

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8286

Thursday 21 January, 2016

www.obantimes.co.uk

80 pence

EXCLUSIVE Don't miss our early bird ticket offer with 10% off. See inside for your code



Oban bids farewell to Sea Kings – thank you, you served us well



Three Sea King helicopters completed their last flypast over Oban Bay on Thursday, where members of the public joined Oban Mountain Rescue Team, as well as members of the police, ambulance and coastguard, gathered on the North Pier as the choppers flew overhead and then turned south over Ben Cruachan. Turn to page 5 for more. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn

£8,000 of damage after man trashed mum's home

A MAN who drunkenly trashed his mother's home is disputing the amount it will cost to repair.

When 22-year-old Neil MacGregor's mother arrived at her home in Benderloch he told her: 'I smashed your ***ing windows.'

Oban Sheriff Court heard on Monday that he left a trail of destruction in the West Highland Housing Association-owned property, including smashed double-glazed windows, damaged window frames, tables and lamps, plus a dent in the living room wall; hall lighting damaged, a toilet disconnected from the floor, a towel rail pulled off the wall and the bathroom door broken; a bedroom door, window, radiator and wall damaged, worktops and tiles broken in the kitchen, along with cupboards and sockets.

Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC was told the repair bill would be £8,000.

Procurator Fiscal Eoin McGinty said that when questioned by police, MacGregor said: 'I pretty much smashed my mum's house. I just flaked out. Apologies to my mum.'

His defence agent Laura McManus said that MacGregor no longer lived at home, and relations with his mother were 'some what strained'.

'I'm not surprised,' said Sheriff Anderson. She deferred sentence until February 15 for a criminal justice social work report and told MacGregor, who now lives at Room 11 Shore Street Flats, Oban: 'I am looking at a custodial option here.'

MSP Russell backs family's call for FAI into fisherman's death

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

THE FAMILY of a fisherman missing for almost three years want the 'peace' of knowing what happened to him, and are backing calls by Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell for an urgent inquiry into his death.

But before a Fatal Accident Inquiry (FAI) can be held, the family say the fibreglass vessel from which Scott MacAlister made his final mayday call needs to be lifted from the seabed, where it lies near to Insh Island.

Father of three, Scott MacAlister, 40, who lived on the Isle of Luing, was prawn fishing on his own aboard the FV Speedwell on April 25, 2013 when he disappeared, presumed drowned, after reporting to the coastguard that his boat was taking on water.

Mr MacAlister's brother Andrew was also fishing in the area. He was the first boat

on the scene after hearing the mayday call.

He arrived approximately 20 minutes after his brother's call – but there was no sign of him or his boat even though Mr MacAlister had told the coastguard he was putting on a lifejacket.

Taking into account the flot-sam that was around the area of the mayday call, Andrew said that almost immediately he and his skipper marked a map with the place they believed the boat had gone down.

Some weeks later, in almost the same location, a friend dived 40 fathoms and found the boat.

But his seven-minute look at the boat was unable to shed any light on the whereabouts of Mr MacAlister.

Andrew, along with his father Peter, mother Lala and Scott's partner Tori MacNab, believe there are still many questions – a full two years after a Marine Investigation Branch (MAIB) accident report was published.

Findings within that report



Scott MacAlister was fishing alone when the boat sank.

pointed to concerns at the state of the vessel, but no one has been charged with any criminal offence.

Mr MacAlister's partner and family claim a number of issues with the boat, which were raised with the owner, were never resolved.

The report agrees with the family that weather conditions experienced on the day of the

accident were not severe and that Mr MacAlister was adequately trained.

The report does point out that like many other fishermen, when Mr MacAlister called the coastguard he was not wearing a lifejacket – but had agreed to put one on.

Wearing a properly maintained lifejacket would have allowed Mr MacAlister to float in the mildly cold waters for up to 90 minutes, the report states.

Mr MacAlister's father says he would back calls for the boat to be lifted from the seabed to find out the facts behind his son's disappearance.

Peter MacAlister said: 'His death has been brushed under the carpet by everyone and we need some answers.'

'A fatal accident inquiry for the dustbin lorry deaths in Glasgow took place within a few months and yet nearly three years later we are still waiting.'

Lala MacAlister still cannot take in the news of her son's death. She said: 'I still think of

him as missing.

'I know it is not going to happen, but that doesn't stop me believing that he might walk in the door.'

'In my head I know he is not coming home – to find out what happened would give us all some closure.'

'We need to know so we can begin to find some peace. It feels like no one is listening to us at all.'

Ms MacNab, who is mother to Mr MacAlister's youngest son Finlay, who is now three, said: 'I still feel numb. We all think about Scott 24 hours a day.'

Ms MacNab and Mrs MacAlister believe Mr MacAlister's body is trapped on the boat.

The family feel that lifting the boat and gathering all the evidence for a FAI would allow the authorities to put in place life-saving measures so that Mr MacAlister's death can save other people.

Mr Russell has promised to raise the matter again with the Lord Advocate.

He said: 'I raised this matter some time ago and I am, to say the least, disappointed for the family that we are still waiting.'

'I will certainly raise the matter with the Lord Advocate again.'

'There is a central unanswered question over Mr MacAlister's death. I am supportive of a fatal accident inquiry.'

'I am happy to speak with the family at any time and I will be in touch with them when the Lord Advocate has replied to my letter.'

A spokesman for the Crown Office said: 'The investigation into the incident, led by our health and safety division, is on-going and no decision has yet been made regarding a fatal accident inquiry.'

'Raising a boat is a matter for the Marine Accidents Investigation Branch, or the owner of the vessel.'

'The Crown would be happy to meet with the family of Mr MacAlister to answer any questions they may have.'



Do You Suffer From Sore, Gritty or Red Eyes?	Yes	No
Are Your Eyelids Crusty or Inflamed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do Your Eyes Feel Dry or Uncomfortable Using A Computer?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have You Been Told You Have Dry Eyes or Blepharitis?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do You Use Comfort Drops To Help But They Don't Seem To Work?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you answer yes to any of the above questions then Wallace Optometrists can help.

Our specialist Dry Eye Clinic is dedicated to using leading edge treatments for dry eyes and blepharitis. Traditional methods using comfort drops or antibiotics can help treat the symptoms but seldom deal with the underlying causes of your discomfort.

Recently introduced treatments only available at Wallace Optometrists now deal with the causes of your discomfort as well as your symptoms.

For your free, no obligation, initial assessment contact

Wallace Optometrists
11/12 Argyll Square, Oban
Tel: 01631 563170

WALLACE optometrists KODAK LENS VISION CENTRE

No 'specific' cause in Argyll air crash

AN AIR crash that killed a young couple returning home to Tiree last April had no 'specific' cause, an Air Accident Investigation concluded this week.

GP Margaret Ann Rous, 37, and her husband David Rous, 28, were reported missing after their Piper Cherokee plane crashed into rugged terrain on the western flank of the down-slope of Beinn nan Lus, near to Taynuilt.

Mr Rous, who was piloting the aircraft on April 4, 2015, was well trained and is said to have shown an 'above average standard' and 'a good level of



Margaret Ann Rous and husband David Rous.

ability' during his training. He had previously shown a responsible approach to poor weather when flying from Tiree.

But in near freezing conditions in some moderate

cloud cover in deteriorating weather conditions, the report identifies: 'It is likely that the pilot realised it was not going to be possible to continue the flight and decided to return to Dundee (where he had taken off) or another airfield.'

The report states: 'No specific cause for the accident could be identified but the descent in Instrument Meteorological Conditions, IMC, [using instruments rather than looking outside] with extreme aircraft attitudes suggests that the pilot was experiencing some form of spatial disorientation; the recorded data and impact

parameters suggest that the accident occurred following a loss of control, possibly in cloud.

