered Scottish traditional and classical musicians: Hamish Napier, Angus MacKenzie, Inge Thomson,



Hamish Napier at the 2019 Small Halls Festival.

Su-a Lee, Rachel Newton, Lauren MacColl, Megan Henderson, Seàn Gray and Ewan Robertson, will perform concerts from Braes Hall and one from the magnificent

drawing room of Dunvegan Castle on November 26 and 27. The concerts will be presented by Skye Gaelic singer Eilidh Cormack.

Also on November 27, BBC

Scotland's popular Take the Floor host Gary Innes, Rachel, Megan and Ewan will lead the music in a special virtual Whisky Tasting Event hosted by luxury travel company Away from the Ordinary aimed at giving virtual visitors a unique cultural experience.

On Saturday November 28, Gary Innes will present the Small Halls St Andrew's Night Big Cèilidh online, streamed live from the Sligachan Hotel. This event will form part of the St Andrew's Fair Saturday celebrations and is a chance to celebrate Scotland's National Day in the traditional way.

All events will be filmed behind closed doors with no audiences but will be live-streamed to livingrooms across the world.

SEALL's creative director

Marie Lewis said: 'Under current Covid-19 restrictions, live concerts have to go online, but this is proving successful throughout the sector. In this mid-pandemic period, there is no reason why the Small Halls experience cannot be emulated virtually by careful planning and professional production methods. We hope to give audiences the same experience of our live event but online. Many of our events were sold out last year and, for those who haven't yet had the experience of a quality Scots trad concert in one of our amazing small halls, this is a chance to take part from the comfort of your own sofa and even have a dance around the living room.'

'We have chosen venues that are suitable to ensure social distancing can be safely

maintained throughout all aspects of production and we are planning all our events in accordance with the Scottish Government's health and safety guidelines.'

The festival is supported by Creative Scotland, PRS Foundation's The Open Fund for Organisations and the Blas Festival.

Arthur Cormack from Blas Festival said: 'Since the Festival of Small Halls coincide with Blas this year, we are happy to be working with SEALL once again. We are looking forward to their events enhancing the Blas Festival programme offering virtual festival-goers 11 days of great music, song, drama and more.'

Marie added: 'It is thanks to our funders that the festival can go ahead this year.'

PMG ENGINEERING SERVICES



Mobile hydraulic hose specialists, on site service covering, Oban, Campbeltown, Argyll, mid Argyll and the west coast.

24 HOUR CALLOUT

24/7 COVERAGE

Across Argyll and the West Coast of Scotland

info@pmg-services.com • www.pmg-services.com • 07766 513 585

Construction • Forestry • Quarry • Static Plant • Agricultural • Marine

KENNETH FERGUSON

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR LTD

YOUR LOCAL SOLAR PV INSTALLER

INTRODUCING THE QUANTUM HEATING SYSTEM.

- SOLAR PV (GENERATE YOUR OWN ELECTRICITY)
- INSPECTION & TESTING
- REWIRING & MAINTENANCE
- ALL TYPES OF ELECTRIC HEATING
- ENERGY EFFICIENT MEASUREMENTS
- NEW BUILD INSTALLATIONS
- DOMESTIC, COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL











Morar House, Connel, Argyll PA37 1PA
Tel: 01631 710862 Mobile: 07917 167477 Web: fergusonelectrical.co.uk

Robert in lockdown

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



What a night last Thursday was for Scottish football.

About an hour prior to kick off, alone in the flat with Tartan Army songs flying round my head and daring to dream of Scotland at a major tournament, I was brought back to banal reality with the crushing realisation I had no dishwasher tablets left.

Out I went to Morrisons wearing my Scotland top and, on arrival, my eye was caught by a mountain of Peroni on special offer. I almost never have the inclination to drink in the flat but, on this rare occasion, I found myself putting a box of lager under my arm.

As I left the supermarket, another guy with a Scotland top was heading in – presumably to buy exactly the same thing.

'Is that for the Scotland game?' he shouted to me. 'We're gonnae dae it! We're gonnae dae it!'

With these words ringing in my ears, I charged up Gardner Street with a great sense of optimism.

If you're looking for the oldest generation of Scots who have missed out on seeing our team at a major tournament, look no further than me. I was four years old at the time of the 1998 World Cup. I have an extremely vague recollection of watching a big mop of blonde hair at centre half and deciding that Colin Hendry was my favourite player.

In truth, I was so young I probably thought he was the same guy who played the



Me and two lads from the Mid Calder Tartan Army who kindly invited me out to Malta for a gig after the Scotland game in 2016.

accordion with Aly Bain! As I grew up, I witnessed glorious failure after glorious failure. I remember sitting in the living room with my Dad watching Gary Caldwell and then James McFadden give us two wonderful wins against France. In that same campaign, I remember watching live updates on my phone on the bus back from a Highland regional music weekend as Barry Ferguson drew us level against Italy, only for Italy to end our hopes of qualification with the dodgiest of free-kicks in the dying minutes.

In later campaigns, I remember standing in a pub in Stirling when Chris Iwelumo missed an open goal against Norway. I played a Tartan Army gig in a club in Edinburgh when a loss to Georgia all but ended Gordon Strachan's hopes of

steering us to qualification. I watched a turgid 1-1 draw against Lithuania at Hampden after playing a gig in the company of the legendary Archie Gemmill in Bellshill. I had a tremendous trip to Malta to play in the company of the Mid Calder Tartan Army in the roasting heat out there.

All those years of hope followed by despair watching Scotland and then, on Thursday night, there was Ryan Christie – a lad from the Highlands just two years younger than me – crying his eyes out on behalf of our generation having scored the goal to take us to that elusive major tournament.

I jumped around the room. I phoned my Dad. I phoned my pals.

Then I realised I'd forgotten to buy dishwasher tablets!

WHAT'S ON AT OBAN PHOENIX CINEMA



FRIDAY 20 NOV
 The Runaways | 12A 16:30
 Two By Two: Overboard! | PG 16:45
 Honest Thief | 15 19:00
 3 Days & A Life | 15 19:30

SATURDAY 21 NOV
 NT Live: War Horse 15:45
 The Runaways | 12A 16:15
 Honest Thief | 15 19:00
 Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire 19:15

SUNDAY 22 NOV
 Uncle Vanya 15:30
 The Runaways | 12A 16:15
 The Greatest Showman | PG 18:45
 Honest Thief | 15 19:00

MONDAY 23 NOV
 3 Days & A Life | 15 14:30

TUESDAY 24, WEDNESDAY 25 NOV
 Closed

THURSDAY 26 NOV
 Uncle Vanya 19:30



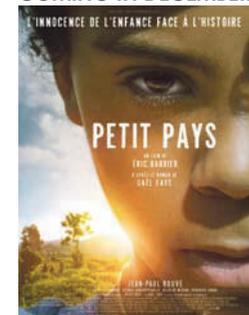
THREE DAYS AND A LIFE TROIS JOURS ET UNE VIE
 Drama/Thriller
 Rated 15 | Nov 20 & 23

The murderer always returns to the scene of the crime, even if fifteen years later. This is the case in a captivating rural thriller based on the best-selling novel by master crime writer Pierre Lemaître. It is Christmas 1999 in a small village in the Ardennes, a seemingly safe provincial world, where everyone knows one another and follows the other's movements. It is a cotton-wool-wrapped microcosm which is one day rocked by the inexplicable disappearance of a four-year-old boy. And that's not all...



NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2020

COMING IN DECEMBER



SMALL COUNTRY PETIT PAYS



THE SLEEPING CAR MURDERS COMPARTIMENT TUMEURS



THE LOST PRINCE LE PRINCE OUBLIÉ

Adventure, Comedy, Family
 Rated 12A | Nov 27 & 30

Djibi is a single father whose life revolves around his beloved 8-year-old daughter Sofia. In her bedtime story every night, he takes her to Storyland, a fantasy film studio where their extraordinary adventures come to life with the heroine always Princess Sofia and her father the valiant prince. However, three years on pre-teen Sofia begins to grow out of her father's stories, creating her own, and Djibi faces his toughest challenge yet – maintaining his role.

We've made changes to help you enjoy a safer big screen experience.

Masks/face coverings must be worn when entering and moving around the cinema. You can remove masks once seated to have food and drink. Visit www.obanphoenix.com/covid-19 for full details.

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.bbc.co.uk for more information about film certificates.

We are looking to buy casks for our award winning whisky company – Artful Dodger Whisky.

If you have been thinking of selling your casks or having the whisky you own bottled then get in touch with us today.



WOOLF/DRINKS
 MERCHANTS
 OF THE FINEST
 WINE & SPIRITS

info@artfuldodgerwhisky.com
 info@woolfdrinks.com
 www.woolfdrinks.com



OBAN FM YOUR LOCAL RADIO LISTINGS
Tune in to 103.3 Fm or listen live at www.obanfm.com or on the TuneIn app.
For requests, competitions or questions please call us on 01631 570057 or email: studio@obanfm.org.uk

MONDAY: 8am-12pm Breakfast show with Stephen
5pm-7pm Drive time with Marcus
12-3pm Lunch with Bob G
4.45pm-5pm Talking Papers
5pm-7pm Drive Times with Marcus
7pm-8pm Highland Fling with Rosemary
8pm-9pm John McLuckies Show
9pm David Cullen Show

TUESDAY: 8am-10am Breakfast Show with Stephen
10am-12.30pm Ken Hunter
1pm-3pm Macky on FM
3pm-5pm Mental Musings with Mer & Vicky
5pm-7pm Drive Times with Bob G
7pm-8pm Highest Praise with Stuart Chalmers
8pm-9pm Scottish Sounds with Archie Cameron
9pm Breakfast Show with Stephen

WEDNESDAY: 8am-10am Comfort Zone with Lesley
10am-1pm Doug in the afternoon
1pm-3pm Drive Times with Campbell
4pm-7pm Country meets Rock N Roll with Len
7pm-9pm Gordon's Grooves
9pm Breakfast Show with Andy & Sarah
11am-2pm Lunch Show with Steve
3pm-7pm Drive Time with Stephen
7pm-9pm Christine's Collections
9pm-10pm Ann's Ceilidh
10pm Margo Till Midnight

THURSDAY: 8am-10am Breakfast Show with Jay
10am-1pm The One with Allan
1pm-1.15pm Talking Papers
4pm-6.45pm Teeney & Tiny Show with Harry
6.45pm-7pm Sports View with the Dream Team
7pm-8pm Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig
8pm-10pm Evening Show with Peter Rainnie
10pm Late Show with Jay.

FRIDAY: 8am-10am Breakfast Show with Stephen
10am-1pm Saturday Morning Live with Linda
3pm-6pm Jukebox Jamboree with Ken Mc
6pm-7pm Sports View with the Dream Team
7pm-8pm Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling
8pm-10pm Evening Show with Dave Hobbs
9am-11am Sunday Morning with Breege
11am-2pm Sunday Brunch with Stephen
7pm-9pm New Country Show with Dave & Murdoch
9pm Drum & Bass with Graham.

SATURDAY: 8am-10am Breakfast Show with Stephen
10am-1pm Saturday Morning Live with Linda
3pm-6pm Jukebox Jamboree with Ken Mc
6pm-7pm Sports View with the Dream Team
7pm-8pm Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling
8pm-10pm Evening Show with Dave Hobbs
9am-11am Sunday Morning with Breege
11am-2pm Sunday Brunch with Stephen
7pm-9pm New Country Show with Dave & Murdoch
9pm Drum & Bass with Graham.

SUNDAY: 8am-10am Breakfast Show with Stephen
10am-1pm Saturday Morning Live with Linda
3pm-6pm Jukebox Jamboree with Ken Mc
6pm-7pm Sports View with the Dream Team
7pm-8pm Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling
8pm-10pm Evening Show with Dave Hobbs
9am-11am Sunday Morning with Breege
11am-2pm Sunday Brunch with Stephen
7pm-9pm New Country Show with Dave & Murdoch
9pm Drum & Bass with Graham.

Highland Book Prize longlist announced

Thirteen diverse titles make up the longlist for the Highlands only annual book prize.

The list is *The Nature of Summer* by Jim Crumley, published by Saraband, *Cottongrass Summer* by Roy Dennis, published by Saraband, *The Good Hawk* by Joseph Elliott, published by Walker Books, *The Lost Lights of St Kilda* by Elisabeth Gifford, published by Atlantic Books, *Plague Clothes* by Robert Alan Jamieson, published by Taproot Press, *To The Lake* by Kapka Kassabova, published by Granta, *Nàdar De | Some Kind Of* by Pàdraig MacAoidh | Peter Mackay, published by Acair Books, *In Search of Angels* by Alistair Moffat, published by Birlinn, *An Archive of Happiness* by Elizabeth K Reeder, published by Pinned in the Margins, *The Changing Outer Hebrides: Galson and the Meaning of Place* by Frank Rennie, published by Acair Books, *Grimoire* by Robin Robertson, published by Picador, *Summer* by Ali Smith, published by Hamish Hamilton, and *Pine* by Francine Toon, published by Transworld Publishers.



The Highland Book Prize was established in 2017 to help celebrate the finest work that recognises the rich culture, heritage and landscape of the Highlands. The prize aims to showcase the literary talent of the region and to raise the profile of work created in or about the Highlands.

Presented by the Highland Society of London, The Highland Book Prize is facilitated by Moniack Mhor Writers' Centre in partnership with Ullapool Book Festival. The William Grant Foundation provides funding to encourage public engagement with the prize.

The first round of judging

was completed in October by a panel of industry professionals and 145 volunteer readers, who spent the summer immersed in fiction, poetry, memoir, history, nature, crime, young adult and Gaelic titles. With such an abundance of high quality entries, the panel and prize organisers have had a tough job refining the list down to 13 books.

Rachel Humphries, director of Moniack Mhor Writers' Centre, commented: 'It has been a pleasure to host this prize since 2017, watching it gain support year on year. Our centre has been closed for six months, fracturing our relationship with writers and the

ability to support the Scottish writing community. More than ever, this prize is important.

'When movement is becoming more and more restricted, we travel through these books to the Highlands, glimpsing a snapshot through the writers' eyes. Seven of the longlist titles are by authors born or living in the Highlands, demonstrating the stellar literary talent in or from the region.

'I am excited to see the shortlist in February and to find out which book will win the accolade of the 2020 Highland Book Prizelater in the year.'

Judge Mark Wringe, senior lecturer in Gaelic Language and Culture at Sabhal Mòr

CROSSWORD

1		2		3		4		5		6		7
8						9						
10												
11						12				13		
15		16										17
18										19		
20												
						21						

Across

- Worker's hat (4,3)
- Put out (5)
- Not mine (5)
- Blinker (7)
- Garage (6,7)
- Pull back (6)
- Put on hold (6)
- Completed main housework (6-7)
- An unreligious person (7)
- Speck in the ocean (5)
- Planned beforehand (3-2)
- Neatly (7)

Down

- Hot breakfast (3-2)
- Occuring in water (7)
- Guardianship (13)
- Request sweetener (6)
- Group of English artists formed in 19th century (3-10)
- Virtual (5)
- Touch up (7)
- Fruit of a prickly plant (7)
- Ointment ingredient (7)
- Worth a look (6)
- Traditional Sunday fare (5)
- With spots (5)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

1	S	P	A	O	K	S						
2	E	C	L	A	I	R	C	H	I	P	P	Y
3	A	S	M	T	S	E						
4	S	M	U	T	O	V	E	R	M	U	C	H
5	R	U	T	E	I							
6	H	A	L	Y	A	R	D	S	T	U	M	P
7	N	Y	G	E								
8	B	A	L	S	A	T	R	I	B	E	N	T
9	P	T	E	U	O							
10	C	H	O	I	R	B	O	Y	N	O	K	
11	O	C	O	E	A	U						
12	B	R	O	K	E	N	R	E	T	A	R	D
13	A	Y	Y	E	E	S						

Fèis Rois launches search for the next generation of young Gaelic songwriters

A song-writing competition for young Gaelic speakers with a passion for the environment has been launched by Highland arts organisation Fèis Rois.

Fèis Rois, an arts organisation based in Dingwall, Ross-shire, is looking for budding Gaelic songwriters from secondary schools across the Highlands to come up with new Gaelic songs connected to the environment and Scotland's landscape.

Caithream na Cruinne, a collaboration between Fèis Rois and NatureScot (formerly Scottish Natural Heritage), is aimed at emerging young Gaelic songwriters who take their inspiration from nature and current environmental challenges.

The project offers four young Gaelic speakers, of secondary school age, the opportunity to write a new Gaelic song each inspired by contemporary environmental themes and the nature around them whilst receiving mentorship from two of Scotland's top Gaelic musicians and songwriters – Mary Ann Kennedy and Ewen Henderson (Mànran). Each



Mary Ann Kennedy is one of the mentors. Photograph: Sean Purser

young songwriter will receive 10 hours of one-to-one support and will also have the chance to professionally record their finished song.

Mary Ann Kennedy said: 'I'm delighted to be working with new young writers creating songs for their own generation in their own language.'

'I wouldn't be writing today without the support and encouragement of some wonderful wordsmiths and composers

and it's important to create a community where creativity can thrive.'

Becky Shaw, Rural Development Adviser at Nature Scot, added: 'Nature, and our relationship with it, underpins a long tradition of Gaelic poetry and song.'

'This project builds on that and will create contemporary nature and environmental writing in Gaelic which recognises the inspiration and con-

cerns of young people.' Fiona Dalgetty, Chief Executive of Fèis Rois, commented: 'We want to encourage young musicians, especially at this time, to create new music and take inspiration from our surroundings, whilst also incorporating their Gaelic language skills.'

'Our young people have a voice and song-writing is a powerful tool to use to let your voice be heard and get your message across.'

'After the success of another recent musical collaboration with NatureScot – In Tune With Nature – Fèis Rois is really excited to see what our next generation of songwriters come up with.'

To apply, email Fiona Dalgetty@feisrois.org by 5pm on Monday November 23 with a summary of why you would like to be considered for this project, the name of your school and what year you are in.

For more information about Caithream na Cruinne, please visit www.feisrois.org/classes-courses/masterclasses

announced

Paperback out now for Orwell writer

Ostaig, said: 'Scotland has long looked to the Highlands for essential images of itself to project to the world yet, at the same time, it tends to think diversity lives elsewhere. Those who think that should take a look at this long list and see they are right on the first point and completely wrong on the second.'

'From internationally acclaimed writers to new names, from major publishers to smaller feisty ones, with fiction, non-fiction and poetry – in more than one language – Highland readers have chosen a hugely varied longlist of new writing.'

'Even getting that down to a short list is going to be a fascinating task for the judges, but an inspiring one.'