'Whether this was due to an attempted turn back manoeuvre or simply loss of control in IMC is not known.'

'In addition, the meteorological conditions were conducive to airframe icing, which had the potential to degrade the aerodynamic characteristics of the aircraft and thus may have been a factor in this accident.'

Memorial services were held on the island for the popular local couple shortly after the incident.

Oban NOW REGISTERING Dental Care NEW NHS PATIENTS

2 FREE check-ups Yearly Family Friendly Practice

NHS & Private Braces Dental Implants

17 Lochside Street, Oban, PA34 4HP - opposite Tesco -

Tel: 01631 562791 info@obandentalcare.co.uk

Specialist Orthodontist Now at Oban Dental Care

Dr M. Mustafa (Lek Stom Poznan 1997) GDC: 105727 specialist in orthodontics is now seeing new patients at our practice in Oban.

Dr Mustafa will be providing NHS & Private Braces to both children and adults.

Before After

SALE

TICKET PRICES DOWN

FURNITURE TODAY

BEDS TODAY

CARPETS TODAY

CURTAINS TODAY

BLINDS TODAY

VINYLS TODAY

SOFAS TODAY

ON NOW

MATHESONS Furnishings

Tweedmill, Soroba Road, Oban. Tel: 01631 565195

Group prepares alternative budget

AN ALTERNATIVE budget is being prepared by a small group of elected members in Argyll and Bute Council. The budget, while not yet published, is likely to highlight savings that could be made by decentralising work from headquarters Kilmory.

Proposed by Councillors Michael Breslin, Vivienne Dance and Bruce Marshall, it will show possible savings of £millions without a huge number of job losses.

Affordable homes for Port Ellen

EIGHTEEN affordable new homes on Islay will soon be available to rent from West Highland Housing Association. The houses will be the first in the area to meet the Scottish Government's 'Greener Homes' standard for energy efficiency. They are due for completion in 2017.

Councillor Robin Currie from Islay welcomed the news. He said: 'I'm delighted that this project of 18 houses supported by Argyll and Bute Council, the Scottish Government and West Highland Housing has now started at Imerivale.

'It is a prime site for houses. This development will go a long way to addressing the demand for housing in Port Ellen.'

Ferry timetable for summer 2016

FERRY services across the west coast for summer 2016 have been finalised.

A spokesman for ferry operator CalMac said: 'Extensive community consultation has taken place since the draft timetable was launched two months ago and the revised version now more closely meets with the vast majority of island communities' wish list of services.'

Mull ferry row rumbles on

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

THE CHAIRMAN of Tobermory Harbour Association (THA) has investigated wind speeds following claims by ferry operator CalMac, in last week's *Oban Times*, that the weather is getting worse.

Brian Swinbanks has collated information of wind speeds between 1973 and 2015 and noted 'very similar patterns with higher sustained wind speeds, higher gusts and higher daily mean wind speeds in the 1970s than in 2015'.

In a letter to the Mull and Iona Ferry User's Group (FUG), which had claimed the number of cancelled sailings to Mull had increased significantly this winter, chief executive Martin Dorchester had said there was no mystery as weather patterns had been scientifically proven to be changing for the worse, not

just on the west coast of Scotland but throughout the UK, where gale force winds, torrential rain and flooding had fast become the norm in the winter.

He added that critics seemed not to make the connection between TV coverage of extreme weather conditions - now a standard feature of winter news bulletins - and the conditions in their local area which prevented ferries from sailing.

In response, and without bias, Mr Swinbanks decided to collate the information on wind speeds. Mr Swinbanks, a respected authority in the marine world, said: 'To help all those speculating about the wind speeds and the ferry problems, I now have wind data for Tiree for every month from 1973 to 2015.'

'The following are samples from 1973, 1976, and 2015. All show very similar patterns, with higher sustained wind speeds, higher gusts and higher daily

mean wind speeds in the 1970s than in 2015. Other years are also higher. Please draw your own conclusions.'

Mr Swinbanks has used the modern scale of wind (metres per second) measurement.

Mr Swinbanks said: 'In 2015 the highest sustained wind speed was 25 m/s, occurring on January 8. The highest daily mean wind speed was 17 m/s on January 10, and the highest wind gust speed was 34 m/s, on January 8.'

'The windiest month was January, with an average wind speed of 11 m/s. The least windy month was July, with an average wind speed of 2 m/s.'

'In 1973 the highest sustained wind speed was 29 m/s, occurring on October 11, the highest daily mean wind speed was 22 m/s on January 19, and the highest wind gust speed was 36 m/s on February 13. The windiest month was January, with an

average wind speed of 9 m/s. The least windy month was July, with an average wind speed of 5 m/s.'

'In 1976 the highest sustained wind speed was 29 m/s, occurring on January 20; the highest daily mean wind speed was 21 m/s also on January 20; and the highest wind gust speed was 25 m/s on October 6.'

'The windiest month was January, with an average wind speed of 12 m/s. The least windy month was August, with an average wind speed of 4 m/s.'

Oban Times columnist Iain Thornber, from Morvern, added his support for a more reliable ferry service.

He said: 'Although Morvern is in the Highland area, it depends on the Oban-Mull link for its mail, newspapers and other essentials via the Fishnish-Lochaline ferry.'

'I understand many people on Mull are now reluctant to travel to Oban for the day in case the

ferry goes off and they are left stranded.

'Of course, the vessels used by CalMac are far too large-sided for winter use. These liners should be replaced at the end of the season by smaller boats offering a shuttle service.'

A CalMac spokesman said the Scottish government-owned firm welcomed Mr Swinbank's input, adding: 'Wind speed can be important but is only one criteria to be taken into account when deciding whether to sail in adverse weather conditions.'

'Masters consider a wide range of conditions such as sea state, swell, fetch, tides and currents, the direction of wind and nature of specific gales and storms - many of which might not be immediately apparent to onlookers or even passengers on board. The decision to cancel is never taken lightly, but solely for the safety of passengers, crew and the vessel.'

Cetaceans at risk from pollution

TWO WEEKS after a killer whale was found dead on Tiree, an unconnected report claims killer whales could face extinction in European waters due to pollution as a result of lingering toxic chemicals, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

The report by the Zoological Society of London is based on long-term studies of more than 1,000 deceased whales, dolphins and porpoises (cetaceans), whose blubber was found to contain one of the highest concentrations of PCBs in the world.

PCBs are a group of man-made chemicals previously used in products such as flame-retardants and paints.

High exposure to PCBs is known to weaken cetacean immune systems and reduce breeding success by leading to abortions or damaging newborn calves.

Digital workshop for Oban students

AN INTERACTIVE workshop focused on showing young people the possibilities of a career in digital technology will visit Oban on March 11.

There will be a series of events throughout the day held at the Scottish Association of Marine Science (SAMS), with demonstrations and classes allowing attendees to test products and dabble in coding and design.

Young Scot and Skills Development Scotland have joined forces to create the tour, which is aimed at secondary school pupils from first to third year.

To find out more or for teachers to register a group of students, email: sean@young.scot.

Clarification

FOLLOWING last week's story about the town centre revamp in Oban, Lorn Taxis would like to point out that it does not share the views expressed concerning the temporary relocation of the taxi rank.

Stornoway student will go down in history

STAR student Isabelle Bain from Stornoway didn't just shoot to the top of her Higher history class in 2015 - but her results also saw her rocket to the top of Scotland's league table.

The 18-year-old, who is now studying at Glasgow University, was recently acknowledged by the Scottish Association of Teachers of History as having achieved the highest Higher history exam result across the whole of Scotland.