The judges will announce the shortlist in March 2021, with the winner being revealed on May 8 2021 at an event hosted by Ullapool Book Festival, the Highland Society of London and Moniack Mhor Writers' Centre.

The winning entry for the best work published in 2020 will receive a cash prize of £1,000 and a place on a writing retreat at MoniackMhor.

Luing author Norman Bissell's book on George Orwell is out now in paperback.

After selling 1,000 copies of his hardback book Barnhill and launching into a second edition of copies, his publishers at Luath Press have brought out the paperback version.

Such is its success, there has also been interest expressed in turning it into a film.

Mr Bissell, who co-runs Luing Stores, was awarded a Creative Scotland Artist's Bursary in 2014 to research and write the book.

The acclaimed and deeply researched novel Barnhill portrays Orwell's crucial last six years in London, Paris and Jura as he wrote Nineteen Eighty Four, the landmark novel on surveillance states and their crushing effects upon individual liberty, which Orwell held so dear.

'Orwell was passionate in his defence of truth. He was consumed by the need to alert us to what could happen if we do not stand up against those who lie and spy on us to maintain their power,' said Mr Bissell.

'I became fascinated by the

contrast between this beautiful place where Orwell lived and the horrors he depicts in Nineteen Eighty Four. I wanted to bring to life the man, his family and friends and to tell the moving story of how he sacrificed his own future for the greater good,' added Mr Bissell whose book creates a vivid portrayal of Orwell's passion for nature and his efforts to be self-supporting on Jura showing the private man behind the public figure as he endures the tragic death of his wife, his devotion to his baby son and his fundamental resilience as he struggles against ill health to produce his masterpiece.

Mr Bissell's written work has been widely published in newspapers, books and journals and he has spoken at many festivals and cultural events including Glasgow's Aye Write! book festival and the Edinburgh International Book Festival.

GET INVOLVED
email us at editor@obantimes.co.uk

XpoNorth releases digital shorts on creative industry leaders

XpoNorth has released a series of Digital Shorts – a collection of informative and inspiring free video interviews from leaders in the world of music, screen, fashion, heritage and literature in a bid to make it as easy as possible for those in the Highlands and Islands creative economy to access specialist sector support during the pandemic and beyond.

Hosted by author and screenwriter and XpoNorth's screen specialist Jessica Fox, each of the 34 episodes screened over 27 weeks have proved invaluable to almost 2,000 active members of the Highlands and Islands creative economy.

Throughout the seven-month series, Fox interviewed experts around the globe, including Barrie Kelly from NBC Universal, film producer Diana Philips and former Cressida and Uriah Heep drummer Iain Clark to provide a valuable insight for those looking to break in to the creative sectors as well more practical advice on surviving the pandemic

covering funding, furlough and employment law.

The Digital Shorts are accompanied by hundreds of engaging pieces of content hosted on the XpoNorth website which is regularly updated by the XpoNorth sector specialists.

The most popular episodes from the series include How to be the next JK Rowling, featuring Scottish literary agent Jenny Brown; Circle The Arctic from Film To Culture, with producer Vilborg Einarsdottir and Set Ashore on the Land of TV Production, featuring producers Tony Wood and Richard Tulk-Hart of Buccaneer Media.

Following the success of the series, a new programme of Digital Shorts is already being produced.

Talking about the success of the series, Iain Hamilton, head of creative industries at Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and co-founder of XpoNorth, said: 'The Digital Shorts series was a direct response to the Covid-19 pandemic and was

part of XpoNorth's strategy to quickly host a high volume of high quality content online to ensure as many creative businesses as possible had access to useful advice from home when they needed it most. I'm delighted to see how well the series has been received and thank Jessica and the many experts across the sector who gave their valuable time to the project.'

The final episode of the series, featuring Charlotte Wright, chief executive of HIE, who discusses what the future looks like for the Highlands and Islands during and after Covid, is now available to view, along with all other 33 episodes at xponorth.co.uk/xntv

As well as the Digital Shorts series, XpoNorth TV is also home to video content, including practical business advice for the creative industries with content from this year's XpoNorth conference, its new Meet the Agencies and Fearless Business Week programmes and its Digital Heritage series in partnership with St Andrew's University.



MY ALBA

<p>DIARDAOIN 19 an t-Samhain / THURSDAY 19 November</p> <p>17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming 19.00 Clann a' Chogaidh Mhoir (Small Hands in A Big War) (rpt) 19.25 Speaking Our Language (rpt) 19.50 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt) 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt) 20.00 An Là – News 20.30 NEW Eorpa 21.00 Tarraing nan Tonn (Chasing Waves) (rpt) 22.00 FUNC (rpt) 22.30 QE2 (rpt) 23.15 Dhan Uisge (rpt) 23.20 Binneas na Trads (rpt) 23.30 Na Trads: An Tobar (rpt)</p> <p>DIHAOINE 20 an t-Samhain / FRIDAY 20 November</p> <p>17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming 18.35 Machair (rpt) 19.00 An Là – News 19.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt) 19.30 NEW SWPL – Hibernian v Celtic 21.35 Thar na Loidhne (rpt) 22.05 NEW The Optimists 22.50 Binneas na Trads (rpt) 23.00 Farpaisean Chon-Chaoarach (rpt)</p> <p>DISATHAIRNE 21 an t-Samhain / SATURDAY 21 November</p> <p>16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming 17.45 An Là – News 18.00 NEW Scottish Premiership – Kilmarnock v Ross County 19.45 Machair (rpt) 20.35 Leugh Mi (rpt) 21.05 ALT (rpt)</p>	<p>00.45 Port – Druthag Bheag Eile (rpt)</p> <p>DIDÒMHNAICH 22 an t-Samhain / SUNDAY 22 November</p> <p>16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming 18.15 An Là – News 18.30 Seachd La – News Review 19.30 Alleluia! (rpt) 20.00 Eorpa (rpt) 20.30 Vets: Gach Creutair beo (rpt) 21.00 Opry le Daniel (rpt) 21.50 Dhan Uisge (rpt) 22.00 ALT (rpt) 23.00 The Optimists (rpt) 23.45 Port-Druthag Bheag Eile (rpt)</p> <p>DILUAIN 23 an t-Samhain / MONDAY 23 November</p> <p>17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming 19.00 Turas a' Bhradain/The Salmon's Journey (rpt) 19.30 Speaking Our Language (rpt) 20.00 An Là – News 20.30 An Lot (rpt) 21.00 Bhan an Sgìre – Trusadh (rpt) 22.00 Julie Fowles – Ceol Aig Baile (rpt) 22.30 Bho Stalag Gu Gulag (rpt) 23.30 FUNC (rpt)</p> <p>DIMÀIRT 24 an t-Samhain/ TUESDAY 24 November</p> <p>17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming 19.00 Clann a' Chogaidh Mhoir (rpt) 19.25 Speaking Our Language (rpt) 19.50 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt) 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt) 20.00 An Là – News 20.30 NEW Eorpa 21.00 An Lan – A' Tuigsinn an Lain (rpt) 22.00 FUNC (rpt) 22.30 NEW Ealu as Eirinn 2020/21 23.20 Binneas na Trads (rpt) 23.30 Na Trads: An Tobar (rpt)</p>	<p>20.00 An Là – News 20.30 Ceann an Rìgh (rpt) 21.00 Opry le Daniel (rpt) 21.55 Dhan Uisge (rpt) 22.00 Bhan an Sgìre - Trusadh (rpt) 23.00 Ceolmhor@Piping Live (rpt) 23.30 Alleluia! Spiritual Music & verse (rpt)</p> <p>DICIADAIN 25 an t-Samhain / WEDNESDAY 25 November</p> <p>17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming 19.00 Turas a' Bhradain (rpt) 19.30 Speaking Our Language (rpt) 20.00 An Là – News 20.30 Leugh Mi (rpt) 21.00 Ionad Hìort – Oir an Dochais (rpt) 22.00 NEW Na Trads: An Tobar 22.30 Tarraing nan Tonn (rpt) 23.30 Julie Fowles – Ceol Aig Baile (rpt)</p> <p>DIARDAOIN 26 an t-Samhain / THURSDAY 26 November</p> <p>17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming 19.00 Clann a' Chogaidh Mhoir (Small Hands in A Big War) (rpt) 19.25 Speaking Our Language (rpt) 19.50 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt) 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt) 20.00 An Là – News 20.30 NEW Eorpa 21.00 An Lan – A' Tuigsinn an Lain (rpt) 22.00 FUNC (rpt) 22.30 NEW Ealu as Eirinn 2020/21 23.20 Binneas na Trads (rpt) 23.30 Na Trads: An Tobar (rpt)</p>
--	---	--



BBC.CO.UK / ALBA | BBC.CO.UK / IPLAYER

Co-bhanntachd eadar MG ALBA agus am BBC | A partnership between BBC and MG ALBA



For something special this CHRISTMAS

RONI'S CHAINSAW ART
A variety of bespoke pieces in stock
f 01631 770206 / 07748 414945

TO PLACE YOUR ADVERT IN THE OBAN TIMES:

Sponsored by NFU Mutual Oban.
Call Euan Warnock and Donna MacDougall on 01631 567 036 for your insurance needs.



INSURANCE | PENSIONS | INVESTMENTS

E S Warnock, D Cluckie, C J Hushwaite & G R MacLean an appointed representative of The National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society Limited (No. 111982).

TELEPHONE: 01631 568000
Lines open: Mon to Fri 9am- 5pm
E-MAIL: adverts@obantimes.co.uk
Please remember to give your name, address, postcode and phone number.

Around the markets

United Auctions, Dalmally, Friday November 13: sold 1156 sheep of all classes. Lambs averaged £44.20 (+£8.36). At the end of season sale at Dalmally, a small show of Lambs & Sheep sold well albeit the lambs consisted mainly of smaller sorts.

Leading Lots & Prices per Head

Lambs – SuffX - £44.00, Ardsheal. LleyX - £66.00, Blarghour; £56.00, Kirkton. BeltX - £88.00, £65.00, Blarghour. TexX - £93.50, £67.00, Lephinkill; £66.00, Duncroisk; £61.00, Maam; £59.00, Barnndromin. Chev - £65.50, Barnndromin; £65.00, Dunans; £65.00, Garrogie Estate; £64.00, Maam; £60.50, Oskamull; £60.00, Keppochan; £53.50, Dunans; £51.00, Birchfield. Cross - £43.00, Keppochan. BF - £73.50, Lephinkill; £64.00, Auchreoch; £61.00, Dunans; £60.00, Garrogie Estates; £59.50, Lephinkill; £57.00, Kirkton; £55.00, 12 Bentalla; £54.50, Innisaig; £54.00, Blarghour; £53.50, Blarmaoldach; £51.50, Tullich Farmers; £51.00, Castles

Estate; £51.00, Kiel Farm.

Ewes – SuffX - £70.00, Ardsheal. TexX - £61.00, Blarghour. Chev - £63.00, 12 Bentalla Cresc; £54.00, Ardsheal. Cross - £40.00, Oskamull; £40.00, Kirkton. Mule - £59.50, £52.00, Frackersaig; £48.00, Blarghour. BF - £67.00, 12 Bentalla Cresc.; £44.00, Garrogie Estate; £43.50, Meallagie; £43.00, Garrogie Estate; £40.00, Castles Estate.

Prices Per Kilo

Lambs – LleyX – 200p, Kirkton; 194p, Blarghour. BeltX – 205p, Blarghour. TexX – 204p, Antuim; 200p, Blarmafoldach; 200p, Barnndromin; 197p, Lephinkill; 195p, Silvercraigs; 194p, Duncroisk. Chev – 206p, Garrogie Estates; 204p, Birchfield; 202p, Oskamull; 200p, Garrogie Estates; 194p, Maam. BF – 199p, 192p, Garrogie Estates; 191p, Innisaig; 190p, Auchlyne; 189p, Castles Estate; 188p, Blarmaoldach; 188p, Tullich Farmers; 188p, Drissaig; 183p, Duncroisk; 180p, Auchreoch; 180p, Kiel Farm.

United Auctions, Lochboisdale, Monday November 10:

sold 876 (+286) sheep of all classes. Lambs sold to £78.00 (+£15.00). All classes of lambs, consisting mainly of second & third draws, sold well and in keeping with current mainland trends.

Lambs – SuffX - £69.00, 17 Torlum; £67.00, 2 Grenitote; £66.00, Dunskeellar; £61.00, 5 Baleshare. BeltX - £67.00, £58.00, Millcroft. TexX - £78.00, 83 Borve, Barra; £74.00, 19 West Gerinish; £69.00, £68.00, 18 West Gerinish; £65.00, 5 Baleshare; £65.00, 19 West Gerinish; £64.00, 56 Tangsdale, Barra; £62.00, 27 Ardivachair; £61.00, 18 West Gerinish; £61.00, 7 Middlequarter; £60.00, Millcroft. Chev - £71.00, 2 Grenitote; £69.00, 7 Minish; £65.00, 2 Grenitote; £65.00, 10 Sollas; £64.00, 9 Milton; £61.00, £60.00, 200/233 Stoneybridge. Cross - £67.00, 202 Stoneybridge; £67.00, 5 Mas Grimsay; £67.00, Dunskeellar; £64.00, 202 Stoneybridge; £63.00, 18 West Gerinish; £63.00, 2 Grenitote; £63.00, 27 Ardavachair; £61.00, 17 Torlum. Mule - £67.00, 32 Liniolate. BF - £72.00, Aird Illery.

Ewes - £55.00, Doon.
Rams - Chev - £100, 330 North Boisdale. BF - £150, 2 East Gerinish.

United Auctions, Lochboisdale, Monday November 9: sold 406 Store Cattle and 39 Breeding Cattle and Cast Cows. Bullocks sold to £1185 for a 630Kg, SimX from I Jevons, 21 Griminish to average £760.99 and Heifers sold to £1110 for a 560Kg, LimX from D MacKay, 11 Howmore to average £690.03. Bullocks sold to 308p/kg for a 240kg, LimX from J R MacLeod, 5 Frobost to average 236.83p/kg (+26.38p) whilst Heifers sold to 291p/kg for four 220kg, LimX also from 5 Frobost to average 227.71p/kg (+28.33p). A much increased entry on the year sold well and to a large following of mainland buyers. An excellent show of quality bred cattle were shown in good bloom with many consignors receiving in excess of £100 rise on the year.

Leading Lots & Prices

Bullocks – AAx - £915(2), 15 Bornish; £900, Millcroft; £840(2), Hosta; £835, 15 Bornish; £830(2), 261 Daliburgh; £815, Hosta. BSHx - £775, 1 Stilligary. BAX - £830, £820, 6 Dunganichy. CHARx - £975, 7 Frobost; £855; 43 Liniolate. GALx - £820, 92 Bualadubh. LIMx - £1155, £1135, 15 Ormiclate; £1125, £1085, £1020, £1000, 103 Carnan; £950, 101

Carnan; £920, 1 Airdihmhuillin; £920, 11 Ormiclate; £915, 100 Carnan; £905(2), 1 Stilligary; £900, 61 Bualuchrach; £900(2), 103 Carnan; £890, 7 Eoligarry; £890, 12 Ormiclate; £890(2), Aird Illery; £880(3), 344 North Boisdale; £880, 93/96 Bualadubh. SIMx - £1185, 21 Griminish; £980, 7 Frobost; £900, 325 North Boisdale.

Heifers – AAx - £890, £820, 15 Bornish. BAX - £915(5), £800, 6 Dunganichy. CHARx - £805, 43 Liniolate. LIMx - £1110, £1000, 11 Howmore; £940, 101 Carnan; £925, 103 Carnan; £890, 1 Airdihmhuillin; £850, 3 Milton; £845, 103 Carnan.

Leading Prices per Kilo

Bullocks – AAx – 271p, 14 Carinish; 260p, 2 Cleat Barra; 258p, 99 Carnan; 250p, 93/96 Bualadubh. BSHx – 265p, 21 Grenitote; 263p, 85 Borve Barra. BAX – 293p, 277p, 275p, 271p, 264p(4), 6 Dunganichy. CHARx – 289p, 29 Clachan; 285p, 43 Liniolate; 280p, 277p(2), 29 Clachan. LIMx – 308p, 5 Frobost; 296p, 6 Drimisdale; 286p, Bagh Na Croabh; 281p, Aird Illery; 279p, 11 Ormiclate; 278p, 20 West Gerinish; 278p, 12 Ormiclate; 272p, 15 Ormiclate; 271p, 19 West Gerinish; 271p, Aird Illery; 270p, 12 Sollas; 270p,

11 Ormiclate; 269p, 20 West Gerinish; 268p, 3 Milton.

Heifers – AAx – 284p, 290 Kilphedar. BSHx – 263p, 1 Stilligary; 233p, 4 Kildonan; 233p, 21 Grenitote. BAX – 262p, 261p(5), 256p(2), 252p(6), 249p(5), 6 Dunganichy. CHARx – 259p, 244p, 29 Claddach; 242p, 237p, 43 Liniolate. LIMx – 291p(4), 5 Frobost; 276p, 19 West Gerinish; 273p, 12 Ormiclate; 268p, 20 West Gerinish; 262p, 10 Illery; 262p(2), 260p, 12 Sollas; 257p, 256p, 20 West Gerinish; 254p, 3 Milton; 252p, 29 Claddach; 251p, 1 Drimisdale; 250p, 103 Carnan; 250p, 3 Milton. SALx – 267p, 265p, 11 Uidh, Vatersay; 246p, 6 Dunganichy.

Cast cows per head

AAx - £1130, 1 Airdihmhuillin. LIMx - £1210, 103 Carnan; £1150, 15 Ormiclate; £1100, 7 Eoligarry, Barra. SIMx - £1100, 3 Ormiclate; £1030, 12 Sollas.

CAST COWS PER KILO –

AAx – 128p, 1 Airdihmhuillin. LIMx – 174p, 15 Ormiclate; 169p, 7 Eoligarry; 144p, 6 Drimisdale; 139p, 103 Carnan. SIMx – 136p, 12 Sollas; 124p, 3 Ormiclate; 121p, 15 Ormiclate.

INCALF COWS - £1160, 12 Ormiclate.

COW & CALF - £1080, 7 Middlequarter.



FARM GATES (UK) LTD

SPECIAL OFFER THIS MONTH ONLY

For more information or to place an order please send Farm Gates (UK) Ltd a message or call: **Ronnie Finney 07789 276354**
Email: farm.gates@yahoo.com

MOBILE SHEEP SYSTEM
ON SALE FROM £1695 + VAT
(RRP from £3400 plus VAT)

The system is easy to move and erect where required and can be easily modified to suit your requirements

MAIN FEATURES:

- Made from high-tensile steel
- All hurdles are 8 railed x 970mm high
- All hot-dipped galvanised finish
- 3000mm (3m) long
- Includes all joining pins/stakes

OPTION 1
10-foot race and 8-foot holding pen
£1695 + VAT

Comes with an 80-foot holding pen and 10-foot race, 2x 2 feet swing gates and all joining pins/stakes included. Our system will safely hold 100 fully grown sheep (approx.)

PARTS LIST:

- 10 x 3m (8 railed) sheep hurdles
- 12 x Joining pins/stakes
- 2 x 2 feet swing gates



OPTION 2
20-foot race, 100-foot holding pen
£1975 + VAT

Comes with a 100-foot holding pen and 20-foot race, 2 x 2-foot swing gates and all joining pins/stakes included. Our system will safely hold 150 fully grown sheep (approx.)

PARTS LIST:

- 14 x 3m (8 railed) sheep hurdles
- 12 x joining pins/stakes
- 2 x 2-foot swing gates

MOBILE CATTLE SYSTEM
FROM £1850 + VAT
Crush Gate optional extra £599.00 + VAT.

As standard, our Mobile Cattle System comes with a 60 feet holding pen and 20 feet race, 1 sliding gate and all joining pins/stakes included. Our system will safely hold 45 full grown cattle (approx.)

The system is easy to move and erect where required and can be easily modified to suit your requirements. Also ideal for TB testing and the cattle sliding gate gives full control of the livestock from outside the race and stops the race from spreading out.

MAIN FEATURES:

- Made from high-tensile steel
- All hurdles are 6 railed x 1.75m high
- A funnel is incorporated into the race-way
- All hot-dipped galvanised finish
- 3000mm (3m) long
- 20-foot race
- 60-foot holding pen. Includes all joining pins/stakes
- Total 200-feet of penning

PARTS LIST:

- 10 x 3m (6 railed) cattle hurdles
- 12 x joining pins/stakes
- 1 x sliding gate

NATIONWIDE DELIVERY
£100 + VAT ON ALL ORDERS OVER
£1500 PLUS VAT.

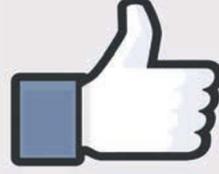
S&S SERVICES



Full stock list available on our website
www.sandsservices.co.uk
T 07831 808702 or 01292 880080
Finance packages available.

To find out more about the NFU Vehicle Discount Scheme call John Spicer at S&S Services on 07831 808702 or 01292 880080





like us on **facebook**

www.facebook.com/obantimes

West Coast **MOTORING**

✓ GARAGES ✓ DEALERSHIPS ✓ PRIVATE SALES ✓ NEWS

**WANTED 4X4S
FOR CASH****WANTED ALL 4X4'S &
COMMERCIAL VEHICLES**

We buy for retail, breaking and export so no matter the age or condition we can make a cash offer. Young or old, all makes and models, engine problems, farm used, accident damaged, mot failures etc.

**WON'T BE BEATEN ON PRICE,
FAST PAYMENT AND COLLECTION.
TEL: 07789 855381**

WANTED

All touring caravans and motor homes, campers etc, high mileage, MOT failures or damp, all considered, any make or model, will travel.

Tel: 07546 788945

**WANTED**

All types of 4-wheel drive vehicles & pickups, Landrovers, Toyota, Mitsubishi, Kia, Ford and MOT failures, non-runners, etc. Will travel and collect.

T: 07546 788945

WANTED MOTOR HOMES

Caravanettes and camper vans, all makes and models considered. Also touring caravans and statics, instant decision, same day payment. Social distancing measures in place.

**Contact William 07730 130284
email wlmotorhomes@outlook.com**

WANTED

For immediate cash payment and free collection. All types of 4x4 vehicles, double cab & single cabs pickups. Shogun landrover defenders, Isuzu, Landcruiser, Navara, L200 Toyota Hilux, Discovery, any vehicle considered old or new. Any condition running or not. High miles, rotten chassis, or over heating top. so any condition. Price paid without any hassle we also buy motorhomes touring caravans and commercial vans and trucks.

**Tel 07703490572
or email balgowan4wd@gmail.com
ask for Robert**



like us on **facebook**
www.facebook.com/obantimes



MOTs • Servicing • Repairs
All makes of vehicle serviced and repaired.

Munro's of Oban, Lochavullin Ind. Estate, Oban PA34 4PL
Tel: 01631 564463
Email: munrosofoban@aol.com
Web: www.munrosofoban.co.uk

CARAVANS WANTED

Any age, make or model, hassle free service, top prices paid



Tel: 07740291207

WANTED 4X4

All types of 4x4's, Landrover Toyota, Nissan etc. We also buy MOT failures and accident damage vehicles. Anything considered.

**T: 07885 203020 or
E: gbplantsales@hotmail.co.uk**

WANTED

All types of motor homes and caravanettes. Any age or condition. We also buy water damaged or in need of repair. Also all types of touring caravans from 95 onwards.

**T: 07885 203020
Email: gbplantsales@hotmail.co.uk**

**NEW
CAR
INDEX**



Gordon Motors
Uk Dealer Of The Year 2014
Comrie Rd, Crieff, Perthshire
PH7 4BQ
Tel.01764 652125
Delivery throughout the West
www.suzuki.co.uk/gordonmotors



W.D. Semple
www.wdsemple.com
Inveraray Shore Street
Tel.01499 302150
Lochgilphed
Highbank Park
01546 606767/ 606272



S & S Services
Old Bridge Road,
Heathfield, Ayr
01292 880080
01292 880440



S & S Services
Old Bridge Road,
Heathfield, Ayr
01292 880080
01292 880440



S & S Services
Old Bridge Road,
Heathfield, Ayr
01292 880080/880440

S&S SERVICES SUBARU ISUZU

SCOTLANDS NO1 SUBARU AND ISUZU DEALER



BETTER where it MATTERS

THE ALL-NEW ISUZU D-MAX



**LOG YOUR INTEREST FOR AN EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT
CALL S&S TODAY 01292 220080**

AUTUMN SPECIAL OFFER

**£249 PER MONTH,
0% APR ON PCP.**

(PLUS CUSTOMER DEPOSIT & OPTIONAL FINAL PAYMENT)



OUR BIGGEST EVER
STOCK CLEARANCE

**DRIVE AWAY AN OUTBACK
AND SAVE £4,000.**



AUTUMN SPECIAL OFFER
LIMITED VEHICLES AVAILABLE

**DRIVE AWAY A FORESTER
AND SAVE £3,000.**



AUTUMN SPECIAL OFFER
LIMITED VEHICLES AVAILABLE

**DRIVE AWAY A NEW LEVORG
AND SAVE £2,500**



FANTASTIC OFFERS ON PRE-REG PLATES. CALL FOR MORE DETAILS.

HEATHFIELD, AYR KA8 9SX

TEL: 01292 880080 or JOHN: 07831 808702



PUBLIC NOTICES

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>;

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
20/04355/FUL	Glenaladale House Achtore Road Fort William	House repositioned with minor alteration to layout and rear retaining wall (amendment to 18/00402/FUL)
20/04300/FUL	Land 130M South West Of Heathcliffe, Arisaig	Erection of 6 semi-detached houses
20/04221/FUL	Druim Garbh Acharacle	Creation of outdoor seating area and new disabled access
20/04433/FUL	Land 30M NW Of Mo Dhachaidh Ormsaigbeg, Kilchoan	Erection of house
20/04197/S42	Land 40M NE of Inverskilavulin Glenloy, Banavie	Section 42 Application - Amendment of Condition 3 of Planning Permission 19/00943/FUL
20/03676/FUL	Land South East Of 3 Glen Ghorm, Ballachulish	Erection of house and self-contained residential unit
20/04076/FUL	Land 65M South of Clevehurst Spean Bridge	Erection of house and shed
20/04278/FUL	Land 40M North Of 54 Riverside Park, Lochyside	Erection of 24 no. houses

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT
Mrs Mary Cattanach and Mrs Sheila McKie have registered their croft known as 12 Keil, Benderloch, Ardchattan & Muckairn on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by the 29th July 2021. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C7217.

First Registration of a Croft
Sheila McIntosh has registered their croft No. 3 Bohenie, Kilmonivaig 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 2nd August 2021. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C7237.

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECFROFTING APPLICATIONS
1. M Holmes, 1 Upper Carnach, 0.013 ha, Two areas of amenity ground (106030)
2. I Piggot, 4 Airds Bay 0.069ha for Amenity Ground (107185)
Comments from any member of the crofting community within the locality of the croft and any expressions of demand for the croft (which may be made public), may be sent to the Crofting Commission by 18/12/2020 at info@crofting.gov.scot / Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW.

WOODLEA (FORT WILLIAM) LIMITED
Company No. SC040827
(In Members Voluntary Liquidation)
Notice is hereby given that resolutions were passed by the members of the Company on 23 October 2020 placing the Company into members' voluntary liquidation (solvent liquidation) and appointing Derek Forsyth of Azets as liquidator. Notice is also hereby given that the liquidator of the Company intends to make a final distribution to members. Any creditors are required to prove their debts on or before 15 January 2021 by sending full details of their claims to the liquidator at Azets, Titanium 1, King's Inch Place, Renfrew, PA4 8WF. Creditors must also, if so requested by the liquidator, provide such further details and documentary evidence to support their claims as the liquidator deems necessary. The intended distribution is a final distribution and may be made without regard to any claims not proved by 15 January 2021. Any creditor which has not proved its debt by that date, or which increases the claim in its proof after that date, will not be entitled to disturb the intended final distribution. As this is a Members' Voluntary Liquidation, all known Creditors have or will be paid in full. Contact details: George Elliot, Tel: 0141 886 6644; Email: George.Elliot@azets.co.uk
Derek Forsyth, Liquidator
10 November 2020

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence
Ms Kirstin Maclean trading as Maclean Deliveries Ltd of 3 Clanranald Terrace, Mallaig, PH41 4RE is applying to change an existing licence as follows to keep an extra 1 goods vehicle at the operating centre at Unit 3, North Road, Fort William, PH33 6TQ. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

Argyll and Bute Council
PLANNING
The applications listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be viewed electronically through Argyll and Bute Council website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Having regard to Schedule 6, Part 3, s10 of the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020, documents are only available to inspect electronically at this time. Customers requiring assistance can contact us by e-mail: planning.hq@argyll-bute.gov.uk or tel. 01546 605518.
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
20/01847/PP	Erection of 1m high retaining wall to include recess for bin and fuel storage areas	38 Ellenabeich, Isle Of Seil, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 4RQ
20/01848/LIB	Erection of 1m high retaining wall to include recess for bin and fuel storage areas	38 Ellenabeich, Isle Of Seil, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 4RQ
20/01786/PP	Erection of agricultural building	10 Crossapol, Isle Of Tiree, Argyll And Bute, PA77 6UP
20/01611/PP	Extensions and alterations to Tobermory harbour to include floating breakwater, hammer head, new fuel berth, pontoon extension and erection of fuel storage tank	Land North Of Tobermory Harbour Association Office, Taigh Solais, Tobermory, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute, PA75 6NR
20/01863/PP	Development of ground to form new hardstanding light use Class 5 commercial yard space including new site access road	Land Adjacent To Creran Marine, Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll And Bute
20/01775/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, formation of vehicular access and installation of septic tank	Plot 5 Memorial Field, Kilchrenan, Taynuilt, Argyll And Bute
20/01756/PP	Change of use of agricultural building to agricultural and metal fabrication workshop and siting of 2 storage containers (retrospective)	Ferry View Workshop, Port Ellen, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute, PA42 7AT

Written comments can be submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> or to Argyll and Bute Council, Development Management, Kilmory Castle, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RT 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 on the Councils website. Customers are requested to use electronic communication where possible during the coronavirus pandemic as our ability to process postal mail is restricted.
To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at: www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

**MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010
FLOOD PROTECTION WORKS, CAOL, FORT WILLIAM**

Notice is hereby given that The Highland Council has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of flood protection works at:

Location	Cost	£1,000,000
Caol,	56° 50.414 N	005° 06.605 W
Fort William	56° 50.360 N	005° 06.684 W
	56° 50.040 N	005° 06.068 W
	56° 50.111 N	005° 05.861 W
	56° 50.098 N	005° 05.757 W
	56° 50.141 N	005° 05.540 W
	56° 50.019 N	005° 05.060 W

(W6584)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at <https://bit.ly/35xAw6b>

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made by email to: MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot within 28 days of the date of this notice, quoting reference: 00008979 and The Highland Council.

Fair Processing Notice
The Scottish Government's Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) determine applications for marine licences under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. During the consultation process any person having an interest in the outcome of the application may make representation to MS-LOT. The representation may contain personal information, for example a name or address. This representation will only be used for the purpose of determining an application and will be stored securely in the Scottish Government's official corporate record. Representations will be shared with the applicant and/or agent acting on behalf of the applicant, any people or organisations that we consult in relation to the application and, where necessary, be published online, however personal information will be removed before sharing or publishing.
A full privacy notice can be found at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine/PrivacyNotice>. If you are unable to access this, or you have any queries or concerns about how your personal information will be handled, contact MS-LOT at: ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot.

SUBSCRIBE
to Scottish Field and choose a **FREE** bottle of Glasgow Gin, Leith Gin or Arran Malt*

The Perfect Christmas gifts for those that love all things Scottish

Save 25% on the cover price only £10.69 per quarter delivered direct to your recipients door.

Call 01778 392014 and quote Noell or go to scottishfield.co.uk/subscriptions

The award winning monthly glossy lifestyle magazine. Scottish Field brings you the very best interiors, antiques, gardens, wildlife, motoring and country news along side entertaining and informative writing. Get ahead of the field and Christmas wrapped up with a subscription to Scottish Field magazine

*Terms and conditions apply. For over-18s and UK-based subscribers only. Minimum one year subscription to Scottish Field. Offer ends 31 Dec 2020. While stocks last. Limited stock available, first come, first served basis. By claiming this offer, you agree that you are of UK legal age for purchasing and consuming alcoholic drinks.

For the facts drinkaware.co.uk

RECRUITMENT

C.A.R.A.H Cares C.I.C

We are a community care company who will offer a home care support service from Duror to North Connel

WE ARE LOOKING TO RECRUIT

A current driving licence and free use of a car is essential. It will be necessary to be available to work on a rota system which covers a seven days service.

You will be required to register with the SSSC

Have SVQ 2 qualification in Adult Health and Social Care or working towards this award within the appropriate timescale.

Please contact Tina Scorgie for more information or an application form on **07530830030** or email: **tina@carah.scot**

Career opportunities



Site Foreman

We are hiring a Site Foreman that is experienced in brick and block work to join our team at our Dunbeg Development site near Oban.

This position is available for immediate start.

Hours of work 8am - 5.30pm.

Please send your C.V to **Jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk** or call us **01546 602989**



We are looking to recruit for the following positions:-



Full Time & Part Time positions available

Senior Care Assistants £10.50 per hour

Care Assistants £9.30 per hour

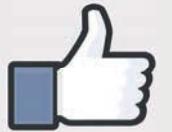
Activity Co-ordinator, 34 hours per week, £9.10 per hour

Housekeeping/Laundry Assistant 37 hours per week.

COVID-19 considerations:

Must be successful candidates sole place of work

Please call **01631 720278** or email **admin@etivehousecare.com** for an application form or more information.



like us on facebook

www.facebook.com/obantimes

Assistant Producer

ATLAS Arts on Skye is looking to recruit an Assistant Producer to join the team and assist with the planning, production and delivery of our programme.

Please visit www.atlasarts.org.uk for more info on the eligibility criteria and how to apply.

Deadline: 10am, 8th December
Supported by the Weston Jerwood Creative Bursaries Programme



YOUR LOCAL PAPER

Regional & local press advertising gets the job done.

Source: Recruitment Choice, The Newspaper Society 2005

Regional Press
closer to home

Job Opportunity with North Ayrshire Council

Site Attendant | NAY06946

37 Hours per Week | £18,348.30

Arran Waste Transfer Station, Market Road, Brodick, Isle of Arran

Closing date 25 November 2020

For further details and to apply visit www.myjobscotland.gov.uk/councils/north-ayrshire-council



We are an equal opportunities employer so please inform us of any special needs you may have.

FOR SALE



Milners 212
Fire resistant safe.

Good condition, buyer must collect.

£300 ono.

Email ggraham@wyvexmedia.co.uk

CLASSIFIEDS

TIMBER KIT HOMES & CONSTRUCTION

MACLEOD CONSTRUCTION LIMITED

- TIMBER KITS
- WINDOWS & DOORS
- AGGREGATES
- PLUMBING & ELECTRICAL
- JOINERY & REFURBISHMENT
- CONSERVATORIES
- SCAFFOLDING

www.macleodconstruction.co.uk
Tel: (01546) 602989 • Email: sales@mkmacleod.co.uk

MOBILITY

TOWER MOBILITY INDEPENDENT LIVING AIDS



LIFT AND RISE RECLINERS
ROLLATORS, SCOOTERS
WHEEL CHAIRS

HANDY AIDS TO DAILY LIVING.

MATHESONS FURNISHINGS
Soroba Road Oban PA344HQ
01631 565195 info@mathesons.co.uk



OBAN BLINDS

Oban-Blinds

Vertical Blinds • Roller Blinds
Blackout Blinds • Venetian Blinds

Free Measuring and Estimating Service

Vast range of Domestic and Commercial blinds

Telephone: Donald Cameron
07979 826614

Email: oban.blinds@hotmail.co.uk

DIY & TRADE SUPPLIES

HIGHLAND FASTENERS



TRADE & DIY
ESSENTIALS

Power tools

Hand tools | PPE

Workwear | Decorating
Fasteners | Fixings

Opening hours Mon-Fri 7.30am-5pm, Sat 8am-12pm

Highland Fasteners Ltd, 23-25 Stevenson Street, Oban, Argyll
01631 570584 e-mail sales@highlandfasteners.com

DEATHS

MACFARLANE - Peacefully in the excellent care of Etive House, Benderloch on November 8, 2020, aged 87, Isabella née Munro. Wife of Andy MacFarlane, Glenaros, Isle of Mull, mother of Sheila, Andrew and Norman, grandmother of Kyle, Jack, Logan and Aros Eve. Funeral was held at Pennygowan Cemetery on Friday, November 13, 2020.

MCLAUGHLIN - Bill (William MacFarlane McLaughlin) April 15, 1936 - November 3, 2020



Sadly, passed away after a short illness. Always a proud Oban man and Scotsman.