Earning a massive 98 per cent in her final exam, Isabelle has proved to be a star student, something she is keen to continue as she studies both French and Law at Glasgow University. Isabelle dropped a single mark in the exam itself and only a single mark in her assignment to achieve the superb result.

Her Higher history tutor at the Nicolson Institute was Bill Boyd, who hailed her success as just rewards for her hard work.

Some 2,500 students took the Higher history exam.



Top history student Isabelle Bain is also a Gaelic singer and won the solo singing, 16-18 years, competition at last year's Royal National Mod in Oban. 17_t04bain1

Hugh Smith's letter from ISLAY

Gathering line-up

A FORMER director of the Glasgow Islay Association will be the guest chairman at the group's 154th annual gathering in the Glasgow University Students' Union on March 4.

Consultant Gordon Gillies will prove to be a popular choice as he has had a lifelong connection with An Comunn Ileach and its aims.

Gordon was born and brought up in the east end of Glasgow and is of Islay parentage. He is a former member of the Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir and is an active elder in his local church.

Before establishing his current consultancy he was employed in the



The winning darts team of Craig MacAffer, Adrian Farrell, Donny Holyoake, Neil Carmichael and Colin Campbell.

hotel and catering industry and in the world of insurance.

He and his wife Alison, daughter Sophie and son Cameron, live in Bishopbriggs.

Appearing under Gordon's direction at 'the Islay' will be a group of performers well known in

Highland and Gaelic circles, and all guaranteed to provide pleasing entertainment.

Last year's National Mòd gold medallists Catriona MacNeil, Barra, and Tiree's Donald Iain Brown will reprise their winning ways. Doing likewise will be Alison

Campbell, Erskine, daughter of the association's immediate past president Malcolm Campbell and his wife Elizabeth, and winner of the Kennedy Fraser Trophy at the Oban National Mòd in 2015. Completing the singing line-up will be Robert Robertson from Fort William who struck gold at Paisley in 2013. He now conducts the Glasgow Islay Junior Gaelic Choir and currently pens *The Oban Times'* Glasgow Letter.

Upping the tempo will be the lively Bearsden Fiddlers, association pipe major Andrew McCowan Jnr. will be much in evidence, as will piano accompanist Kirsteen Grant. In an effort to increase attendance, the organisers have decided to revive the gathering dance,

which fell out of favour in recent years. This will take place in the same venue immediately after the concert and in charge of the dance music will be award-winning Trail West.

Darting to success

PORT ELLEN'S annual darts competition organiser Donny Holyoake won the main trophy, with Craig MacAffer a commendable runner-up at the White Hart Hotel showdown. Neil Carmichael secured the plate trophy, with Colin Campbell in second place. The award for highest checkout of the day went to Adrian Farrell.

The competition was described as 'a fantastic success' by the 32 par-

ticipants, which included a number of the fairer sex. More than £500 was raised for the Kildalton and Oa Senior Citizens, and the Port Ellen Junior Football Club.

Roy M Cameron

EVERYONE was greatly saddened to learn of the death of Roy M Cameron, a former president and honorary president of the Glasgow Islay Association.

A native of Port Charlotte and a long-term resident in Stewarton in Ayrshire, he was 88 years old and had been in ill health.

Roy served as the Islay Association president from 1993 to 1996, chaired its annual gathering in 1999, and wrote the history of the

Glasgow Islay to coincide with its 150th anniversary in 2012.

He was also the moving force behind the Kilmarnock Highlanders, where he was a popular president and organised highly enjoyable ceilidh programmes.

He was also an active member and elder in the congregation of St Columba's Parish Church in Stewarton and was its session clerk for 10 years. It is here that his funeral service takes place on January 25, at 11.45am. A cremation follows at Holmsford Bridge Crematorium by Dreghorn at 1pm.

I will pay tribute to this splendid Ileaich in my next letter.

Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay, PA43 7JX. Tel: 01496 810 658

Love celebrating Burns Night. Like Aldi.

Fresh Haggis £1.29 **89p** 454g

Maris Piper Potatoes **£1.79** 2.5kg

Swede **59p** each

Glen Marnoch Single Malt Scotch Whisky Choose from Islay, Speyside or Highland. **£17.99** 70cl

BEST CUTS Fresh Meat offers

for the full drinkaware.co.uk Please drink responsibly

Simply Scottish Haggis, Neeps & Tatties £1.29 **89p** 340g

Hunter's Scottish Haggis **99p** 392g

BEST OF SCOTLAND Raise a glass to commemorate the birthday of the Bard with a traditional Scottish supper this Burns Night. The Best of Scotland is available at your local Aldi store.

ALDI

aldico.uk/Scotland

SUBSCRIBE TO SCOTS Heritage Magazine

Now the official magazine of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, the new-look Scots Heritage Magazine is an unbeatable read. With features on clans, genealogy, great Scots, the events which forged a nation, and a wealth of articles on Scottish history and culture, no other magazine is as successful at keeping Scots at home and abroad in touch with their heritage.

To subscribe to Scots Heritage call the subscriptions number, fill out the form opposite and post to the relevant address or visit the website and click on subscribe. It couldn't be easier.

UK subscription: £15
Worldwide subscription: £25

01371 851868
www.scotsheritagemagazine.com

Aldi accepts cash, Maestro, MasterCard debit and credit cards, and Visa debit and credit cards. No cheques accepted in store. All offers subject to availability. Prices correct at time of going to print. Excludes R.O.I. For details of your nearest store visit our website at www.aldi.co.uk or call our Customer Service Team on 0800 042 0800 from landlines or 0333 005 0561 from mobiles. Calls may be recorded. Check pack for warranty details. The warranty may be available via the distributor or the manufacturer. All products purchased in an Aldi store are covered by a 60 day refund policy. Goods returned to a store must be accompanied by proof of purchase/receipt and in original packaging if not defective. The Aldi refund policy does not affect customer statutory rights. In accordance with Scottish Licensing laws, alcohol may not be sold in Aldi's Scottish stores before 10am. Fresh Haggis 454g, £2.84 per kg. Maris Piper Potatoes 2.5kg, 71.6p per kg. Swede, 59p each. Glen Marnoch Single Malt Scotch Whisky 70cl, £25.70 per litre. Simply Scottish Haggis, Neeps & Tatties 340g, 26.2p per 100g. Hunter's Scottish Haggis 392g, £2.53 per kg. Photography shows serving suggestion.

What price love? The Home Office can tell you

Young wife at risk of deportation after Government tightens financial rules

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

THE lives of two newly weds were brought crashing down around them on Friday after they learned one of them is going to be deported in a fortnight if they cannot prove how much they earn.

Young couple Ross and Alice Addison, who have made their home in Oban, discovered on January 15 that Alice is at risk of deportation due to tightened financial rules that govern whether foreign nationals can remain in the country.

Time-served joiner Mr Addison, 24, from Oban, met Alice, the love of his life, in Australia when he was travelling and, following a gap year, he brought her to the town to live.

Mrs Addison, 29, is a Hong Kong British national who spent three years in Bristol studying for a degree in politics.

The couple married in November and they have a 14-month-old son, Arran.

In the past few weeks, as Mrs Addison's visitor visa came up for renewal, the couple decided to make a formal application for residency with a marriage visa. Something that Mr Addison says 'has cost us our life savings'.

The couple were then given a short time by the Home Office to answer probing questions into their relationship and the income from Mr Addison's joinery and construction business.

Mr Addison employs three people in his business and his overall income, with the necessary deductions, comes slightly short of the amount required by the Home Office for his wife to remain in the country.

Receiving support from his accountant at Wylie and Bisset in Oban, Mr Addison hopes that he can argue that his income is enough to support his wife

and family. Something he has already been doing for the last two years.