Moved to Manchester to join the Fire Brigade in 1960 but never forgot his home. Loving husband and Dad to Stuart, Billy, Barbara, April and Donald. Loving grandad to fourteen grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Now reunited with wife Barbara after nine years apart. Greatly missed by all his many family, friends and workmates. Rest in Peace Dad xxx

REDDINGTON - Ellen, Broxburn/Uphall Station. Peacefully at home on November 11, 2020, Ellen, beloved wife of the late Joseph. Sadly missed by all her family and friends. Due to current restrictions Ellen's funeral is by invitation only.

ROBINSON - Very peacefully at home, 2 Nursery Park, Spean Bridge, after a short illness, on November 9, 2020, Pauline Elizabeth Robinson née Hastings, aged 73 years. Wonderful wife of Dr Chris Robinson, mother of Neil, David and Kirsty and Granny of Sam and Lizzie in Taynuilt and Ollie and Ashley in Hong Kong. Late of Arkaig Cottage, Fort William. Funeral Service was

held at Inverness Crematorium on Tuesday, November 17, 2020.

ROSE - Peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on November 17, 2020, Andrew A Rose, aged 89. Formerly of Larach Bhan, Sonachan House and Drimbuie. Much loved husband of Gela. Treasured father to David, Susannah and Lizzie and loved father-in-law to Shuna and Philip. Proud grandfather of Anya, Archie, Jura, Louis, Iris, Eowyn, Indira and Sylva.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

LOWE - The family of Jeanne Lowe wish to warmly thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for all the beautiful cards, flowers, kind expressions of sympathy and uplifting anecdotes. Thank you to all who joined us at St. Columba's cathedral, Cardross crematorium and Pennyfuir as well as those who lined the roadside to pay their last respects to Jeanne on her final journey. Thanks also to Father James and Father Roddy for their consoling and inspiring services, to Rev. Cringles for the organ music and to Becky Hill for her own

arrangement of "Sleepy Shores" on the harp. We would also like to extend our thanks to the wonderful staff at Etive House Care Home for their thorough, dignified and loving care of Jeanne throughout the last ten months of her life. Thanks also goes to Dawn, the kind carers of Care Plus, Sharon and all the friends and neighbours who enabled Jeanne to stay at home for as long as she did. Thank you to Catriona of Hamish Hoey & Son Ltd for leading us through the funeral arrangements and to Angela of Flower House Oban for the wonderful autumnal display. Thanks also goes to the Cardross Inn and the Falls of Lora Hotel for the Covid-safe and attentive catering. Jeanne leaves us with a multitude of happy memories, love and laughter which we will hold in our hearts forever.

MEMORIALS

BINNIE - In loving memory of my daughter Deborah née Clark. Forever in my thoughts. - Dad.

CAMERON - Angus (Angie), died November 18, 1994.

Never far from our thoughts, always in our hearts.

- Ann Marie, Catriona, Angus and Elaine, and grandchildren.

CAMPBELL - In loving memory of Nancy, who passed away on November 20, 2010, dearly loved wife, mum, mother-in-law and granny.

Remembering you is easy
We do it every day
It's just the pain of losing you
That never goes away
- Iain, Iain, Fiona and families.

HENDERSON - In loving memory of my dear husband Iain, who died November 22, 2002.

In my heart your memory is kept
To treasure, to love and never forget
No verse, no flowers, no tears can say
How much I miss you every day.
- Isobel.

MACCALLUM - Morag Stewart née Nicolson, taken into God's care November 23, 2017. Precious memories of a loving wife, devoted Mum and mother-in-law.

Forever with us and lovingly remembered every day.
Happy smiles, little laughs,

always there steadfast and true your presence never fades.

MACINTYRE - Remembering with love a dearly loved dad Hugh, who passed away November 19, 2019.

Not one to trouble or make a fuss

You asked for nothing from any of us

God called you to him and we had to part

You leave us lonely with a broken heart.

- Love Margaret xxx

MACINTYRE - In loving memory of our precious dad, grandad and great-granddad Hughie, who passed away on November 19, 2019.

It broke our hearts to lose you
We have all our memories of our times together

And they will stay in our hearts forever.

All our love
- Fiona, Frank and family xxx

MACINTYRE - Hughie. Loved and missed so much.

- James, Shona and family.

MACINTYRE - Treasured memories of beloved parents, parents-in-law and grandparents, Archie (Baldy), and Mary

FUNERAL DIRECTORS



MANSON & MACBEATH
FUNERAL DIRECTORS




~ Chosen for Our Care ~

Tel: 01397 701110
24 Hour Professional Service
Inverloch, Fort William, PH33 6NB

Proud to be Lochaber's Only Locally Owned & Managed Funeral Directors

MEMORIALS

Stokes Memorials

Serving Argyll and the Highlands & Islands for over 35 years
Established 1973 - Fraser Downie, Master Sculptor

- New and traditional memorials.
- Additional lettering.
- Cleaning and renovations.
- Pet memorials.
- Work carried out in any cemetery.
- Free estimates and advice.
- House signs.

312/314 Argyll Street, Dunoon • Tel/Fax 01369 702162 • Email: fraserdownie.43@gmail.com

Greenlees & Son

— FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS —

We believe in fair funeral pricing,
our graveside and crematorium services are only
£895.00 + disbursements.
No hidden fees and no money ever asked for upfront.

"Our Family looking after your Family"
- Proprietor Scott A. Greenlees Dip. FAA

Tel. 01397 719 600 — 24 hour service
Kilmallie Road, Caol PH33 7AR
www.greenleesfunerals.co.uk



The largest stock of memorial headstones in the Highlands

Our family have offered personal, professional funeral services to the Highland community for over 135 years. Our large stock of memorials in different granites means that turnaround time is minimised.

Prices start at £750 and include unlimited lettering, design, flower vase, installation at any cemetery in mainland Highlands, VAT and the cemetery fee. Bespoke options and restoration are also available.

Call Linnie Quail on **07774 705783**
or visit www.johnfraserandson.com






like us on **facebook**

www.facebook.com/obantimes

(née Boyd) whose anniversaries occur about this time.
- Iain, Jane, Caroline and Boyd, Oban and Edinburgh.

MACKAY - Special memories of our mother Christine, who passed away November 18, 2006.

Devoted mum, nana and dearly loved wife of the late Donnie.
Remembered every day with love.

- Donna, Finlay, Rebecca and families.

MACKELLAR - Jessie (Campbell).



First anniversary, died November 20, 2019, Buessan, Mull.

Precious memories of a dear wife, mother and grandmother.

Precious people are very few That's why there was only one of you

Nothing on earth can ever replace

The sound of your voice or the smile on your face.

No verse, no flowers, no tears can say

How much you are missed and loved every day

You always had a smile to share

A laugh, a joke and time to care

Your wonderful nature warm and true
These are the memories we have of you.

- Husband Glen, sons Alasdair and Colin and granddaughters Elizabeth, Erin, Lexie and Sophia.

MACKELLAR - Remembering with love our dear sister, sister-in-law and auntie Jessie, who passed away November 20, 2019.

Memories of our days together Live within our hearts forever.

- All the family in Buessan and away.

MACLENNAN - In loving memory of Joan MacLennan, who died November 25, 2019.

In mind a daily thought
In heart a silent sorrow.

- Jean, Mary-Ann and families.

Elections may see voting over more than one day

New draft legislation has been published ahead of next year's elections to the Scottish Parliament.

The Scottish General Election (Coronavirus) Bill has been drawn up to provide options to hold the May 6 election differently, if required, in light of coronavirus.

Key changes could include ministers allowing polling to take place over more than one day to help support physical distancing at some polling stations - if needed.

The deadline for postal vote applications is also likely to be as early as April 6 2021 from its usual April 20.

That is designed to allow more applications to be

processed because of an expectation there will be an 'increased demand' to vote by post rather than attending in person at polling stations, said the Scottish Government.

The bill states: 'The coronavirus pandemic is a severe and sustained threat to human life in Scotland. The Scottish Government considers that in order for the Scottish

Parliament election scheduled for May 6 2021 to be held safely a number of contingency measures are required.'

In addition, measures have been included for the 'highly unlikely event' the election has to be deferred to a later date, the Scottish Government said.

Graeme Dey MSP, minister for parliamentary business, said: 'We fully expect the

Scottish Parliament election to go ahead as planned in May, but it is prudent and responsible to ensure we have planned for every eventuality so that the poll can be conducted safely and fairly during this pandemic. This Bill includes measures to help ensure polling can go ahead and that voters will be able to vote safely in person in May as planned.'

PERSONAL NOTICE



Happy 80th Birthday tomorrow
Dad/Jim/Granda/Great-Granda
Lots of love from all the family

xxx

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

McLELLAN

FUNERAL DIRECTORS






John Calvin Peter Amanda

Over 86 yrs of Funeral Experience from our Compassionate Team

Established 1923. Quality Funeral Care in Lochaber
Welcoming Function Rooms for Memorial Gatherings
Flexible Viewing Times for Families & Friends
Burial and Cremation Services. All Faiths & Celebrant
Direct Cremation with Unique Memorial Service Option

Other Services Include: The Lochaber Funeral Plan - Peace of Mind for the Future. Headstone Design & Renovation. Bereavement Care.

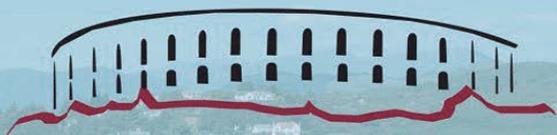


DUDLEY ROAD, FORT WILLIAM PH33 6JB
01397 702128 (24 HRS) WWW.MCLELLANFUNERALS.CO.UK



QUALITY CARE SINCE 1923

FUNERAL DIRECTORS



D&A MUNN LTD.

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Owned and run by Ian MacInnes & Son | Est. 1880

24 hour Family Run Business




D&A Munn Ltd,
Breadalbane Street, Oban, PA34 5NZ

Tel: **01631 562562**
Email: ian@munns-oban.co.uk




CHARITY DONATIONS

WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT

Working towards a time when every person in Scotland has equal and ready access to the best information, treatment and care for cancer

Fundraising Office
Macmillan Cancer Support
PO Box 24040 Edinburgh EH3 1DZ

Tel 0300 100 0200
In memory of Dawn Joyce

THE DOVE CENTRE

By Oban Hospice
Donations always gratefully received

24 Stevenson Street Oban PA34 5NA
Tel: **01631 561315**
[@obanhospice](http://www.obanhospice.org.uk)

CANCER RESEARCH UK

Together we will beat cancer

Help bring forward the day when all cancers are cured

DONATE TODAY:
Treasurer, Cancer Research UK Oban & District, Glenside, Polminister Road, OBAN, PA34 5TN Tel: 01631 564420

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATORS
Cancer Research UK is a Registered Charity in England and Wales (2029494), Scotland (SC041660) and the Isle of Man (1023)

MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE

Oban & Lorn Fundraising Branch

Donations always gratefully accepted

Please contact
Marie Curie Care Mannin, 2/5 Lismore House
Station Road, Oban
01631 571009



Otters back in swim training

Oban Otters are back in the water after more than seven months.

Swimmers are attending on Thursdays and Mondays for the development, junior and fitness squads at Atlantis Leisure following Covid-safe guidelines.

The return has been meticulously planned following Scottish Swimming and Scottish government guidance, with support from Atlantis staff.

A walk-through video has been shared informing swimmers of the new Covid-safe procedures, including coming to the pool swim ready and leaving damp and gaps between sessions to allow for cleaning.

Swimmers keep to their lane 'bubble' to help with NHS Track and Trace and have an assigned position within the lane to keep them socially distanced.

Head coach Amanda Coates said: 'The swimmers took the new procedures in their stride and put in the work. We're happy to be back.'

McPhee finishes 11th in Valencia

Connel's John McPhee battled hard last Sunday at Circuit Ricardo Tormo to cross the finish line in 11th place.

He made a steady start from 16th on the grid and claimed one position going into the first corners of the race, before another rider forced him to lose several places.

After a brief mid-field battle, McPhee moved into the top 10 on lap eight but he failed to close the gap with the front riders and crossed the line 11th.

Shinty coaches pitch in and kick-start training

Coaches from Oban and the surrounding area have taken it upon themselves to provide shinty training for primary age children.

With no return to official training within primary schools because of the current coronavirus pandemic, the Macaulay Association has teamed up with a number of coaches to provide sessions which currently boast around 22 young players.

Coaches Allan and Vivienne Duffy from Rockfield Primary School and Lorne Robertson from Park Primary School

'The plan, quite simply, was to provide much-needed shinty for primary school age players'

started the ball rolling by approaching the association through Les Kinvig, who is also a coach at Rockfield, with the idea.

'The plan, quite simply, was to provide much-needed shinty for the primary school age category as the players and

parents were keen to see a return to some form of the sport as soon as possible,' explained Les.

'This would normally be a fairly easy process but with it not being official school shinty there were hurdles to overcome on top of the additional Covid procedures that needed to be put in place.'

The coaches invited players from Rockfield, Park, St Columba's and Taynuilt primary schools who all had to be registered with the Camanachd Association in order for them to be insured

to participate. Oban Celtic and Oban Camanachd helped with this before the Macaulay Association booked the blaze pitch.

Unfortunately the weather wiped out the first two scheduled sessions, at which point it was decided to change the venue to the 4G pitch at Oban High School. This involved further assistance from Oban Celtic in order to comply with Live Argyll's Covid pitch booking rules. Fortunately with Les being from Oban Celtic and the Macaulay's Covid co-ordinator, the bookings were soon

in place. 'It was great to see primary shinty back in some form with 22 players taking part and more expected in the coming weeks,' he added.

Sessions are taking place at the 4G pitch at Oban High School on Saturdays from 10am to 11.30am. Anyone wishing to attend should contact their school, the coaches, the Macaulay Association, Oban Celtic or Oban Camanachd for further information.

Players must be registered prior to attending and all Covid procedures must be adhered to.

Friends reunited as Saints and Red Star meet again

Lochgilphead RS	0
Oban Saints	2
Friendly	

Oban Saints and closest neighbours Lochgilphead Red Star once again took advantage of Argyll and Bute's tier two coronavirus restrictions status to stage a friendly at Lochgilphead Joint Campus last Saturday afternoon.

Goals from Gavin Forgrieve and captain Craig MacEwan gave Saints a deserved victory over their Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division One hosts.

The hosts passed up a good early chance in the third minute. The home side were



Saints' Aaron McKay can't convert a difficult chance.

Match report and photo by Derek Black

defending well and it took until the 21st minute for Saints to register their first effort on target. Saints finally found a

way past Ally Lewis in the 39th minute but were thwarted by the frame of the goal. Both sides made changes for the

start of the second half. Martin Bonar replaced Scott Johnston for Saints while Chris Hart made way for Innes Meikle for the hosts.

The deadlock was broken in the 57th minute from a quickly-taken free kick by Cammy Hill after Martin Bonar had been brought down in the centre circle by James McGuiness.

Hill spotted Aaron McKay in space on the right and sent him scurrying forward. McKay cut into the box and picked out the run of Craig MacEwan who was foiled from six yards by Ally Lewis. The young keeper couldn't hold MacEwan's shot allowing the ball to spin away from him and Ben Forbes slid in to knock the loose ball away

from MacEwan but only as far as Gavin Forgrieve, who tapped home from four yards.

The second goal came when Martin Bonar won possession in the centre circle and opened up his former team mates with a perfectly weighted pass for the forward run of skipper Craig MacEwan.

MacEwan comfortably beat stranded Red Star keeper Ally Lewis with a deft chip from 28 yards into the unguarded net.



THANK YOU

for continuing to support your local newspaper

The Oban Times

Research shows that for every £1 spent with a local, independent business, between 50p-70p circulates back into that local economy

So every time you pick up a copy of The Oban Times you are not just helping one local business but a whole range of local businesses



we



local



LOCHABER TIMES

& OBAN TIMES

No 8538

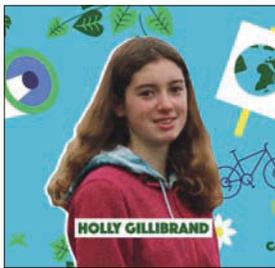
Thursday 19 November, 2020

www.lochabertimes.co.uk

95p



MMA fight fans support Lochaber food bank



Lochaber's Holly on BBC Woman's Hour Power List



a Spa treat with breakfast or afternoon tea for two at beautiful Ardrhu House

More action, less 'spin' as GFG reveals smelter plan

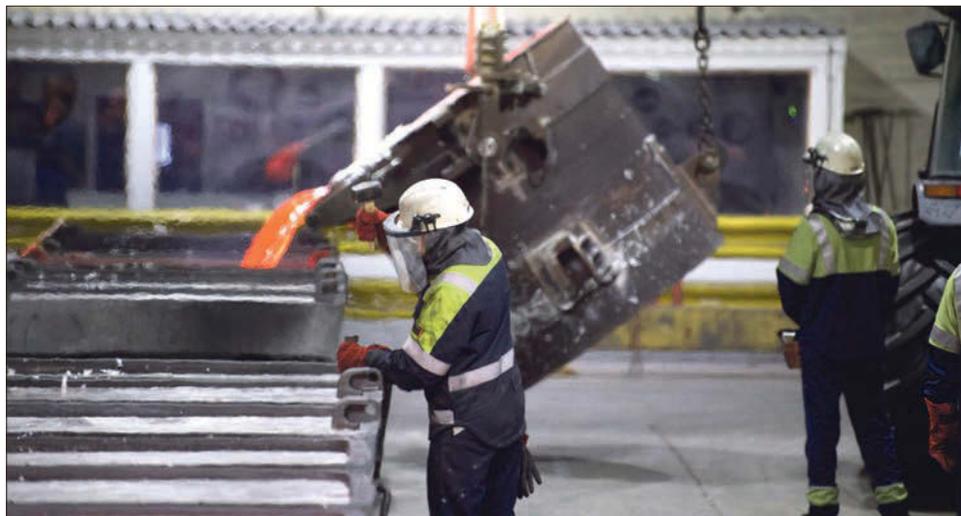
by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

More tangible action on the ground and less public relations 'spin' are needed if Lochaber residents are to have any confidence in new plans announced this week by smelter owners GFG Alliance, which is jettisoning its alloy wheels plant project at Fort William in favour of a smaller recycling and casting plant.

That was the reaction from senior Lochaber councillor Andrew Baxter on news that GFG Alliance now wants to double aluminium production at its Alvanca Aluminium smelter as part of an alternative £94m business blueprint.

Alvanca, a member of metals tycoon Sanjeev Gupta's GFG Alliance, wants to invest in a new recycling and casting plant that will take aluminium production to 80,000 tonnes a year by using domestic scrap aluminium that is currently exported.