The couple say they will both move out of the country if Mrs Addison is deported.

Mr Addison continued: 'We want to live in the UK, have a small business and raise our family together.'

'I hope the Home Office will see sense and allow this to happen. Otherwise the repercussions could be wide reaching.'

Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara has been helping the couple, and representations have already been made to the Home Office in this case.



Ross and Alice Addison with their son Arran. Mrs Addison is facing deportation by the end of the month.

Fire crews called out to fire in Oban block of flats

A SMALL fire in the close of a block of flats in Oban last Saturday was extinguished by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

Two appliances from Oban Fire Station responded to a 999 call at 7.50pm after receiving a report of smoke in the hallway of a building on Ulva Road.

Crews reached the scene in under five minutes.

Firefighters in breathing apparatus quickly found the source of the smoke and put out a small fire.

A woman and child were treated by an ambulance crew at the scene and taken to Lorn



and Islands Hospital in the town for further check-ups.

A spokesman for Scottish Fire and Rescue Service said that items blocking people's exit route and smoke from a fire in a close can leave residents trapped in their homes with no way to escape.

The message is to keep closes clear, as even the smallest bag of rubbish catching alight can fill a stairwell with smoke and large objects can get in the way of people trying to escape.

Free home fire safety visits are available from SFRS by calling the freephone number 0800 073 1999, by texting 'FIRE' to 80800.

Shinty photographer banned for dangerous driving after cup final

A 46-YEAR-old man lost his driving licence for a year after appearing before Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

Paul Paterson, of 2 Manor Way, Tighnabruach, denied driving in a dangerous, aggressive and intimidating manner on the A85 between Cruachan Power Station and Loch Awe village on August 22 last year, the day of the shinty Macaulay Cup Final.

Paterson had been photographing the event and was driving home.

Paterson pleaded not guilty to speeding up when being overtaken, leaving insufficient space for the overtaking car to return to the correct side of the road and then driving excessively close to the vehicle, repeatedly sounding his car horn, flashing the headlights and attempting to overtake

when inappropriate or unsafe.

The driver of the other car and his girlfriend were so concerned for their safety that she called the police. The driver claimed Paterson had used his mobile phone while driving to take a picture of their car. Their ordeal only stopped when they turned off the A85 onto the road to Inveraray and Paterson overtook them and sped off.

But David Watt, Paterson's defence agent challenged this version, telling the witness: 'Your complaint is a scheme to put the blame on Mr Paterson when actually the blame is on you for driving dangerously.'

Paterson said the driver overtook him on double white lines and sounding his horn and flashing lights were to warn the other driver only.

The driver's girlfriend said in her evidence that the overtaking happened on double white lines but had been safe, adding: 'It was the first time I have ever phoned the police. He was tailgating us.'

Paterson, a disabled driver who suffers from osteoarthritis along with other health issues, told Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC that there was an aid attached to the steering wheel of his car which could have been mistaken for a camera. He denied all offences.

But Sheriff Anderson said: 'I am satisfied your driving did fall below the standard expected.'

Finding him guilty, she fined Paterson £250 and with six penalty points already on his driving licence he was disqualified from driving for year and ordered to re-sit the extended test at the end of his ban.

LORN lines

Taynuilt ceilidh is a real winter warmer

THE FIRST Cruachan Branch An Comunn ceilidh of 2016 was held in Taynuilt village hall on Saturday evening.

It may have been rather cold and snowy outside but the audience was treated to an evening of fun and great entertainment. Mòd winners Oban Gaelic Choir, with conductor Sileas Sinclair, were in fine voice, reprising their successful Lovat and Tulliebardine songs and so much more.

Solos were given by choir members Riona McCormick, Victoria MacLean, Graeme Campbell, Kirsty Duncan, Duncan MacDonald, Margaret Powell-Joss, John Joe MacNeil, Sileas Sinclair, Donald MacLean and Mary Catherine MacNeil.

Top-class music was provided by Michael and Joanie Garvin, with Sileas Sinclair on keyboard and it was good to see couples up on the dancefloor. Making his Taynuilt debut on pipes was Calum, another member of the talented Garvin family, who gave a strong performance.

The Laura Munro Highland dancers Eilidh Lawson and Lucy Black, on their first visit to a Taynuilt ceilidh, performed before the very appreciative audience and the evening was smoothly run by the witty John Joe MacNeil, who had the dubious 'help and encouragement' of his fellow choir members.

Young musicians dazzle at Netherlorn gathering



An evening in the company of musicians young and old was held in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban, during the winter festival. The local organisation, The Netherlorn Piping Society, prides itself on the opportunities it is able to provide in the town for both listeners and participants.

Television winner

ARGYLL Community Housing Association (ACHA) carried out a tenant satisfaction survey last October, with 450 tenants taking part.

All participants were entered into a prize draw to win a 40in TV. Pictured is Duncan McCallum of Kerrera Terrace, Oban, receiving his prize from ACHA's chairman, Jim Milne.



POLICE FILES with Sgt Alan Moore

Drink driver caught outside Oban police station

A DRIVER suspected of drink driving down Albany Street in Oban was stopped by police officers right outside the police station door.

The 22-year-old man was suspected of driving at 3.20am last Friday while under the influence of alcohol. A roadside breath test confirmed officers' suspicions. After searching the man, police found a substance alleged to be herbal cannabis.

A report has been sent to the Procurator Fiscal's office.

Soroba vandalism

VANDALS who broke a window and threw eggs at a private residence are being sought by police.

The incident in Colonsay Terrace, Oban, took place between 12.15pm and 3.30pm on January 4.

Anyone with information should contact Constable Andy Hogg at Oban Police Station or call 101.

Cocaine allegation

A REPORT has been made to the procurator fiscal in regard to a 22-year-old man who was found with what was suspected as a Class A drug in his possession. The Oban man was stopped shortly before 4am on Saturday and searched by officers. The drug was suspected to be cocaine.

A85 accident

A 74-YEAR-old man has been reported to the procurator fiscal after allegedly causing an accident on the road between Dunbeg and Connel on the A85.

Shortly after 3.55pm on Tuesday January 12 the driver was alleged to have crashed his vehicle into another.

Damaged car

POLICE are looking for a driver who damaged a car but did not report it or leave their details.

Between 10.30am and 6.30pm on Friday January 15 in the car park near Atlantis Leisure Centre, a car was substantially damaged to its offside bodywork.

Anyone with information about the incident should contact Constable Scott MacPhee at Oban Police Station or call 101.

Graffiti on Mull

POLICE are appealing for witnesses to a graffiti artist who is tagging themselves in Tobermory on Mull.

Anyone with information should contact officers in Tobermory on 101, or speak to a community officer on the island.

Mary's Meals founder in line for award

THE founder of Scottish charity Mary's Meals, Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, has been short-listed for a humanitarian award.

Mr MacFarlane-Barrow founded the charity in 2002 to give children in desperately poor areas of the world a hot meal during the school day. This encouraged them to go to school and ensured they had at least one decent meal a day.

Mr MacFarlane-Barrow is in the running for the 2016 Robert Burns Humanitarian Award together with Nigerian lawyer Zanna Bukar Mustapha and surgeon David Knott.

The winner will be announced at a concert at the Brig O'Doon Hotel, Alloway tonight (January 21).

Election candidates throw hat in ring

CANDIDATES for the Oban North and Lorn by-election have been named.

Four people have thrown their hat into the ring to represent the area on Argyll and Bute Council.

The four are: Kieron Green, Independent, from Oban; Julie McKenzie, SNP, who currently works as a press officer for Argyll and Bute SNP; Pat Tyrrell, Scottish Green Party, and solicitor Andrew Vennard will fight for the seat on behalf of the Conservatives.