The new facility, which would see 70 new jobs created, will



The new proposal would see scrap aluminium recycled in a new £94M project alongside the smelter, pictured. Photograph: Sandy Young Photography.

produce long round shapes, known as 'billets', for the domestic construction sector which currently heavily relies on imports.

The news comes almost four years to the day that GFG announced it had bought the smelter and accompanying hydro-electric schemes, to-

gether with 114,000 acres, in a £330m deal from Rio Tinto Aluminium. Three years later it emerged the controversial Scottish Government guarantee on the power purchases by the aluminium smelter from the hydro-electric plants, which had backed GFG's investment, was worth close to half a bil-

lion pounds. But a significant decline in the UK automotive industry is now blamed for the demise of the alloy wheels project, intended to create 400 new jobs.

The new proposals will be submitted to the Highland Council for approval with the hope the new plant will

be fully operational by 2024. GFG Alliance is also tabling plans for a new canning facility, located next to the Fort William plant, to package Scottish Highlands water into reusable aluminium cans.

Councillor Baxter, chairman of the local authority's Lochaber Area Committee, agrees any investment for the smelter and wider Fort William economy is welcome and the creation of 70 new jobs, at a time of considerable economic uncertainty, is good news.

But he added what was now important is that local people see this new proposal actually delivered.

'Scottish taxpayers need to see a return on their government-backed investment. Are we now being asked to pump more government cash into another new venture? This is very different from the grand announcements made when the company purchased the smelter and all the associated assets,' Mr Baxter told the Lochaber Times.

Continued on page two.

No change in Highlands' restrictions

While the Highlands is to remain in level one, following the First Minister Nicola Sturgeon announcement of the latest Covid protection levels in the Scottish Parliament on Tuesday, she made a special plea to everyone living in the areas: 'Please do not assume that being in one of the lower levels means you can ease up. On the contrary, having fewer restrictions means the virus has more opportunities to spread.'

The majority of Scotland's 32 council areas saw no change after the new tiers were brought in three weeks ago.

But from Friday, 11 local authority areas will move from level three to level four – Scotland's toughest restrictions. They include Glasgow, Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire, East and West Dunbartonshire, East and South Ayrshire, Stirling and West Lothian.

The changes, she said, would provide the 'best possible chance' to ease restrictions in all parts of Scotland for Christmas – albeit in a 'limited and careful way'.



Static caravans in stock available for offsite sale from £5,500

5 x 2016 Ex hire fleet double glazed 32ft x 10ft Willerby Rio Gold Caravans available for offsite **£12,875** immaculate condition

Can be delivered anywhere
Available to view by appointment

Ben Nevis Holiday Park
Camaghael, Fort William, PH33 7NF
01397 703446

Andrew –
07747 122259



LT

More action, less 'spin' as GFG reveals smelter plan

Continued from page one.

However, Brian King, chairman of Alvalde British Aluminium, said the new plans will provide a long-term future for the Fort William smelter operations.

'Since putting forward our original plans for a wheels factory, the automotive industry has gone through significant decline in the UK.

'Fortunately, the construction industry is buoyant and is using ever more aluminium billet, giving us the chance to produce a quality product making use of primary metal from the smelter and recycled scrap,' explained Mr King.

And Highlands and Islands Conservative MSP Donald Cameron said that, after several years of uncertainty and speculation, he was glad there was now a 'concrete and detailed plan' for the smelter, calling it a 'very welcome early Christmas present' for

Fort William and Lochaber at a time when good news was badly needed.

But Councillor Baxter said it will take more than just words to satisfy people this time round: 'So far, all that has been promised before has been like a desert mirage. It is tantalisingly attractive, but as you look closer it vanishes before your eyes,' he said.

'Councillors were urged to rush through the planning process as any delay would threaten 400 jobs that would evaporate.

'Campaigners were told to be patient as there would be an element of community land ownership. Such prospects have all but disappeared.

'For Lochaber residents to have confidence that this time things will be different, we must see on the ground action, not carefully crafted public relation announcements.'



The new proposals replace plans to build an alloy wheels plant adjacent to the smelter in Fort William, above.

Fort museum adds new painting to collection

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

West Highland Museum in Fort William has added a much-sought after painting by well-known artist Sir David Young Cameron to its collection.

The museum has just purchased his October in Knoydart, an oil on canvas depicting Lochaber's mountainous scenery.

Museum curator Vanessa Martin told the Lochaber Times: 'The museum had been looking to purchase a D Y Cameron painting for some time when we can across this one by chance at the Fine Art Society in Edinburgh early this year.

'D Y Cameron was one of the foremost painters and printers of his day and had close links with the West Highlands and our museum. He was one of our earliest museum members in the 1920s.'

And D Y Cameron, who lived from 1865-1945, also has a link to plans by the museum for a fund-raising venture to help mark the museum's 100th anniversary.

In 1928 the museum purchased The Strange Plate, an 18th-century copper printing plate that had been commissioned by Prince Charles Edward Stuart on the eve of Culloden to print bank notes for the Jacobite cause.



West Highland Museum curator Vanessa Martin with museum chairman Ian Peter MacDonal and the newly acquired painting. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

It was etched by the famous artist Sir Robert Strange at Inverness in 1746. However, due to the Battle of Culloden, it was never printed from and was later found abandoned shortly after the battle on the shore of Loch Laggan.

It remained in the possession of the MacPherson's of Cluny until 1928 when it was sold to the museum. When it arrived at the museum, D Y Cameron printed 57 signed proofs from it and these were sold for 10/6 to raise funds for the fledgling museum.

The museum was founded in 1922 and moved into its premises on Cameron Square

in 1926. A copy of one of the prints is displayed at the museum alongside the Strange Plate.

The museum celebrates its centenary in 2022 and Ms Martin is currently exploring the possibility of printing from the printing plate again to raise funds for the museum.

'We planned to purchase a D Y Cameron for our fine art collection to be displayed in our Jacobite gallery alongside the Strange Plate and 1928 print,' Ms Martin explained.

'October in Knoydart is the perfect painting, depicting the Lochaber landscape and will tell the story not only of

Cameron's connection with the museum, but also the story of the aftermath of the 1745 Rising when Prince Charles Edward Stuart was on the run in the Highlands hiding in this landscape from the Hanoverian army.

'The purchase was made with the assistance of the Art Fund, National Fund for Acquisitions and the family of the late John Gooch, 1929 to 2019.

'The painting will hang in our Jacobite gallery in memory of John Gooch who was a former director of the museum and great nephew of our founder, Victor Hodgson.'

Covering the whole of Scotland!

Bringing you heavy duty sheds garages summerhouses and much more!



B E S P O K E

TIMBER BTS SERVICES

Heavy duty base with every build! We use only the best of materials 100%! Including a 3x2 regular framing plus vapour barrier, then cladded with 19mm tongue and groove boards. From a small garden shed to a double garage..... Bespoke timber services have your back!

Call: 07494 854813

www.bespoketimberservices.com

Alarm bells in Corpach over port comments

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Proposals by Lochaber smelter owners GFG Alliance for what it has called 'significant upgrades' to the port at Corpach as part of its newly unveiled plans for a £94m plant recycling and casting scrap aluminium, have triggered alarm bells in the community.

The operation of the port and associated businesses on the industrial estate has been the source of numerous complaints about noise and light pollution for a number of years.

This week, GFG Alliance's subsidiary Alvanca Aluminium which operates the smelter on the outskirts of Fort William, revealed plans to call time on its already-consented alloy wheels plant project, blaming the downturn in the automotive industry.

Instead, Alvanca intends applying for planning permission

for a new facility alongside the smelter which would use scrap aluminium to boost output at the smelter from around 40,000 tonnes a year to 80,000 tonnes.

In its statement, Alvanca told the Lochaber Times: "To support the developments, Alvanca is also proposing significant upgrades to the nearby port of Corpach to improve

The community in Corpach...made its feelings clear in 2018

efficiency of material flow.'

Asked for more information on what these upgrades would involve, a company spokesperson told the Lochaber Times: "The exact nature of the upgrades is subject to ongoing discussions with the owners of the port."

But John Hutchison, act-

ing chairman of Kilmallie Community Council, said the community in Corpach is concerned about any further development of the harbour and had made its feelings clear to Highland Council in April 2018 during its redrafting of the West Highland Local Plan.

'Basically, if the public bodies cannot control the nuisance linked with the current level of activity, how can they assure us expansion won't aggravate things even more?' Mr Hutchison told the Lochaber Times this week.

'GFG Alliance accepted the community council's invitation to a meeting in March 2018 to attempt to gain information on its proposal to import gas through Corpach and to increase activity at the harbour. They attended, but since then nothing has been heard about future development from any party.

'This is not how community consultation should work

in this day and age.' Ross, Skye and Lochaber MP Ian Blackford, however, has welcomed the plans for the new smelter proposals.

On the issue of Corpach port, Mr Blackford said: "The potential knock-on benefits for the Corpach port and plans for a future water canning facility at the smelter, which will produce recyclable aluminium cans as an alternative to plastic bottles, will help meet the company's ambitious and attainable commitment to carbon neutrality by 2030 as well as boosting the local economy."

But his views were not shared by a number of his constituents in Corpach who took to social media this week to voice their fears about any expansion of the port.

One local posted: "There goes the neighbourhood. Having seen first hand Alumina unloading facilities I can promise you a biomass plant will look like Shangri-la beside it."

Woodland scheme saved by wind farm partner

A tree planting scheme in the Outer Hebrides has been saved from the brink of collapse following the break in the power cable between Lewis and Harris and the mainland.

Community wind farm charity Point and Sandwick Trust set up the Outer Hebrides Croft Woodlands Project in 2016, in partnership with the Woodland Trust and others, but has been left without any income for up to 18 months as it cannot export its power due to the cable failure.

The disaster forced the wind farm organisation to suspend its programme of grants to good causes, including the Outer Hebrides Croft Woodlands Project, but the Woodlands Trust has now

stepped into the breach, agreeing to fund the project for a year to allow work to continue.

The move keeps Croft Woodlands Project Officer Viv Halcrow in post, secures the plantation of around 50,000 trees in croft land throughout the Hebrides in the 2020/21 planting season and enables the momentum of this 'legacy' project to continue.

Viv said: "This will be the fifth planting season and it's been really good. It's a very positive project, I think, and it would have been really sad if it had folded because there are so many people who are keen to plant but wouldn't have had the background know-how to make it happen."



The Croft Woodlands Project will continue thanks to the Woodland Trust.

ONLINE OPEN WEEK 23 - 26 NOVEMBER

Find your future and prepare for your UCAS applications, come along to one of our live events or book a personalised one-on-one chat with us about your interests and career goals.

BOOK YOUR PLACE

whc.uhi.ac.uk/opensdays
01397 874 000



University of the
Highlands and Islands
West Highland College

Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd
agus nan Eilean
Colaiste na Gàidhealtachd an Iar



**2021-22
PROSPECTUS**

whc.uhi.ac.uk/prospectus

Online now!

LT

Nevis Range to temporarily shut after resort loses £1m

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Nevis Range will not open for the start of the new snowsports season as a result of Covid-19 travel restrictions and what it says is 'uncertainty surrounding winter operations'.

A spokesperson for Nevis Range told the Lochaber Times this week that, like many other local businesses, the resort on the outskirts of Fort William had been reflecting on the current Covid-19 situation.

'Unfortunately we have reached the very difficult conclusion to suspend the sale of season tickets for snowsports and temporarily close the business,' added the spokesperson.

'With all of the travel restrictions and uncertainty surrounding winter operations, we are not 100 per cent confident we can deliver a full season for you.'

'Anyone who has bought a

Tough decision but hope on horizon for next year

season ticket can have a full refund and we will carry over loyalty discounts for all season ticket holders to the 21/22 season.

'If we are able to fully open with a significant part of the season left, we will put season tickets on sale and offer reduced day pass tickets for anyone who held a season ticket for the 19/20 season. We can't wait to be back open and as soon as we have great conditions and fewer travel restrictions, we will be back out on the hill with you all.'

Because of the unprecedented challenges Nevis Range has faced this year - its trading loss due to Covid-19 is £1m - it says it is concerned that while there are restrictions in place,

the resort would not be able to trade in December and January without losing significant amounts of money, which would put jobs at risk.

However, the spokesperson continued: 'It's not all doom and gloom. Over the last few years, the season has been starting in earnest towards the end of January and we look forward to having an amazing season as soon as conditions allow. The addition of our snow-making plant will make a huge difference to the new beginners' area and we can't wait to welcome you back to a snowy Nevis Range.'

'In early summer we hope to have our new Blue Bike Track open, from the Top Station, which promises to be one of



Nevis Range hopes to salvage something from the season.

the most exciting additions to Nevis Range in recent times. Thank you for all of your support during this really challenging year and we'll see you on the hill soon.'

trusted with your home for over
65 years

**BUY NOW
PAY LATER**

2022

Secure your conservatory order today and pay no more until 2022.



Visit our website for more information

f t
info@cairngormgroup.co.uk
www.cairngormgroup.co.uk

1 Longman Drive, Inverness IV1 1SU Tel: 01463 238000
Tyock Industrial Estate, Elgin IV30 1XY Tel: 01343 545315
6-8 High Street, Thurso KW14 8AG Tel: 01847 894956

Credit is subject to application and status. Terms and conditions apply.
Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. [Cairngorm Conservatories/Kitchens/Windows*] is a trading style of Inverness Glass Company Limited, Longman Drive, Inverness, IV1 1SU (FRN 916751) who act a credit broker offering credit only from Hitachi Capital (UK) PLC

Great Offers on Bottled Gas

Ready and waiting for you...

47kg Propane - **now only £59.95**
19kg Propane - **£29.95**
13kg Butane - **£29.95**

Free delivery and connection within 20 miles of Fort William and we'll take your empty away
All other prices available on our website
www.bennevisgassupplies.com

Ben Nevis Gas supplies
Office open 7 days 9am - 6pm
Ben Nevis Holiday park
Camaghael, Fort William, PH33 7NF
01397 703446

LT

VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER



If there's one thing that this pandemic has done, it is to remind us all that nothing is certain – what works in business one day can literally be turned on its head the next.

It's been an incredibly challenging time for our businesses. At the chamber we've supported our members and the wider business community by offering access to advice, information on funding sources, legislation and recommendations, as well as more practical measures like hand-sanitiser and an app to help businesses keep records of customers for contact tracing.

All of these were things that none of us had an inkling that we'd be doing last November. In fact, this time last year Lochaber Ideas Week was in full swing. Ideas Week is all about celebrating new ideas – and when it comes to ideas, the phrase 'necessity is the mother of invention' is never far away.

It's fair to say the pandemic has created a lot of new ideas,

new approaches and new ways of living – while it's incredibly hard for all business sectors, the need to adapt has led to really creative new ideas. Like most businesses, the chamber team transformed our work to be delivered online and have been delighted with the way members have embraced the opportunities on offer through online seminars and meetings.

Working on our ability to think differently, and to see things in a fresh way creates opportunities for learning new things. Asking yourself, 'What if?' questions can help you to move past your assumptions about what works – and be as prepared as possible for the unexpected. It might be the start of your next big idea.

Whatever your business and whatever your ideas, at Lochaber Chamber of Commerce we're here to support you in whatever ways we can.

From Excelling under Pressure to A Meeting of Minds Aquaculture seminar, check out our wide range of events to get you thinking about opportunities and new approaches to business at www.lochaberchamber.co.uk

LHS pupils raise cash for local charities to elderly

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Lochaber High School's Christmas Parcel delivery to the elderly in the community will not be taking place this December due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The school said this week that the long-standing tradition will be sorely missed by pupils, staff and our elderly recipients but it will hopefully be reinstated for next Christmas.

However, LHS pupils participate in a Dress Down Day each October to raise funds for the Christmas Parcel scheme and this did take place this year, in conjunction with World Mental Health Day. The sum of £620 was raised.

This money has been divided between four local charities, with the majority going to groups who work closely with the elderly in the



Linda Campbell, on behalf of Lochaber and District Lunch Club, the Tuesday Club and Lochaber Action on Disability and Lorraine Revitt, Lochaber Women's Aid are pictured receiving their cheques from S6 pupils at LHS last week. Photograph: Abrightside Photography.

local community – Lochaber and District Lunch Club, the Tuesday Club, Lochaber Action on Disability and

Lochaber Women's Aid. Each group will receive £155. The cheques were handed over last week by S3 pupils

who are members of the health and well-being committee, who help promote well-being initiatives within the school.

BUY NOW PAY LATER

trusted with your home for over 65 years

2022

Secure your kitchen order today and pay no more until 2022.



Visit our [website](http://www.cairngormgroup.co.uk) for more information

f t
info@cairngormgroup.co.uk
www.cairngormgroup.co.uk

1 Longman Drive, Inverness IV1 1SU Tel: 01463 238000
Tyock Industrial Estate, Elgin IV30 1XY Tel: 01343 545315
6-8 High Street, Thurso KW14 8AG Tel: 01847 894956

Credit is subject to application and status. Terms and conditions apply.
Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. [Cairngorm Conservatories/Kitchens/Windows] is a trading style of Inverness Glass Company Limited, Longman Drive, Inverness, IV1 1SU (FRN 916751) who act a credit broker offering credit only from Hitachi Capital (UK) PLC

The Ideal Gift

SCOTTISH CALENDARS 2021

FROM **£12.99** including P&P*

FROM **£8.99** including P&P*

FROM **£8.99** including P&P*

Enjoy Scotland at its best all year round with our selection of stunning calendars. To see all the images from our 2021 range visit:
www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

* additional P&P charges will apply to EU/ROW

ORDER ONLINE at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk
or call us on **01778 392014**

OR POST ALL ORDERS to: Wyvex Media Subscriptions, FREEPOST RUAC-JUXA-GYAU
Warners Group Publications plc, The Maltings, West Street, Bourne, Lincolnshire PE10 9PH

Strontian author sets series in West Highlands

Strontian author Sylvia Hehir has set her contemporary teen series, Love and the Village, in a fictional Scottish West Highland location.



Delivered, which LoveReading4Kids calls an 'absolute gem of a book', is the second book in the series, and is published this week.

The story follows 17-year-old Frankie as she sets off with her boyfriend to play in a band in Glasgow. However, her plans go awry when her estranged sister turns up as Frankie is about to leave.

This is a fun-to-read story of sisterhood, self-belief and delivering the goods. The first book in the series, Deleted, was published in early 2020, also by Garmoran Publishing. It has gained lots of praise from readers and reviewers alike. Katie Napier, a school librarian, said: 'Sylvia Hehir has done an exceptional job of creating a fun YA novel. 'With relatable characters, accurate thoughts and real-life

experiences, this book has become top of my recommendation list for students. I can't wait to read Delivered next.' **B r i d g e t Carrington** from Armadillo Children's Book Review magazine called Deleted 'funny, insightful, fast-moving, sometimes scary but always an engaging read'.

Copies of both books are available from all bookshops, either on the high street or online. Both books are available as ebooks on Amazon and the audiobook of Deleted is available on Audible, Apple Books and Chirp as well as other audiobook outlets.

Sylvia's debut YA thriller, Sea Change, published in 2019 by Stirling Publishing, Edinburgh, was winner of the Pitlochry Quach and was shortlisted for the prestigious Caledonia Novel Award.

Pictured above: Strontian author Sylvia Hehir with her two Love and the Village series books.

Highlands and Islands back #ChangeHerStory

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk



RASASH
Rape and Sexual Abuse Service Highland

More than 13 organisations across the Highlands and Islands are jointly campaigning to raise awareness of gender-based violence, in particular sexual violence, and how it affects people in the area's communities.

Partners include Lochaber Women's Aid, Rape Crisis centres, Police Scotland and University of the Highlands and Islands.

The #ChangeHerStory campaign is part of the global 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence taking place from November 25 to December 10. For each of the 16 days, partners will be sharing resources and stories online, including those written by survivors.

'This year, Covid has had devastating effects for many

survivors of sexual violence,' said Gwen Harrison, manager at the Rape and Sexual Abuse Service Highland (RASASH).

'Lockdown meant no escape for people living with their abuser, support services were interrupted, and court cases put on hold.

'The outbreak doesn't stop us from doing something about prevention though. This joint campaign provides us with an opportunity to generate greater public awareness and understanding of sexual violence in the Highlands and Islands.'

Sexual offences have continued to increase each year

in Scotland, even as other crime rates have gone down. According to Rape Crisis Scotland statistics, an estimated one in 10 women in Scotland have been raped. Yet, sexual violence remains a taboo topic that is rarely spoken about or recognised, especially in rural communities.

'The first step is recognising the problem,' added Gwen.

'By speaking out about sexual violence, we can help reduce the stigma and let survivors know there are services out there that will believe and support them.'

The campaign is also calling

on the public to show solidarity towards survivors. People are encouraged to post on their social media using the hashtag #ChangeHerStory or anonymously via the website with a message of what they would like to see change for women and girls.

These contributions will be shared during the final day of the campaign as part of a short film.

This video will be a 'virtual march' in place of the annual Reclaim the Night event, which cannot take place due to current restrictions.

For more information about the campaign or to get involved, visit www.changeherstory.co.uk from November 25 to December 10.

READMORE
www.lochabertimes.co.uk

SEPTIC TANK SERVICES

Callum Simpson

- ✓ **SEPTIC TANK EMPTYING & CLEANING**
- ✓ **SEPTIC TANK INSTALLATION**
- ✓ **GROUNDWORKS & LANDSCAPING**
- ✓ **CRANE HIRE**

In Partnership with Turley Bros.

We won't be beaten on price, service or quality



Turley Treatment Tanks

CONCRETE TANK - 40 YEAR WARRANTY

www.septictankservicesltd.com 07917 358285 / 01546 607046

Accredited Installer

LT

Trio uncovers Jacobite hoard

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

A secret arms shipment intended for the army of Bonnie Prince Charlie has been discovered on the shores of a remote Lochaber loch.

Artefacts including more than 200 musket balls, gold and gilt buttons were found by a trio of amateur archaeologists hunting for weapons sent from France for the doomed Jacobite military rising of 1745-46.

The items are thought to be part of a shipment landed just a fortnight after the Battle of Culloden in April 1746.

Paul Macdonald, David McGovern and Gary Burton were using metal detecting equipment – with the landowner's permission – when they made the find recently on the shore of Loch nan Uamh near Lochailort.

The historical items were uncovered near a ruined croft house that once belonged to the prince's Gaelic tutor and have now been reported to



Paul Macdonald, Gary Burton and David McGovern made the discovery near Lochailort in September.

Treasure Trove in Scotland. This is an official organisa-

tion which ensures objects of cultural significance from

Scotland's past are protected for the benefit of the nation

and preserved in museums across the country.

Originally from Glenuig, Mr Macdonald, of the Conflicts of Interest battle-field archaeology group, said the find had been made in early September on the Rhu peninsula.

'A hoard had lain there, undisturbed by one particular croft, for around 250 years.

'The complete hoard included 215 musket balls and a number of gold and silver gilt buttons, coins and some other non-ferrous items on the northern coast of Loch nan Uamh,' said Mr Macdonald.

'It was really just a case of joining the dots so to speak, from what history records. It is known that arms had been landed in 1746 in this area.

'From what the finds tell us to date, the musket balls were cast for use, yet never fired, and correspond with the same calibre of musket balls landed nearby with French arms for the Jacobite Rising by the ships Mars and Bellone on the April 30 1746.

'The arms were, of course, landed a couple of weeks after the Battle of Culloden and never saw service but were rapidly distributed and hidden locally.

'What we also know about the find-spot is that the now-ruined croft was once inhabited by the famous Clanranald bard, Alasdair MacMhaighstir Alasdair, who was an officer in the '45 Rising and served as Gaelic tutor to Prince Charles Edward Stuart. He lived out his later years here at this croft until his death in 1770.

'The find has been reported to Treasure Trove where it may process from there and hopefully find its way to a Scottish museum.'

As to the value of the artefacts, Mr Macdonald said the find is significant but more in terms of historical worth than financial.

'It is a very nice find and we were delighted with locating another part of the story of the prince and the Jacobite Rising.'

Win!



ARDRHU HOUSE
- ROOMS & SPA -

Tel: 01855 821 210

enjoy@ardrhuhouse.com

www.ardrhuhouse.com

a Spa treat with breakfast or afternoon tea for two at beautiful Ardrhu House

We all need something special right now to make us feel good in body and soul; to lift our spirits and inject some joy back into life. Ardrhu House has the perfect solution with its 'Spa La Carte' approach to wellness.

Ardrhu House in Onich, just 9 miles from Fort William, is beloved by visitors and locals-in-the-know, and has answered the call with its holistic treatment menu offering an indulgent treat whilst maintaining a safe environment. Personalised Gift Vouchers are available making this the perfect gift to share with a friend or loved one!

The spa team comprises an Ayurveda practitioner, herbalist, aromatherapist and sound healer; all coming together to weave the magic of Ardrhu House for a bespoke spa experience. World-famous brands like Ila and Temple Spa are part of the ranges of products used for these exquisite treatments available exclusively in Scotland at Ardrhu House.

Treatment choices vary in length and include a therapeutic range for insomnia, restlessness, anxiety, stress and exhaustion. The massage treatments are popular with male and female customers and a couples' visit includes some amazing rituals to be shared together side by side in the same treatment

One lucky winner will win a half-day spa treat for 2 which includes:

- 90 minute treatment of your choice, for 2 people
- Breakfast or Afternoon tea for 2 people
- Access to the emerald steam room, Finish sauna, hydro-jet shower and the outdoor Jacuzzi with stunning views over looking Loch Linnhe.

Prize value
£180!

Enter the competition today for your chance to win! Simply tell us, Ardrhu House sits on the edge of which loch?

You can enter the competition via the Oban Times & Lochaber Times website at <https://wyvexmedia.wufoo.com/forms/qqv324j16clnww/>

The winner drawn at random from all entries will be notified on Friday 27th November – so don't delay, enter today! Entries close at 5pm on Thursday 26th November.

For more details on the spa offering at Ardrhu House, visit <https://www.ardrhuhouse.com/spa>

T&Cs: The winner will be notified by email/telephone where provided. The prize redemption will be valid until 31st March 2021, excluding Christmas and New Year. All entries will be disposed of after the competition in line with GDPR rules. No cash alternative. Editor's decision is final. For full T&Cs see the entry form online.



Lochaber's Holly makes it onto BBC's Woman's Hour Power List top 30

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Lochaber teenage climate activist and rewilding campaigner Holly Gillibrand has been named on this year's prestigious Woman's Hour Power List, which celebrates the significant positive contributions women are making to the environment and the sustainability of our planet.

The list was revealed live by Jane Garvey on BBC Radio 4's Woman's Hour on Monday, with Green MP Caroline Lucas topping the list in the number one spot.

Holly, from Kinlocheil, came in at number 19, ahead of such illustrious names as television wildlife presenter Kate Humble and Rebecca Willis, Expert Lead to Climate Assembly UK.

As well as Ms Lucas, the top



five women on list were environmental lawyer Farhana Yamin, clean air campaigner Rosamund Kissi-Debrah, young birder and environmentalist Mya-Rose Craig, otherwise known as Birdgirl,

and Sophie Howe, the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales.

This year's panel was led by head judge, journalist Lucy Siegle. She was joined by horticulturalist and presenter

Flo Headlam; Alice Larkin, Professor of Climate Science and Energy Policy at the University of Manchester; Zunaira Malik, who works for the UK environmental education charity Action

Holly was placed 19th out of the 30 women named in the Power List.

for Conservation and chairperson of the Environment Agency Emma Howard Boyd.

Karen Dalziel, editor of Woman's Hour, said: 'These 30 remarkable women from around the UK have made protecting our planet their personal priority. They're the decision makers, innovators, communicators, campaigners and volunteers who've made a conscious choice to care for our environment and find more sustainable ways to live.'

However, it's not just the work they're doing that sets them apart, it's the scale of their passion, dedication and determination to bring about lasting change that is so inspiring. We're delighted to be

celebrating them in this year's Power List.'

Giving her reaction to being named on the prestigious list, Ms Gillibrand, who has been writing a regular column on climate and other environmental issues for the Lochaber Times for several years, said: 'It is mind-blowing to have been included on this list alongside so many passionate and inspiring women. Congratulations to all those on the list - you deserve it.'

Ms Gillibrand will be interviewed on today's (Thursday) edition of Woman's Hour.

For the full list of 30 women named, visit www.lochabertimes.co.uk

SUBSCRIBE
www.obantimes.co.uk/subscriptions

UK Government
Scotland

NHS

I wash my hands to protect my colleagues.

HANDS FACE SPACE

LT

Comhairle announces emergency fund

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar this week launched an emergency fund to support Western Isles charitable and community organisations facing financial difficulties following the subsea cable fault between Skye and Harris.

The comhairle will contribute up to £175,000 while additional funding of £300,000 from SSEN has been established through repurposing £150,000 of existing community resilience funds, matched by the company as a goodwill gesture.

Funding will be administered by the comhairle to provide support directly to impacted organisations.

It is anticipated the fund will be for one year and it is hoped it will be operational by the end of this week.

The comhairle will be working with affected community bodies to ensure the funding is allocated quickly and efficiently directly to the affected organisations.

Support floods in for charity facing closure

Passion fuels last ditch effort by Foyers to try and save organisation

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Those involved with the Western Isles Foyer, which supports vulnerable young people, say they have been 'overwhelmed' with messages of support since the announcement earlier this month that the charity was being forced to shut down.

Last week, the Lochaber Times reported how the current fault with the subsea cable which carries electricity from the Outer Hebrides to the National Grid on the mainland, is a vital source of wind farm-generated income for groups including the Foyer.

In a statement following the news, the Foyer said it was going to have to shut as a result

of the sudden and unexpected loss of wind farm-generated income, representing a quarter of its annual required budget.

Now the Foyer says it has been overwhelmed with messages of support from the community and offers to try and help save the charity.

The messages received from young people – both past and present service-users – have been particularly poignant. One young person, who would prefer to remain anonymous, stated: 'I probably wouldn't still be alive if it wasn't for the support of you guys.'

Inspired by the passion and strength of feeling about Foyer's service closure, administrators decided, with the help and support of the young people who use the service, to



The entrance to Beinn Ghrìdeag, the wind farm owned and operated by Point and Sandwick Trust for the benefit of the community.

Photograph: Sandie Maciver of SandiePhotos Photography.

do everything they can to try to save the organisation before the proposed date of service closure on December 2.

With this in mind, the Foyer has started a JustGiving campaign to try and raise

£50,000 and replace the loss of grant income from Point and Sandwick Trust (PST) which distributes income generated by its Beinn Ghrìdeag wind farm on Lewis.

Rebecca Mahony, Western

Isles Foyer service manager, told the Lochaber Times: 'Myself, the staff and service-users are all united in our wish to save Western Isles Foyer.'

'We are realists and understand it is a massive challenge to raise this amount within the timescale required.'

'However, we exist to support young people and I want to respect and honour their desire to try and help save Foyer. Who am I to try and put limits and boundaries on the hopes and dreams of young people?'

'We have agreed, if we are unable to reach the required fundraising target of £50,000, any donations received will be distributed between other charities impacted by loss of PST income.'

DEREK WILSON

CARRIERS LTD

DAILY SERVICE OBAN - GLASGOW
MULL, COLL, TIREE, COLONSAY, ISLAY

COLL, TIREE, MULL, IONA, COLONSAY, ISLAY, OBAN, GLASGOW

Building on 30 years of Service Excellence

- ❖ Freight forwarding and courier service
- ❖ Furniture, appliances, feed, automotive spares, glass, building supplies, etc.
- ❖ "Won't ship to the Scottish Highlands & Islands?"

Have your items delivered via our Glasgow depot!

Tel: 01631 562655 email: dwoban@gmail.com

Units 2/3 Crannog Lane, Lochavullin, OBAN PA34 4HB



Covid precautions in place



The Christmas lights switch-on last year was a huge success.

Kilmallie committee shed light on festive plans to shed some Christmas cheer

Due to social distancing rules and restrictions on mass gatherings there will be no switch-on ceremony for Kilmallie Christmas lights this year.

The decision was taken at a recent meeting of the committee of the Kilmallie Christmas Lights Fund to discuss arrangements for the festive season.

However, the members of the group are hoping to have festive pole lights in position in both Banavie and Corpach soon and have two Christmas trees in situ by Christmas.

'We feel that this Christmas, more than any other, it is important to have some lights and festive cheer,' said a committee spokesperson.

Applications open for new Scottish Child Payment

The Scottish Government is launching a new benefit scheme for families.

Scottish Child Payment starts on February 15 2021 and will give families on certain benefits and tax credits an extra £40 every four weeks for each child under six.

Social Security Scotland will deliver the benefit on behalf of the Scottish Government. It is expecting huge demand which is why they are asking people to apply now.

By taking applications early, they can make sure they have all the information they need to check eligibility. This will help them make a decision on applications and, if eligible, make payments as quickly as possible once the benefit starts.

To get the payment a child will need to be under six years old on Monday February 15. Families also need to be getting one of these - Child Tax Credit, Income Support, Pension Credit, Working Tax Credit, Universal Credit, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or income-related Employment and Support Allowance.

If applying before Monday February 15, payment will be calculated from Monday February 15.

Applying in advance will ensure families get all the money they are due.

If families apply after Monday February 15, their payment will be calculated from the date they apply.

Social Security Scotland delivers a number of benefits for families. This includes Best Start Grant Pregnancy and Baby Payment, Early Learning Payment, School Age Payment and Best Start Foods. Applying

for these and the Scottish Child Payment uses a single straightforward form.

Mhoraig Green, strategic lead for social justice, Citizen's Advice Scotland, said: 'We are really looking

forward to the new Scottish Child Payment. We know lots of families in Scotland are facing tough times at the moment and are struggling to make ends meet and this new money will help to make their lives easier.

'What's really important is that everyone who is entitled to the payment makes a claim when applications open in November.

'Citizens Advice Bureau are working in communities across Scotland to help people to access the social security they are entitled to. So, if you are unclear about whether you are entitled or you need help applying then please get in touch and our Money Talk teams will be able to help you.'

Stacey Bush, 36, of Girvan, South Ayrshire, said: 'I have three children aged three, five and 17.

'When my husband was furloughed and out of work we didn't have a lot of money. I relied a lot on my nan and my mum. This new payment would mean I wouldn't need to do that. I could put it towards shopping.

'We do struggle so it would help to take the stress away - clothes, shoes, and I'd probably like to spend it on a day out. We don't ever have the money to do fun things with the children, so I'd like to spend it on something like that.'

For more information or to apply for Scottish Child Payment, visit mygov.scot/benefits or call 0800 182 2222.

Column sponsored by the Scottish Government

Apply now for Scottish Child Payment

Scottish Child Payment is a new benefit from the Scottish Government. It starts on 15 February 2021. It will give families on certain benefits and tax credits an extra £40 every 4 weeks for each child under six.

Social Security Scotland will deliver this benefit on behalf of the Scottish Government. It is expecting huge demand. This is why they are asking you to apply now.

By taking applications early, they can make sure they have all the information that they need to check eligibility. This will help them to make a decision on your application and, if eligible, make payments as quickly as possible once the benefit starts.

To get the payment your child will need to be under six years old on Monday 15 February. You'll also need to be getting one of these - Child Tax Credit,

Income Support, Pension Credit, Working Tax Credit, Universal Credit, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA).

If you apply before Monday 15 February your payment will be calculated from Monday 15 February. Make sure you get all the money you are due by applying in advance.

If you apply after Monday 15 February, your payment will be calculated from the date you apply.

Social Security Scotland delivers a number of benefits for families. This includes Best Start Grant Pregnancy and Baby Payment, Early Learning Payment, School Age Payment and Best Start Foods. You apply for Scottish Child Payment and all of these using a single straightforward form.

For more information or to apply for Scottish Child Payment visit mygov.scot/benefits or call 0800 182 2222.



Fairer
Scotland
Scottish
Government



Social Security Scotland
Tèarainteachd Shòisealta Alba

LT

Glenfinnan Viaduct turns red for the nation's fallen

Glenfinnan Viaduct was illuminated bright red last Wednesday – Armistice Day – as a tribute to all those who have lost their lives in defence of the country.

The 21-arch Victorian viaduct, famous across the world for its starring role in the Harry Potter film series, was turned red between 7pm and 9pm as the nation marked the 102nd anniversary of Armistice Day.

Lighting up Glenfinnan Viaduct was also a tribute to the role the West Highland Line played in the Second World War – transporting thousands of service personnel from Britain and nations across occupied Europe to commando training centres in the north west of Scotland.

While coronavirus caused the cancellation of traditional remembrance services at Glasgow Central and Edinburgh Waverley,

Scotland's two busiest stations observed the two minutes' silence at 11am on Armistice Day.

Alex Hynes, managing director of Scotland's Railway, said: 'The railway played a key role in both world wars, helping to move personnel and materials around the country and each year our major stations fall silent on November 11 as we remember the sacrifices made for the freedom we all enjoy today. This year we have seen an Armistice Day like no other and, with large events no longer appropriate, we still wanted to pay a public tribute by lighting up Glenfinnan Viaduct, with its global profile and links to World War Two.'