The by-election was called after the retirement, due to ill health, of councillor Duncan MacIntyre.

Just under 8,000 people will be entitled to vote next month. The polls will be open from 7am until 10pm on February 18.

SCHOOL ENROLMENT

Will your child be five years of age before 28 February 2017? Yes? Then it's time to enrol them for school.

The next school session starts on 16 August 2016. Children who will be five on or before 28 February 2017 are eligible to be enrolled for Primary 1. Enrolment will take place week commencing 25 January 2016.

All enrolment information can be found online at www.highland.gov.uk/schoolenrolment

When to enrol your child?	Where	What to bring
3.00pm 25 January – 29 January 2016	Local Primary School	Child's birth certificate Proof of Address

Although you may wish that your child attends a school other than your local primary school, you must, in the first instance, enrol your child at the local primary school and then make a placing request to the Area Care and Learning Office.

Placing requests are not required for Gaelic Medium education or for those eligible to attend a denominational school.

Am bi ur pàiste còig bliadhna a dh'aois ro 28 Gearran 2017? Bidh? Ma-thà, tha an t-àm ann an clàrachadh airson na sgoile.

Bidh an ath sheisean sgoile a' tòiseachadh air 16 Lùnastal 2016. Faodaidh clann a bhios còig air no ro an 28 Gearran 2017a bhith air an clàrachadh airson P1. Bidh an t-seachdain chlàrachaidh a' tòiseachadh air 25 Faoilleach 2016.

Gheibhear fiosrachadh clàrachaidh air-loidhne aig www.highland.gov.uk/schoolenrolment

Cuìn a chlàras sibh ur pàiste?	Càite	Dè bheir sibh leibh?
3.00f 25 Faoilleach – 29 Faoilleach 2016	A' Bhun-sgoil Ionadail	TTeisteanas breith ur pàiste Dearbhadh air seòladh.

Ma tha sibh airson 's gun tèid ur pàiste gu sgoil eile seach a' bhun-sgoil ionadail, feumaidh sibh an clàrachadh aig a' bhun-sgoil ionadail an toiseach, agus iarrtas a chur a-steach às dèidh sin gu Oifis Cùraim agus Ionnsachaidh na Sgìre.

Chan eil feum air iarrtas airson àite-sgoile airson Foghlam Tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig no dhàibhsan a tha a'airidh air roghainn airson sgoil sheòrsaichte.

energy saving trust

thinking about wood fuelled heating for your home?

Scotland has an abundance of wood. However, is a wood fuelled heating system the right option for you and your home? We can give you free, impartial and in-depth advice on the best renewables options. We can also provide information on financial support available.

HOMEENERGYSCOTLAND.ORG
0808 808 2282
FUNDED BY THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

natural scotland
SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

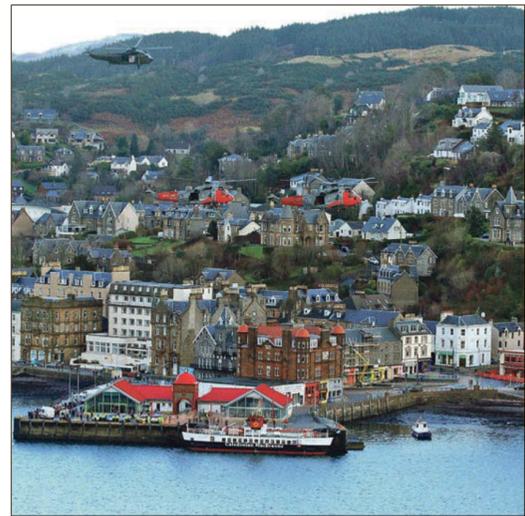
LOOK!
your customers do

this advert could be seen by over 35,000 people every week*

call our sales team today
01631 568000

The Oban Times
A WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

*source: JOREG data 01/04/2014



Clockwise from above left: the ground crew prepare the Sea Kings for their final flight; HMS Gannet's helicopter heroes; the final fly-by over Oban Bay on Thursday; members of the public were joined by Oban Mountain Rescue, Oban coastguards, as well as the police and ambulance services to bid farewell to the three Sea King helicopters and their crew. Photographs: Thomas McDonald; David McPhee, Kevin McGlynn and Stephen Lawson

Oban waves off Sea Kings as they take final flight

DAVID MCPHEE
dmphee@obantimes.co.uk

AFTER 40 years of service, the military's last Scottish-based search and rescue helicopter crew said goodbye with a final fly-past on Thursday.

The Royal Navy Search and Rescue Flight HMS Gannet, which was one of the busiest search and rescue teams in the UK, arrived in Oban shortly before 1pm.

The trio of helicopters were greeted by coloured smoke and a pier full of vehicles and people, including personnel from the police, Oban Mountain Rescue and Oban coastguard. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency has taken over responsibility for search and rescue operations in Scotland.

Iain MacKinnon, Oban coastguard station officer, said: 'I'm very sad to see them go.



Two of the Sea King choppers. Photograph: Stephen Lawson

'I read something on social media about it being the end of an era and that is exactly what it is. 'They've been a familiar sight for decades. I've worked with them many times and they go above and beyond the call of

duty to rescue people. But I look forward to working with the new aircraft team.'

Andy Ravenhill, team leader for Oban Mountain Rescue, said: 'It's another transition and another change in life.

'A lot of the helicopters are past their sell by date, but the new helicopters are more powerful. So it's a change, but hopefully a change for the better.

'It's still sad to see them go as they have a wealth of experience. 'They were called out more than 300 times last year, but luckily a lot of the crew have migrated over, which adds some continuity to the system.'

Justice Secretary Michael Matheson said: 'HMS Gannet has provided a dedicated and committed search and rescue service not only for Scotland but for the whole of the UK.

'Despite being one of the busiest search and rescue flights in the UK, the crew has provided a world-class rescue service for the local population and international visitors.

'Each year there are around 7.2 million mountaineering or hill walking trips in Scotland's

mountains and, as with most outdoor activities, there is a certain amount of risk involved.

'The past and present crew of HMS Gannet has made an extremely valuable contribution in assisting Scottish mountain rescue teams, which I know has been greatly appreciated from my own time spent in mountain rescue.

'I hope the public will join me in thanking them for all their hard work.'

Scottish Veterans Secretary Keith Brown said: 'For more than four decades the brave crews of the Royal Navy's HMS Gannet have risked their own lives to provide a truly world-class rescue service across Scotland's mountains.

'The crews have enjoyed immense support from communities across Scotland and this fly-by is our final opportunity to say thank you and farewell.'

HMS Gannet chief admits 'lump in the throat' at fly-past

HELICOPTER heroes from Royal Navy Search and Rescue (SAR) Flight HMS Gannet said farewell on Thursday January 14 with a final fly-past of some of the communities which have seen the majority of their rescues.

Three Royal Navy Sea King helicopters left HMS Gannet's base at Prestwick at 10am and completed a flight route which included Oban, Tyndrum, Glencoe, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Stirling, Troon, and Ayr.

Last year HMS Gannet was called to 314 rescues.

In 2009, the Scottish-based SAR unit broke the record for most rescues in one year, conducting 447 missions around the country.

On January 1 their 44-year SAR responsibilities finished when they handed over to Maritime and Coastguard Agency contractor Bristow Helicopters.

The final fly-past was an emotional time for the HMS Gannet crew.

Commanding officer of the unit, Lieutenant Commander Charlie Fuller, who flew on the final fly-past, said: 'There was definitely a lump in the throat.

'It's sad to be saying goodbye, but there is also a huge sense of pride at a mission which has been completed well.

'HMS Gannet has played a big role in many people's lives.

'The unit was not only a significant part of the local Prestwick community, but has touched dozens of often remote communities around Scotland.