Gordon Michie, head of fundraising at Poppyscotland, added: 'To have such an iconic structure join more than 120 other landmarks across Scotland as part of our Light

Up Red initiative is wonderful. The Glenfinnan Viaduct is one of the most recognisable places in the country.

'To have it bathed in poppy red is an amazing tribute to the fallen and will also help shine a light on the challenges so many in our Armed Forces community still face today.

'Our sincere thanks go to Network Rail for their continued support. As this year's Scottish Poppy Appeal reaches its conclusion, we hope this will remind the public that the need to support our veterans does not end today. The work of Poppyscotland continues all year round and, with their continued support, we can show our Armed Forces community we are behind them, always.'

The lighting of Glenfinnan Viaduct was undertaken following clear social distancing rules and did not involve any



Glenfinnan Viaduct lit up with red light to mark Armistice Day. Photograph: Abrightside Photography.

unnecessary travel. The illumination was carried out by locally-based events company

the Stage Group, which worked with Network Rail to light Glenfinnan and other iconic

rail locations blue in tribute to the NHS during lockdown earlier this year.



STOVECRAFT

Lorne Street, Lochgilphead,
Argyll PA31 8LU,
Tel: 01546 603111

We don't just do stoves



from trusted manufacturers



hunterstoves

Mendip Stoves



Lots of unique Christmas gifts available in store

01546 603111

Opening hours: Open Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 5pm

Contact us on

07470 699572 at any other time.



Children from Little Learners in Inverlochy lay the wreath they made from coloured paper.

Young and old pay tribute on Armistice Day anniversary

This year will be remembered in years to come for the way in which coronavirus restrictions impacted on Lochaber's ability to pay its normal tributes to those who gave their lives in conflicts.

While large-scale gatherings including the traditional Remembrance Day parade in Fort William and at the famous Commando memorial at Spean Bridge had to be cancelled, smaller-sized ceremonies were held on Remembrance Sunday and on the anniversary of Armistice Day – Wednesday November 11 – to ensure those killed in wartime were still honoured.

Individual Lochaber residents also heeded the call by the Royal British Legion Scotland to pay their own personal tributes by standing in silence for two minutes on both days. On

this year's 102nd anniversary of Armistice Day – the date on which the guns fell silent along the Western Front in 1918 – children and young people paid their own tributes.

Among them were children and staff of Little Learners in Inverlochy, who donned their wet weather gear and walked to the war memorial in Fort William's Parade to lay the wreath they had made from coloured paper.

At Fort William War Memorial, Reverend Richard Baxter gave a short reading and Lochaber High School pupils Alice Campbell and Leanne Gilchrist laid a wreath.

Members of the Fort William and District branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland also marked the silencing of the guns at the traditional 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month.



The scene at Fort William War Memorial where Reverend Richard Baxter gave a short reading.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos



Members of the Fort William and District branch of the Royal British Legion pay their respects. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos



Left: Lochaber High School pupils Alice Campbell, left, and Leanne Gilchrist lay a wreath at Fort William War Memorial to mark the Armistice Day anniversary. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

PHARMACY FIRST FOR MINOR ILLNESS

If you have a minor illness this winter, your local community pharmacy is the first place you should go for advice and treatment. The NHS Pharmacy First Scotland service is now available to everyone living in Scotland. In most cases you won't need an appointment, and it can save you a trip to the GP practice.



ADVICE ON YOUR SYMPTOMS

Trained pharmacy teams are able to provide advice on how to manage a range of common conditions, such as aches and pains, allergies, skin complaints, tummy upsets, runny or blocked noses, cold sores, and for women, urinary tract infections. They can also supply NHS treatment, including certain prescription only medications, if necessary.

If you need to speak with a pharmacist, you'll be asked to provide details about yourself (such as name and address) to help them provide a record of care. As with other NHS services, everything you share is confidential, and many community pharmacies now offer private consulting spaces.



TREATMENT IF RECOMMENDED

If your condition needs treatment the pharmacist cannot provide, they will help you access the right care by directing you to the appropriate place.



REFERRAL TO OTHER SERVICES

Your community pharmacy will have measures in place to help keep you and pharmacy staff safe during the coronavirus pandemic. Only a limited number of people will be allowed inside the pharmacy, and you will be asked to wear a face covering, use hand sanitiser and keep a two metre distance from others when you visit.

Harry McQuillan from Community Pharmacy Scotland said:

"Community pharmacies are part of the NHS and can provide a safe and professional service for those with minor illnesses, supplying NHS treatment where necessary.

The NHS Pharmacy First service is available to everyone living in Scotland and you can access it from any community pharmacy to receive advice and treatment. You can also find self-help guidance for a range of common conditions on the NHS Inform website.

Your local community pharmacy will be doing everything it can to help keep people safe during the coronavirus pandemic, and you can help them by following the guidance when you visit."

For more information visit nhsinform.scot



LT

Highlands and Islands among 'safest' places in Scotland, says police chief



Chief Superintendent Conrad Trickett.

Highlands and Islands' most senior police officer has thanked the public for their support as the latest crime figures reveal the region remains one of the safest places in Scotland.

New figures – management information figures, not official statistics – for April 1 to September 30, once again highlight the region has one of the lowest crime rates in the country, while there was an increase of almost two per cent in the overall detection rate compared to the same period last year.

Thanks to proactive and enforcement activity, Police Scotland says more than 1,000 drug offences were recorded, while 156 crimes involving offensive or bladed weapons were detected as efforts continued to tackle violent crime.

Identifying and supporting

vulnerable people being exploited by criminals remains a priority, with days of action launched across the region to tackle 'county lines'.

Almost 4,000 people were charged with group seven crimes which include dangerous driving, drink/drug driving and speeding. Officers from Police Scotland's road policing unit will continue to patrol routes across the region to reassure communities and influence driver behaviour.

Divisional Commander Chief Superintendent Conrad Trickett said: 'While increased detection rates and reductions in crime are always welcome, it is important to remember this has been an extraordinary period, therefore it's difficult to draw conclusions about long-term crime trends generally.'

'While crime levels nationally are returning to levels expe-

rienced during previous years, it could take many months, maybe even years, before we fully understand the impact Covid-19 has had.

'While these figures will serve as a benchmark for continued improvement, they do not tell the full story of policing during the past few months. Identifying and protecting the most vulnerable people alongside our partners has been absolutely key and our officers, staff and special constables remain out in your communities helping those most in need and providing reassurance.

'Moving forward, the potential for suppressed vulnerability remains a concern and I urge communities to remain vigilant of those at potential risk and to raise any concerns to police or partners.'

Chief Superintendent

Trickett added that Police Scotland's ambitious cyber strategy set out a clear direction for how the force tackles the exploitation of vulnerable people and children, either for financial gain or for sexual purposes.

'While we do all that we can to bring offenders to justice, it is crucial the public takes steps to protect themselves from these criminals and be aware of the warning signs,' he said.

'It has been three months since I joined the region and I continue to be extremely proud of the work ongoing alongside our partners to keep people safe.

'I am also extremely grateful for the support we receive from our communities and I can provide every assurance Police Scotland is here to help and will continue responding to your concerns.'

Time to refuel?



- Breakfast Rolls
- Toasties
- Daily Lunch Specials
- Homemade Soup
- Lavazza Coffee

Serving hot food
6am-1.30pm
Monday to Friday
Fuel Station open 24/7

24/7 launderette SELF SERVICE WASH & DRY



DRY 18 KG £2
WASH 18 KG £8
WASH 8 KG £4

Esso HALFWAY FILLING STATION
Dunbeg, Oban PA37 1PX Tel: 01631 562784 Open 24 hours

MACLEOD

CONSTRUCTION LIMITED

Home improvements... All under one roof!

- Roof Repairs
- Gutters

- Porches
- Extensions

- Plumbing
- Electrical

- Joinery
- Refurbishment



For any Enquiries please get in touch:

 macleodconstruction.co.uk

 sales@mkmacleod.co.uk

 01546 602989

 MacLeod Construction Ltd

 @macleodconstruction

 Kilmory Industrial Estate,
Lochgilphed, PA31 8RR



VEHICLE HIRE



WIDE RANGE OF VANS FOR HIRE

Local pick up available
Competitive rates

Morrison Motor Repairs
Unit 1 Creran Marine, Barcaldine
by Oban, Argyll PA37 1SG

Tel: 07825 581171

Email: morrisonmotorrepairs@gmail.com



Outdoor retailer to close after 17 years

Mallaig outdoor equipment and clothing retailer Wayoutwest will close its doors on May 1 next year after 17 years of trading.

Owners Fiona and Michael Baker have expressed their gratitude to all their staff over the years, the community and everyone near and far who have shopped at The Boat House-based store for their friendship, loyalty and custom.

In a joint statement the couple added: 'We would also like to sincerely thank all local businesses,

hotels and accommodation providers for their support and for all the times they've recommended visitors to drop in to Wayoutwest. We wish them all the best for the future during these challenging times.'

Support

The couple went on to encourage anyone living in or visiting the area to support other local businesses during what they described as 'difficult days ahead for Mallaig High Street'.

'We've had the best time, but it's time for a new adventure,' they added.

Rural affordable homes funding to be extended

A five-year programme to fund affordable housing projects in rural and island communities is being extended, Housing Minister Kevin Stewart has told the Scottish Parliament.

The Rural and Islands Housing Funds, worth up to £30 million, were launched in 2016 and will now run beyond March next year.

The funds help groups such as community organisations, development trusts and private landowners to build new affordable housing or refurbish existing properties and have already supported projects that will deliver around 200 homes.

Mr Stewart said it was important for the Scottish Government to help 'our valuable

rural and island communities' to provide sustainable affordable housing in their areas.

'The Rural and Islands Housing Funds were set up to address some of the issues these areas have faced and have been described as 'game changers' by the Scottish Land Commission, providing a vital boost to affordable housing in remote rural Scotland and on our islands,' added Mr Stewart.

'One or two homes in a small community can be as important as a large-scale development in a city. I have seen first-hand how these funds supported a development of 12 homes in the village of Drumnadrochit that has allowed older residents to live in-

dependently, with support from a nearby day centre – an inspiring project created by the community.

'We want this good work to carry on and have been listening to feedback from communities, councils and rural housing stakeholders who want these funds to continue and deliver new homes. As such, I am pleased to announce the continuation of the funds beyond March 2021.'

The funds are part of the wider Affordable Housing Supply Programme, which has delivered about 4,800 affordable homes in rural and island communities over the first four years of this parliament, including on Islay, Iona, Skye, Orkney, Shetland, the Outer Hebrides, Mull, Raasay and Rum.

Advertorial

Vattenfall proposes new wind energy project in Argyllshire



Edinbane Wind Farm has been operational since 2010 – 18 turbines with a total installed capacity of 41.4MW. Image courtesy of Vattenfall.

Vattenfall is in the early stages of exploring the development of a wind farm at Musdale. The project is around 9km south east of Oban and will consist of up to 26 turbines with a maximum blade tip height of 200m.

An online exhibition and consultation will be launched on December 8 at www.vattenfall.co.uk/musdale to provide further information on the proposal, and a newsletter will be sent to local households in advance of the exhibition to help raise awareness.

One-to-one calls will also be available, for people to discuss the proposal with the project team and ask any questions that they may have.

Frank Elsworth, Vattenfall's UK Development Director for Onshore Wind, said: 'Scotland is a front runner in onshore wind



Frank Elsworth.

energy compared to the rest of the UK and is reaping the benefits for the environment, communities and businesses.

'Vattenfall wants to work with the local community and businesses to explore how we can create opportunities and benefits for the local area through community investment, skills development, jobs and employment.'

Alison Daugherty, Senior Project Manager for

Vattenfall, explained: 'We want to discuss our plans with the local community early, so that they can influence the design of the project and discuss the opportunities that the wind farm could create locally. I would like to encourage the community to visit our online event and get involved in the consultation by sharing their thoughts and ideas with us.'

'We look forward to collaborating with the people who live and work here as we develop the project.'

A Scoping Report for the project was submitted last week to the Scottish Government. If consented, the wind farm could produce enough electricity to power around 117,500 UK homes annually.

Further information can be found on the project website at www.vattenfall.co.uk/musdale.

Musdale Wind Farm Proposal

Vattenfall is in the early stages of exploring a potential 26-turbine wind farm at Musdale, approximately 5.5 km south east of Kilmore village, near Oban.



An **online exhibition** and pre-application consultation will be launched on **Tuesday 8th December 2020** via the project website at www.vattenfall.co.uk/musdale to engage with the local community on the project.

The exhibition will provide a variety of information for people to learn more about the project, as well as an opportunity to arrange one-to-one calls with the project team during the consultation period to discuss the project and ask questions.

People can also request hard copies of the exhibition information, from the date of the event, by calling 01434 611300.

We're keen to understand people's thoughts and gather feedback on the proposal as part of the consultation. Anyone wishing to provide feedback should submit their comments in writing to Vattenfall via the online exhibition survey, by email to musdale.windfarm@vattenfall.com or by post to Musdale Project Team, St Andrew's House, Haugh Lane, Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 3QQ.

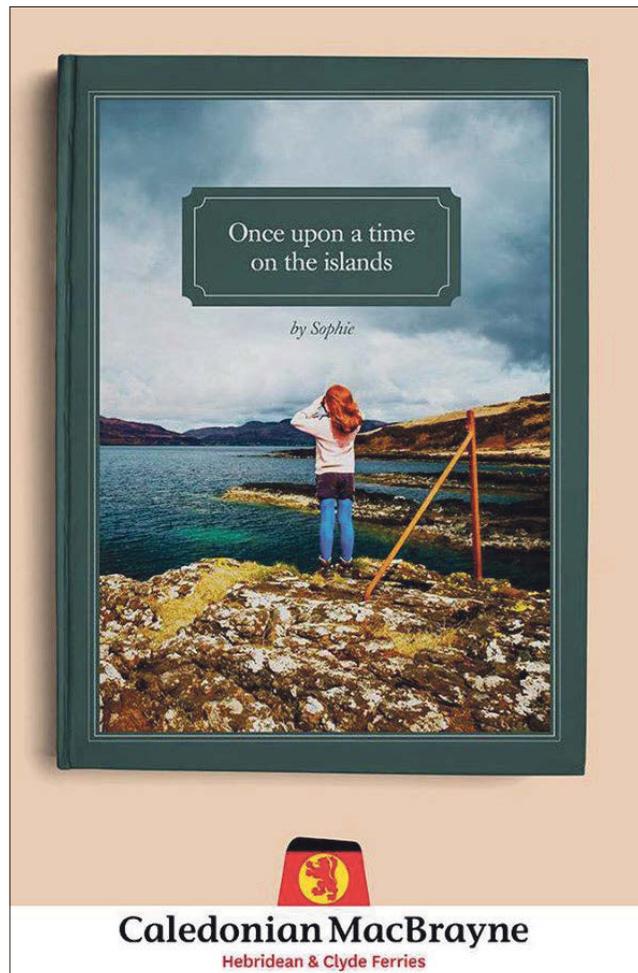
The consultation closing date for feedback to Vattenfall on the proposal at this stage is **Tuesday 2nd February 2021**. There will be a further opportunity to comment on the project later in the design development process.

Any comments submitted to Vattenfall on the proposal at this time are not representations to the determining authority (Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit). Should a formal Section 36 application for consent be submitted for this proposal there will be an opportunity at that time for people to submit formal comments to the determining authority.

This online exhibition is being held remotely in line with Scottish Government Covid-19 guidance on pre-application consultation events.

VATTENFALL

CalMac campaigns win top marketing awards



CalMac's marketing team won gold for its campaign Every Journey Tells a Story at the Marketing Society Star Awards 2020 virtual ceremony in October.

Advertising campaigns launched to raise awareness of CalMac and to attract passengers have landed top industry awards for its marketing team.

The UK's largest ferry operator won gold for Every Journey Tells a Story and bronze for #SeeUistSoon at the Marketing Society Star Awards 2020 virtual ceremony last month.

Welcoming the awards, CalMac head of marketing Andrew MacNair said: 'We are absolutely delighted with this recognition. I am really happy that the team's hard work has been recognised by the marketing industry.'

'Using video and attractive imagery combined with storytelling really helps us to promote the beauty of the destinations throughout the network.'

'These campaigns are fantastic examples of the fact that CalMac is extremely committed to supporting local communities, and we look forward to working with them on future campaigns.'

Graeme Atha, director of the Marketing Society, added: 'The Star Awards have been developed in line with the Marketing Society Scotland vision to help build a vibrant marketing community renowned for enlightened thinking, innovation and creativity.'

'With more than 100 judges involved, we also believe we have a very robust and transparent evaluation process in place.'

'To make one of the shortlists is a significant achievement and to win a Star Award is a real cause for celebration.'

'We are delighted that

CalMac, as one of the fabric brands in Scotland, won bronze in the PR category and gold in the tourism category – especially in one of the most challenging years for the industry.'

Working with the Frame agency, CalMac's marketing team created Every Journey Tells a Story to promote its ability to help passengers take adventures and create special memories.

It brought to life people's real stories about embarking on a journey by sea and the emotion connected to the locations it serves.

The campaign achieved the highest increase in web visits to date, the highest ever social media reach of 2.5 million, and the biggest year-on-year ticket sales.

CalMac worked closely with Outer Hebrides Tourism and

Clarion Communications to design and launch #SeeUistSoon in a bid to attract visitors to the Uists.

The campaign included an Instagram-friendly map which detailed the best locations for taking images.

The maps showed the best photography opportunities, as well as the best traditional sights.

Island residents were encouraged to identify the most 'Instagram-able' spots and proceeds from the map sales went to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI).

This campaign resulted in 650,000 social media reach and a media coverage reach of 10 million.

Outer Hebrides Tourism increased its Instagram and Twitter following by 1,582 per cent and 43 per cent respectively.

ONLINE OPEN WEEK 23 - 26 NOVEMBER

Considering a career change?
Or are you thinking about
new opportunities?

Book a 1-to-1 appointment
to speak to an expert about
your study interests and future
career goals!

BOOK YOUR PLACE

argyll.uhi.ac.uk/openweek



LT

LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to editor@obantimes.co.uk
or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB**Cautious welcome to GFG smelter news**

It's no surprise GFG's latest announcement about its Alvanne Aluminium smelter has been met with extreme caution this week.

While 70 new jobs and plans to make the plant's future more secure are undoubtedly welcome, we have been here before.

There is no doubt Covid and a decline in the UK automotive industry may have played their part in the demise of the alloy wheels project, but given tax-payers backed GFG when it bought the smelter and accompanying hydro-electric schemes, together with 114,000 acres in a £330m deal four years ago, when are we going to see the company actually deliver on its promises?