'It was amazing to see so many members of the public come out to wave us off as we flew past.

'We would like to thank each and every one of them.'

He added: 'Many of the pilots and crew from Bristow have a military Search and Rescue background, so we know that we are leaving people in safe hands.'

Technology Matters with John Orr

Superfast promises and grains of sand

VOICES on a phone, images on a screen, financial transactions and documents all turn into little pieces of data called bytes. In the world of IT communications those little bytes travel along copper or (glass) fibre cables. Imagine the bytes are grains of sand and the cable is a hose. With a wider hose more grains can flow and at a faster rate. Kinks and joints in the hose will slow the grains of data down.

A kilobyte is 1000 bytes per second. A Megabyte is 1000 kilobytes per second. BT and other providers offer services up to 80 mbps but typically maybe 20mbps. But with the kinks and joints in the hoses around the west of Scotland you might be only getting a few megabytes per second.

The prime minister recently

pledged that every (qualified as 95 percent) household would have access to 'superfast' broadband by 2017.

Superfast is defined by Ofcom those little bytes travel along copper or (glass) fibre cables. Imagine the bytes are grains of sand and the cable is a hose. With a wider hose more grains can flow and at a faster rate. Kinks and joints in the hose will slow the grains of data down.

Modern business increasingly revolves around the ability to communicate and share information. A document might be several megabytes in size and high definition photos might be double that. Once you get to streaming TV you are transferring vast quantities of data. Superfast enables this process and in particular allows us to use cloud-based services to process and store substantial amounts of data. Rock on 2017!

IT Solutions for Business
BCtechnologies

- COMPUTER SUPPORT & ADVICE
- PUBLIC WIFI
- CCTV
- CYBER SECURITY
- VOIP TELEPHONE SYSTEMS

Call 01369 706656 Email John@bc-group.co.uk
www.bc-technologies.co.uk
OBAN | FORT WILLIAM | DUNOON

Loganair to invest £15M in air services

AIRLINE Loganair is to improve air services to and from the Western Isles through a £15 million investment programme in 2016.

Angus MacNeil, Na h-Eileanan an Iar MP, has welcomed the announcement, but warns that until passengers see major improvements to reliability, public confidence will remain low.

Mr MacNeil has had regular contact with Loganair to relay the strong concerns expressed by his constituents after months of flight delays. He has urged the firm to continue investment in service and fleet improvements to demonstrate commitment to the Western Isles.

He said: 'The service in 2015 was unacceptable and passengers have long memories. Until customers see consistent service improvements, it is unlikely that satisfaction will increase in the short term.'

'Flight delays have a direct impact on the local economy and disrupt people's lives, not just leading to inconvenience but for some, such as those working off-shore, this can be the difference between getting to work or not.'

'I hope that 2015 was a blip as Loganair have had 50 years of good service to the islands and we hope it will get back

on track as soon as possible. I am relieved that Loganair is taking steps to create a more robust service for the future by improving aircraft and also enhancing the maintenance side of the business with the new spares hub at Glasgow Airport and the launch of engineer apprenticeship programme.'

Mr MacNeil said he would also write to Flybe, which has a franchise agreement with Loganair to operate the island flights. He added: 'Flybe must be aware of the customer dissatisfaction on these services and as it displays its logo on these planes, it must also share some responsibility for service improvement.'

The New Year also marked the increase of the Air Discount Scheme to 50 per cent, a development which Mr MacNeil has warmly welcomed.

He added: 'I am delighted this additional discount has now been applied and is available to ADS card holders. This is a further investment by the Scottish Government in transport services which will benefit islanders in addition to the already announced extension of RET to inter-island routes, new aircraft for the Barra air service and the announcement of daily dedicated services between Lochboisdale and Mallaig, Castlebay and Oban.'

Sentence is deferred on razor clam fisherman

AN OBAN fisherman who used electronic equipment to harvest razor clams in contravention of conservation laws was told to be of good behaviour for a year.

Sentence was deferred for a year when James Douglas, 48, of 1 Murdon House, Dunuaran Road, appeared at Campbeltown Sheriff Court last Thursday.

Mr Douglas, who owns the Ceonothus, pleaded guilty to one charge of failing to comply with a condition of the fishing licence relating to the vessel, in that equipment was carried on board capable of transmitting electrical currents to the seabed to fish for razor clams in contravention of a conservation order.

The offence carries a maximum fine of £50,000.

Douglas made his plea at an earlier hearing in December but Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC had adjourned sentence for a month. At that hearing the procurator fiscal told the court that on April 22 last year Marine Protection Agency officers, working on intelligence, had approached the Ceonothus in the Sound of Gigha.

At 4pm that afternoon officers saw a large box with cables attached being dumped off the side of the fishing boat. They boarded the boat and

waited until a diver was called.

The fiscal said: 'A standard catch of razor clams might be 50 to 70kg but using electrical methods it is possible to catch up to 400kg.'

'When officers boarded the Ceonothus they found 160kg.

'The following morning a diver retrieved a blue box which was an electrical generator.

'It was Mr Douglas's brother who was in charge of the boat that day.'

Sheriff Anderson said: 'I assume that at one time this was a recognised way of fishing. Leaving aside the conservation issues, it is quite tempting because of being able to collect eight times the catch.'

Last week, Sheriff Anderson told the court that there was a report by the Scottish Government in October 2014 into electro fishing for razor clams, which claimed that the harm to other organisms on the seabed was minimal. She said that the report had recommended that further work be done on the impact (of electro fishing) on razor clams.

Sheriff Anderson deferred sentence for a year, until January 12, 2017, in the hope that a further report would be completed by that time with further details about the affect on razor clams.

Woodland awards

WOODLAND enthusiasts have until March 31 to be in with a chance of being crowned Scotland's finest woods.

Organisers are urging businesses, schools, landowners, foresters, communities and individuals to apply.

There are four categories including industry-focused awards, new native woods awards and awards for schools and community woodlands.

To find out more or to apply, visit www.sfw.co.uk/awards-2016.

Refuse rethink

A MOVE to cut bin collections could trigger a fresh surge of rats roaming the streets of Argyll, according to the British Pest Control Association (BPCA).

A number of councils across the UK have decreased the frequency of refuse collections, with many others expected to follow suit, in a bid to cut costs.

But the BPCA says the policy could lead to a significant increase in the number of rats and is urging local authorities to reconsider the move.

Oban Times
newsdesk
01631 568000

Second best not good enough at Rest and Be Thankful

COUNCILLORS are demanding a 'permanent fix' for on-going problems at the Rest and Be Thankful, after a 'horrific' incident where debris from a landslide almost killed a woman.

Second best is no longer good enough, is the clear message from Argyll and Bute Council, in finding a permanent solution to A83 road closures and delays in opening any alternative routes.

In a message to the Scottish government from the authority's policy lead for roads and amenity services, Councillor Ellen Morton said: 'While the council acknowledges the work carried out to date, we continue to consider this nothing more than a temporary measure.'

'Although the Old Military Road has worked reasonably well during recent incidents, we still need to explore options which guarantee continuity of access.'

'There is now a great deal of stigma attached to the Rest and Be Thankful and public confidence is very low in terms of the reliability of the route.'

'We need the Scottish Government to progress a permanent solution as a matter of urgency and to give us a time scale for this, as well as putting a communications plan in place to give people across the country the confidence that Argyll and Bute remains open for business despite these on-going closures.'

'While we are committed to doing all that we, as a local authority, can do, it is only the Scottish Government that can provide the answer.'

'It is ridiculous that such a major route continues to be closed during periods of bad weather. This has a huge impact on the local economy.'