As Councillor Andrw Baxter says, we need to see a return on our investment.

Well done, Holly

Congratulations to Holly Gillibrand who has been named in this year's prestigious Woman's Hour Power List.

Being celebrated alongside such women as Green MP Caroline Lucas, television wildlife presenter Kate Humble and Rebecca Willis, Expert Lead to Climate Assembly UK is no mean feat. What a role model for other young women. Well done, Holly.

The editor welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. However we reserve the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime phone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters will not be printed. Please email: editor@obantimes.co.uk or write to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.



The views expressed on our letters page are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of The Oban Times.

At the Oban Times we endeavour to ensure that all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time. If we have published anything that is factually incorrect, please email: editor@obantimes.co.uk; telephone on 01631 568000; or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timely, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO by email: inquiries@ipso.co.uk. We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

Fionnphort ferry berth

I refer to the planning application for a new Breakwater and overnight ferry berth in Fionnphort 20/01499/PP.

There is to be no public consultation or Environmental Impact Assessment and residents should have more opportunity to consider the impact of this development.

The rock breakwater will be 3.4metres higher than the existing pier, obscuring much of Iona from the slipway and disregarding Local Development Plans 3.4 'Conserving our outstanding environment'. I see no additional economic benefit to the community from the breakwater - see LDP 5 'supporting sustainable growth of our economy'. A similar height of breakwater is planned on Iona.

The current overnight berth makes it the only UK ferry that cannot be serviced by road, our hardy ferry crews putting the vessel into service by dinghy. CalMac created this problem when they built the overnight berth on another island instead of providing vehicular access on Mull to service their ferry.

CMAL will soon commission a bigger ferry for the route, requiring ongoing dredging at the slipway. Sediments will be shipped to Port Ellen for 'safe disposal'. The replacement hybrid vessel will require a powerful electricity shore connection to charge batteries for propulsion. However, Fionnphort has inadequate distribution and Scottish and Southern Energy Networks previously stated that future demand for the electrification of public transport would need to be met from renewable energy. Until then the ferry will presumably be charged overnight from a diesel generator in Fionnphort.

The planning application does not acknowledge electricity networks as a constraint and it makes no provision for generator noise or CO2 emissions. This does not meet with LDP STRAT 1 - policy for sustainable development, 2019 Climate Change Act, or LDP 10 'maximising our resources and reducing our consumption'.

This is an estimated £8.3m opportunity to harness wave energy and reduce CO2 emissions on the most iconic route in Argyll.

Nigel Burgess, Kintra, Mull.

Ganavan Sands shock

I was shocked to hear that there is a proposal to site mobile homes on the car park at Ganavan Sands. I cannot imagine that this idea has been at all well thought through.

This is a very well used area, enabling the people of Oban and visitors to benefit from the beautiful environment. Indeed, I believe the land

Beachd Ailein**ALLAN CAMPBELL**ailean@obantimes.co.uk

Cha mhiste sgeul mhath aithris dà uair! Gu cinnteach chan ann dà uair na mìle uair a thèid sgeul a' gheama ball-coise eadar-nàiseanta ud aig Alba ann am Belgràd innse, thar iomadh bliadhna! Cha b' urrainn dhan sgeulaiche a b' fheàrr farpais a dhealbh 's a sgrìobhadh le barrachd boil-aighir, iomagain, agus sàr thoileachas aig deireadh cùise, agus b' e tàmailt darribh a bh' ann gun d' fhàg riaghailtean dìon bhon choròna-bhioras nach robh e ceadaichte dha luchd-taice a bhith an làthair gus a' bhuil eachdraidheil seo dha Alba fhaicinn.

Ach bu mhath gun robh cothrom againn an gèam fhaicinn air telebhisean agus chuala sinn beagan chlàraidhean fuaime gan cluich gus fair-eachadh taice a thoirt dha na cluicheadairean, agus 's neònach gun cualas riamh roimhe ceathramhan den tionndadh aig Runrig air Loch Laomainn gan seinn an ire mhath gun sgur fad còrr air dà uair a thìde! Bha a' bhuaidh na bu mhilse buileach dha sluagh na Gàidhealtachd leis gur e fear de na balaich againn fhìn, Ryan Christie, a chuir an tadhal do dh'Alba agus gun teagamh tha sinn moiteil à sàr chluicheadair òg! An dèidh dà bhliadhna air fhichead tha cothrom gu bhith againn sgioba Alba fhaicinn ann am farpais eadar-nàiseanta a-rithist, agus bidh an aon dùbhlhan romhpa anns gach gèam!

Thug subhachas buil a' bhuill-coise, agus a'

was gifted, in perpetuity, to the community for the health and well-being of all.

Given the lack of parking in the surrounding area and the low frequency of public transport, this proposal would prevent the existing access, currently enjoyed by all who visit. It would, in my opinion, create the very opposite outcome as enshrined in the original deed.

One also wonders about whether the existing infrastructure would be sufficient to cope with more properties. Additionally, in terms of the environment, has an impact assessment been carried out?

In conclusion, I would urge the local authority to reject this proposal and continue to ensure that the beach remains a wonderful asset for the community of Oban and everyone else to enjoy.

C Jess, send in by email

Churches need our support

My thoughts have returned to the recent letters regarding Support for our Priests and Churches.

mhoit anns an sgioba, m' inntinn gu na miltean air an robh a' mhòr-chuid againn a' cuimhneachadh air an t-seachdain a chaidh is sinn a' comharrachadh seachdadh is còig bliadhna bho chrìochnaich an Dàrna Cogadh. Gun spèis sam bith àicheadh dhan sgioba spòrs bhuail e orm gun deach uimhir de dhaoine òga a chall is iad ri uchd bualaidh cogaidh a' coileanadh gaisge nach tuigeadh ach neach a bha thall 's a chunnaic, agus nach d' fhuair aithne riamh airson na rinn iad. 'S math gu dearbh gun do thàrr uimhir às lem beatha agus gun d' fhuair iad dhachaigh gun cuid theaghlachan agus gu beatha "àbhaisteach" a-rithist.

Tha fianais air cho ain-deònach 's a bha, is a tha, mòran de na laoich sin gus bruidhinn air na chunnaic 's na dh'fhuiling iad na dhearbhadh air cuimhneachain chràiteach a dh'iarradh iad a leigeil à cuimhne ach a tha tric nan tinneas inntinn leantainneach dhaibhsan a b' fheudar a bhith an cogadh. Ged a tha feadhainn aca a dh'fhoillsicheas an cuid bhuiinn-cuimhne cogaidh le moit, agus tha làn-chòir aca sin a dhèanamh, tha cuimhne gheur agam air mar a thuir aon seann saighdear rium. "Cha do chuir mi orm riamh iad! Greadhnachas, airson a bhith a' marbhadh co-chreutairean!"

Bu mhath an t-amas dhuinn uile a bhith a' stri gu a bhith airidh air deagh chuimhne!

It seems that Covid is going to remain with us for longer and despite a chance to revise availability for all these support schemes, Places of Worship and Priests were excluded yet again.

Why did we not use the time during the past schemes to look for the areas that we missed? I am sure there are plenty of them and rather than providing support with all the restrictions possibly returning, we are sentencing them to further decline.

If someone thinks that being a priest is only about caring for spiritual needs, they are truly mistaken. They are an integral part of our culture and community. Our priest is a valued member of Morar Community Council. I am a crofter myself and when one of my cows got stuck in a bog, Fr Stan was there along with other men to help me in my time of need. This is what community and support is about.

Are we truly going to forget about them and our churches?

Mairead Macdonald, Morar.



Mince Tarts

Ingredients

- Low calorie cooking spray

For the pastry:

- 225g plain flour
- pinch of salt
- 110g low-fat spread or butter
- Cold water, for mixing

For the filling:

- 16 level tbsp mincemeat
- 1 level tbsp icing sugar for dusting

• 2½ Syns each • 45 minutes • Makes 32

Santa will love these Slimming World mince pies!

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 190°C/170°C Fan/Gas Mark 5. Lightly spray some bun trays with low calorie cooking spray.
2. Make the pastry. Sift the flour and salt into a mixing bowl. Add the fat, cut up into little pieces. Gently rub it in with your fingertips. Add sufficient cold water to mix to a ball that leaves the sides of the bowl clean. Rest in the refrigerator for 30 minutes.
3. Roll out the pastry thinly on a lightly floured surface. Cut out 32 rounds with a 7½cm fluted cutter. Use to line the prepared bun tins.
4. Divide the mincemeat between the pastry cases. Roll out the remaining pastry trimmings and make some little stars with a small star cutter. Use to decorate the tops of the tarts.
5. Bake in the preheated oven for about 15 minutes, until the pastry is crisp and lightly coloured. Cool on a wire rack and dust lightly with sifted icing sugar.

Groups are Open!**Venue & Virtual classes**

Oban Glencruitten Church Hall
Wednesday 9.30am-12pm, 4.30pm-6.30pm
Fort William - Salvation Army Hall
Monday 9.30am-12pm
Thursday 3.30pm-7pm
Please call/message Gillian 07796 040803



touching hearts, changing lives

Detailed recipes available at:

slimmingworld.co.uk   

DISTRICT NEWS

Raasay Walled Garden recognised by Keep Scotland Beautiful

The efforts of two Highland groups was acknowledged by environmental charity Keep Scotland Beautiful at an online seminar last week.

Every year, Keep Scotland Beautiful runs two community environmental improvement programmes in partnership with the Royal Horticultural Society – the competitive Beautiful Scotland campaign and It's Your Neighbourhood initiative.

In total, 197 groups, who would in previous years have been out creating and maintaining community gardens or allotments, looking after habitats for wildlife and adopting streets, have been issued with Certificates of Recognition for the work volunteers and supporters managed to carry out to brighten up and pull their neighbourhoods together during this year's health pandemic.

The groups in the Highlands to be recognised are: Raasay Walled Garden and Gairloch Sitoterie Wildlife Observation Garden.

Barry Fisher, chief executive officer of Keep Scotland Beautiful, said: 'We know lockdown resulted in many people reconnecting with green and blue spaces near them. It has also been a particularly challenging year for the communities who strive every year to protect and enhance the places they live and work in.'

'We have been amazed by the desire of communities, volunteers and local authorities to stay connected, motivated and inspired by each other, all with a steadfast determination to do things to make a difference, even if this had to be done differently this year.'

As one otter leaves, Skye-based rescuers welcome new arrival

The Skye-based International Otter Survival Fund (IOSF) has overseen the release back to the wild of one of its most recent rescues.

Sparky the otter had been rescued as a cub near Mallaig. Last week, ready to be released, IOSF staff transported him back to the rocky Lochaber coastline near Mallaig where he had been found.

'By far, our favourite part of the rehabilitation work is releasing the otters back to the wild to where they belong. This time, it was the turn of the charismatic Sparky, to return to his natural habitat,' said IOSF in a statement. 'It was a beautiful day for Sparky's release. Despite it being the start of November, we were greeted with a warm, sunny day as we sailed over to Mallaig.'

'Following the sail, we drove to his new home with beautiful rocky coastlines and sheltered bays – the perfect place for Sparky.'

'He was a bit reluctant coming out of his box but eventually he came out to explore – over the seaweed, in amongst the rocks and finally into the water. We watched for a while then left him in peace to his new life.'

Just as the IOSF team thought it was now down to three otters at the sanctuary, another call came in. 'In the evening, we had a call about a little cub screaming near Broadford. We know the area well and it is quite a way from the sea, so how it came to be there we don't know, but the poor cub was clearly in distress,' said the team. 'Ben went up and



The latest arrival at the International Otter Survival Fund's base on Skye.

waited a while to see if mum would appear but as it was cold and dark he decided it was best to bring it back. The cub was a bit lethargic and cold but after some liquids, rest and a warm night it was more active in the morning.

'It only has tiny teeth so it is on milk which it is taking fairly well. It is clearly early days for this little one but we will keep you informed. So just as Sparky leaves us, a new otter enters our life.'

Name sought for new Skye housing development

A North Skye community is being asked to name a new housing, health and economic development.

Work on the community-led project at Stenscholl in Staffin started in August with tenants hoping to move into the six affordable houses, health centre and two business units in 2021. The contractor, Skye-based James MacQueen Builders, is starting on the foundations for the properties this week after the site was cleared of peat.

Staffin Community Trust (SCT) and partners, the Communities Housing Trust (CHT) and Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association (LSHA), are now seeking suggestions for the site's name, which will be in Gaelic.

The site lies next to the Kilmartin River, near Sgoil Stafainn, and looks onto the Trotternish Ridge, including Beinn Edra. SCT is looking for a name which is relevant to the development area. Extensive peat cutting would have been carried out at the site in the past and Blàr na Mònadh may have been a name used. An area south of the site was known as An Leacainn and the nearby river pools were Linne a Chaisteil, in reference to the fishing weir, and Linne a Chaibeil, owing to its location near the graveyard. Suggestions should be made to SCT by 5pm on Tuesday December 1. Prizes will be awarded for the best three suggestions with the final decision on the name taken by a group of older Staffin residents. The preferred name will then be submitted to Highland Council's corporate gazetteer service for its approval.

The last affordable housing development built in Staffin more than 20 years ago was on the site of the former school and it was named Cèarn Roghail. SCT formed a partnership with the CHS and LSHA six years ago to develop the long-awaited project to provide housing for families and young people priced out of the property market and increase the school roll. The intention is to lease the health centre to NHS Highland and the commercial units to local businesses.

SCT's project funders include LEADER, the Rural Housing Fund, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, the SSE Sustainable Development Fund and the Quaker Housing Trust. A crowdfunding campaign raised more than £7,000, with Gaelic singer Alasdair Gillies personally donating £3,000. SCT was also grateful for a short-term loan from Highland Council which allowed the contractor to be appointed.

KFC to open in Fort William by year's end, says company



The new KFC site in Fort William.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

Fast food giant Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) has now said the long-awaited opening of its new outlet in Fort William will take place before the end of this year.

In June, the company told the Lochaber Times the outlet on the town's North Road was scheduled to open in November with the creation of 35 jobs.

That statement came after almost a year's growing speculation in the town over whether the development was ever going to see the

doors actually open. With no signs of life in the modern, purpose-built building, the Lochaber Times again contacted the PR firm that acts as official spokesperson for the franchisee, The Herbert Group, to try to find out what was happening.

A KFC spokesperson said: 'Here we come Fort William...we're so excited to be winging our way to you with a new restaurant by the end of the year, creating 30 new jobs and bringing the nation's favourite fried chicken to local fans.'

Gordon & Strathern Ltd HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Porches, Extensions, Roofline, Windows & Doors

TEL 01631 720074 or 07776402550
sales@homeimprovementsargyll.co.uk
www.homeimprovementsargyll.co.uk

Workshops available to let

Sizes ranging from 62 Sqm to 1500 Sqm on secure business park site
Onsite offices, accommodation, internal and external storage space
Flexible lease terms available

Contact MACC Developments Ltd Office on 01586 551555 or enquiries@maccdl.co.uk for further information



MMA fight fans support Lochaber food bank

A Fort William Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) enthusiast has harnessed the power of the sport's followers and participants from across the world to raise money for Lochaber Food Bank, writes Iain Ferguson.

Lewis Simpson is involved in the media side of the activity through contributing to a dedicated website called Overtime Heroics MMA, where he has been writing about and interviewing fighters weekly for more than a year.

Lewis and his girlfriend Kirsten came up with the idea of using the platform to reach out to fighters and invite them to donate shorts worn in their fights and sign gloves and other MMA memorabilia to auction off for charity.

Their intention is all funds raised will go to a good cause within Lochaber with the hope of raising enough to support

Lewis Simpson loads up one of the two cars needed to deliver 50 bags to Lochaber Food Bank.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.



several organisations. This month they supplied Lochaber Food Bank with 50 packages

of hand chosen items, which they bought, packed in individual bags and delivered to

the distribution centre in Fort William High Street.

Lewis said: 'We are doing this through The Fight First Foundation which is not a charity itself, but exists to help other charities. We have spoken to several local charities and hope to offer them help as well.'

'A popular auction item was the shorts worn by Oliver Enkamp, Bellator MMA Welterweight which raised £600 and we are very grateful to him for his donation. I would also like to thank everyone who shared the pages and bid on the items.'

Items which are donated are sold through eBay to give as wide a reach as possible and raise as much as possible, with links posted on The First Fight Foundation Facebook page. The next one should take place in a couple of weeks.



Coach Aidan Donnelly with the boxing club masks which will be on sale soon. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

Happy boxing day Christmas

Boxing Day could come early for many if they find a particular gift under their Christmas tree this year.

Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club will soon have washable, reusable face masks bearing the club logo for sale. The club only commissioned a few of the specially-designed masks for the coaches, who have been using them since lockdown restrictions allowed the club to reopen, easily wearing them for several hours while overseeing activities.

However, many members asked if they could also buy some for use in their everyday lives outside the gym, so now their wishes could be granted. Within the next week or so, the white masks with the red and black boxing club logo will be available, priced £6.50, which will also help raise funds for charity.

Coach Aidan Donnelly

said: 'So many people have been asking us where they can get one, but we haven't had any available for sale before as we only bought enough for the coaches to use in the gym. But they will soon have the chance to buy the perfect Christmas present, which is both useful and shows an affiliation with the club and their sport.'

In line with current Covid regulations, members under 18 have been able to do some pad work and spar when they are ready, which has proved popular.

Seniors still look on with envy until regulations are relaxed further.

Details will be on the Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club Facebook page.



Lewis and Harris Sports Council celebrate winning top award

Lewis and Harris Sports Council has been crowned Scottish Clubsport Sport Council of the year 2019/20.

The council is an association of local sports clubs and organisations which work in partnership with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (CNES) and Western Isles Health Board

to foster and develop sport in Lewis and Harris.

The sports council has played a massive part in supporting sport in Lewis and Harris. In the last 20 years, more than £400,000 has been distributed in grant aid to their members.

Councillor Charlie Nicolson, CNES representative on the

Lewis and Harris Sports Council, called it an excellent achievement: 'This shows the quality and professionalism of the sporting clubs in Lewis and Harris and that of coaches, volunteers and sport and health staff in promoting sport for all those in these islands and further afield.'

Community Sports Development Office, Lewis and Harris, Steven Munro said: 'The sports council is a team effort and without the support of the ex-committee, member clubs, coaches and athletes/players gaining this award would not have been achieved.'

THANK YOU
for continuing to support
your local newspaper
LOCHABER TIMES

Research shows that for every £1 spent with a local, independent business, between 50p-70p circulates back into that local economy



So every time you pick up a copy of The Lochaber Times you are not just helping one local business but a whole range of local businesses

we  local