'We cannot pretend that this does not have a detrimental effect on people going about their day-to-day lives. These continued closures are intolerable,' she added.

Donald Clark, an Inveraray businessman, added his voice to concerns: 'I have consistently argued that the most dangerous and vulnerable section is the top 300-400-metre stretch of the A83 on the Rest - every slide over 50 tonnes has occurred on this stretch.'

'We in Argyll are being treated with utter contempt by officialdom and the sooner we have politicians and officials prepared to make proper decisions to deal with this long-running saga the better.'

'There was much back-slapping and 'well done, fellas' with the containment of the last slide, but if another 100 tonnes plus had come down it would have failed miserably.'

'The sooner the decision-makers face the obvious facts and spend £3-£4million in properly and permanently protecting this dangerous section the better.'

'Action please, every expert has had his say to no avail.'



A woman was injured in the most recent landslide on the A83.

Argyll plays starring role in TV, film and video

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

FIRST there was Hollywood and then Bollywood, and now there's Bonniewood as Argyll and Bute Council officers set their sights on bringing high-end television, advertisers and film productions to the West Highlands.

Building on the major productions already using the coast and hills as their backdrops, it is hoped many more will follow in the footsteps of James Bond in *Skyfall*, musicians Florence and the Machine, *The One Show*, *Countryside* and chef James Martin.

Speaking about the plans last week at a council meeting, head of development Fergus Murray said the opportunities arising from using the area as a film and TV location were boundless.

He said: 'We could not afford to advertise the area in the way that TV programmes featuring places such as Inveraray Castle in *Downton Abbey* can.'

'The economic benefit that results from the filming is important. We encourage as many of the production companies as we can to move their filming to shoulder months - January to

March and October to December.

'There are a number of tax incentives that are provided at a UK and Scotland Government level to attract the screen industries to the Scotland.'

In 2015 Argyll and Bute Council received 110 enquiries about making films in the area.

Forty-eight of those films were made, with one still to be filmed.

Mr Murray said film production in the area resulted in a spend of £524,500, with 603 cast and crew involved in 118 days' filming.

The council set up its own film unit in 2014 at no extra cost to the development budget and since then the number of productions coming to the area has increased.

GIRL ON FILM: Florence and the Machine is one of the international stars to come to Argyll and Bute to shoot videos, film and television. Florence shot video for two of her songs on Easdale Island. t04florence01



SAMS launches search for citizen scientists to gather details to aid climate challenges

SCOTTISH marine experts are appealing for an army of 'citizen scientists' to help measure the potentially disastrous effects of this winter's severe storms on the nation's coastal creatures, writes Louise Glen.

Heavier rainfall and rough seas, key indicators of climate change, may have severely affected some of Scotland's best known animals and plants on the rocky coast.

Now scientists at the Oban-based Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) want to train volunteers in monitoring and sampling coastal areas as part of Capturing Our Coast (CoCoast), the world's largest ever coastal citizen science project.

CoCoast aims to train more than 3,000 citizen scientists from across the UK to help collect data around key species, such as mussels, wading birds and hermit crabs.

The results of the information collected will help inform future



Dr Hannah Grist, CoCoast project officer for Scotland, surveys the shoreline at SAMS, near Oban.

policy in conservation and marine protection and potentially give a better over-all picture into how the climate is changing.

SAMS is the only Scottish-based partner in the £1.7m project,

which is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and led by Newcastle University.

SAMS ecologist Professor Michael Burrows said: 'Over the past few winters we have seen increas-

ingly severe and frequent storms that are likely to be associated with rapid climate change. Alongside warming temperatures and ocean acidification, documenting how these changes are affecting our coastal habitats will be key evidence for influencing policy in the near future.'

'Vulnerable rocky shoreline species can't escape the weather, and the storms we have seen the last two winters are likely to become more frequent, with greater damaging effects.'

'As scientists, we can't be everywhere but people can tell us what's going on in their own back yard and we can collectively gather the evidence to fit into the wider picture.'

Those interested in becoming a CoCoast citizen scientist can register at www.capturingourcoast.co.uk to attend training courses around the country where they will learn what to look out for and how to record important data.

Scientists are particularly keen to know how climate change is affecting coastal species that are not often recorded, particularly in remote parts of the country.

Increasing ocean temperatures and more acidic seas could affect economically-important species such as mussels and oysters, which would have a knock-on effect for coastal birds, such as Eider ducks, that feed on them.

Dr Hannah Grist, the SAMS-based CoCoast project officer for Scotland, said: 'The beauty of this project is that people with no, or little, scientific background can work alongside academics to provide extremely important data for environmentalists and governments, and ultimately play a part in how their local coastline is managed and protected.'

Initial training days in Scotland include: January 24 and 25 in Oban; February 19 and 20 in Glasgow and March 10, 11 and 12 in Edinburgh.

Admitted causing fear and alarm

A 26-YEAR-OLD man entered his ex-partner's home in the middle of the night and refused to leave, Oban Sheriff Court heard on Monday.

Shane Liam Kenny, now living at Flat 3, Shore Street Flats, Oban, admitted that on April 23 last year he caused his former partner fear and alarm by entering her home uninvited and repeatedly refusing to leave when asked.

Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC was told that Kenny had been in a relationship with the woman for 14 years but they broke up in 2014 and things had become strained; his former partner had been advised by police that she should be turned up at her home she should telephone 999.

On the night in question he had gone to the house.

'By some unknown manner he had let himself into the address,' said Procurator Fiscal Eoin McGinty.

The woman called the police and Kenny 'took umbrage' and despite being told he was unwelcome, he refused to leave when asked.

'A strong smell of alcohol was detected [by officers] and he was brought back to the police office,' said Mr McGinty.

Kenny told officers: 'I have harassed her for answers.'

Defence agent Edward Thornton said that Kenny had addressed his drinking and had begun a new relationship, and was getting his life back on track.

Sheriff Ruth Anderson deferred sentence for three months for Kenny to show he could be of good behaviour.

She described his actions as 'immature'.

'People like to be involved in drama sometimes instead of just getting on with their lives,' she said.

Remanded in custody

A 52-YEAR-OLD man appeared on petition before Oban Sheriff Court on Friday facing charges which allege rape, sexual assault and the possession of drugs.

The man, who lives in the Glasgow area, made no plea or declaration and was committed for further examination and remanded in custody.

Oban Times
01631 568000

Dunollie fundraisers receive conservation cash boost

A HISTORIC Oban site has secured almost £250,000 in funding to help preserve the history that surrounds it, writes David McPhee.

Work is set to start at Dunollie museum, castle and grounds in the coming weeks, with the money being used to improve the look of the castle and stabilise loose stones, which are hazardous to the public.

The project is being funded by Historic Environment Scotland, the Heritage Lottery Fund, The North American MacDougall Association and from on-site fundraising in 2015.

Ian Colquhoun, a castle visitor guide, said: 'Dunollie castle has been overlooking Oban bay for at least seven centuries and is a prominent landmark, but three centuries of neglect and decay have meant it now needs to be actively stabilised if this iconic



structure is to survive into the future.'

A community project will be running alongside the renovation, with unique opportunities for Oban residents to get

involved, from assisting with archaeological measured drawings to participating in textile workshops and online blogging. Visitor services manager Fiona Thomson said: 'Generations of

QUEENS OF THE CASTLE: Melanie Davies, community engagement officer; Fiona Thomson, visitor services manager; Mary Freer, house curator and Jane Isaacson, sustainability and development manager at Dunollie Castle.

people from Oban have enjoyed this unique building.

'Now, through this conservation project, Dunollie is offering a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the community to connect with their cultural heritage and celebrate what the castle means to them and the town.'

'We'd like to support as many people as possible to get involved.'

Gillian Campbell, marketing and promotions officer, said: 'I am very excited that we have an extensive community pro-

gramme running alongside the castle works.'

'As a member of the local community, I think it is fantastic that we are able to provide such a wide range of opportunities for people of all ages to come along and be involved in something that they will enjoy.'

'I wish I had been aware of similar activities available before I left Oban to study - experiences gained from projects such as this are invaluable and extremely rewarding.'

Dunollie Castle was gifted to Dunollie Projects Ltd in 2013 and the first phase of the project was completed in 2014.

The money that has been secured will be used to complete the second phase, which will end with a light and media show at the castle grounds later in the year.

Sustainability and develop-

ment manager Jane Isaacson said: 'I am delighted that after two years of fundraising we have been able to secure these funds to allow us to start work on this second phase of consolidation at the castle.'

'There will be further phases in the future to complete the stabilisation of the ruin, but we are keen to get going with this phase as it will allow us to at last remove the safety fencing from within the castle compound, restoring the historic skyline and giving access once more to the beautiful, vaulted undercroft.'

The grounds are scheduled to reopen on Friday March 25 and if work isn't completed by then, on-site activities, including a behind the scenes tour, will be made available for visitors.

To get involved with the project or to find out more, visit www.dunollie.org

SCAFFOLDING SERVICES

All works considered, call Peter on 07557401942 or email scaffolding@mkmacleod.co.uk

Tube/Fit & Cuplock
Kit works & Streetworks
Internally supplied equipment
Design Services
Dayworks

COMPETITIVE RATES

MacLeod Construction Ltd
Kilmory Industrial Estate
Lochgilhead, Argyll, PA31 8RR
Tel 01546 602989 Fax 01546 603789
Email scaffolding@mkmacleod.co.uk
www.mkmacleod.co.uk

MACLEOD
PLUMBING & ELECTRICAL
CSRS and CSCS and compliant

OBAN STOVE CENTRE

Old Crofters Yard, Soroba Rd, Oban, Argyll, PA344HU
Tel: 01631564790 Fax: 01631562919
info@obanstovecentre.co.uk

HETAS

Aldi.

59P 5pk Lemons
59P 5pk Swede
49P 5pk Baking Potatoes
59P 5pk Red Onions
59P 5pk Parsnips
59P 5pk Chantrelley Carrots

Aldi accepts cash, Maestro, MasterCard debit and credit cards, and Visa debit and credit cards. No cheques accepted in store. All offers subject to availability. Prices correct at time of going to print. Excludes R.O.I. For details of your nearest store visit our website at www.aldi.co.uk or call our Customer Service Team on 0800 042 0800 from landlines or 0333 005 0660 from mobiles. Calls may be recorded. Lemons 5 pack, 11.8p each. Swede, 59p each. Baking Potatoes 4 pack, 12.3p each. Red Onions 5kg, 59p per kg. Parsnips 600g, 98.3p per kg. Chantrelley Carrots 500g, £1.18 per kg. Fruit and Veg offers available Thursday 14 January to Wednesday 27 January 2016. New offers start Thursday 28 January 2016. Prices are correct at time of going to print but, due to growing conditions, are subject to change. Please see in store for latest offers.

ALDI

For all your Plumbing & Electrical needs

MacLeod Plumbing & Electrical

- Low energy heating
- Low energy lighting
- Small works
- Rewires
- Servicing

Call 01546 602989

MACLEOD
PLUMBING & ELECTRICAL

MacLeod Construction Ltd
Kilmory Industrial Estate
Lochgilhead, Argyll, PA31 8RR
Email sales@mkmacleod.co.uk
www.mkmacleod.co.uk



Oban's 1st steps day nursery

Stramash Outdoor Nurseries - Oban and Fort William

Is your child eligible for Free Early Learning and Childcare?

For children born - 1st March 2013 – 28th February 2014. Registration for free 'Early Learning and Childcare' will take place at Oban's 1st Steps Day Nursery, Croft Road. *Please bring your wee ones birth certificate when registering

Do come along to our nursery during registration week 1st to 5th February. Open morning 9.30 to 10.30 on Tuesday 2nd of February 2016. We look forward to meeting you

Oban's 1st Steps Day Nursery
 Croft Road, Oban, Argyll PA34 5JL
 Tel: 01631 567491
 email: manager.firststeps@yahoo.co.uk
 www.firststepsoban.co.uk

STRAMASH OUTDOOR NURSERIES

Quality Early Learning & Childcare in the Outdoors

FORT WILLIAM
 Inverlochry Mains; 2-5 year olds

OBAN
 Ganavan; 3-5 year olds

For more information and registration:
 Visit www.stramash.org.uk
 Email info@stramash.org.uk
 Call 01631 566080



Stramash is recognised as one of the leading organisations for outdoor learning in Scotland, and has three fantastic outdoor learning campuses; Oban, Fort William and Elgin. All campuses offer inspiring outdoor based early learning and childcare. Fort William and Elgin cater for 2 to 5-year-olds, and Oban for 3 to 5-year-olds. Registration week for both Oban and Fort William campuses will be Monday to Friday, February 1-5, and Elgin Monday to Friday, January 18-22. Stramash has made some inspiring short films about their work which can be viewed at www.vimeo.com/stramashoutdoors

A place to learn, play and imagine

1st Steps nursery is a safe, happy, caring and stimulating environment, where all the staff want the best for the children and parents. It has been described as a 'little paradise' where every detail has been thought about to make sure every child has the best possible start in life. In our loving, caring environment, our children are listened to, respected and valued. At 1st Steps we believe that the chance to learn is all around us and every child should grow in their own unique way, exploring their own abilities without limitations and that is why our indoor and outdoor learning environments are specially designed to inspire. In the established mature garden children can play, be active and grow their own plants, fruit and vegetables. Children are then able to prepare some of their own produce and taste it. 1st Steps Nursery is committed to providing nutritious healthy meals for children in a setting that allows them to share meal times together, including breakfast, lunch and tea daily.

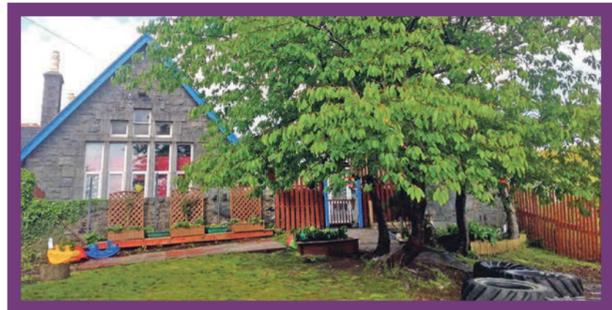
Home Start - Support and friendship for families

11 MILLION PEOPLE SAY THEY WOULD VOLUNTEER IF ASKED. We would like to ask you.

Home Start helps families with children under five. Parents may be finding it hard to cope due to bereavement, multiple births, disability or illness of themselves or a child, being new parents, or perhaps being separated from their own family support.

You do not have to be a SUPER PARENT to volunteer. We ask that you have parenting experience and can give a few hours a week to families who need friendship and support, helping them to cope with the various stresses involved in raising young children in today's busy society.

Our next free training course for volunteers starts on Thursday February 18. If you would like to find out more please contact our scheme manager Aileen Binner by email, telephone or drop in to our office in MacPhee's in George Street, Oban.



Home Start Volunteers required to support families at home

Support and friendship for families

Do you have parenting experience and 2-3 hours to spare each week? Could you support a family going through a difficult time?

Then contact Aileen Binner (scheme manager) on 01631 566749, or homestartlorn@btconnect.com
 Charity no. SC000783 www.homestartlorn.org.uk



Scottish Calendars 2016 The ideal gift...

HURRY WHILE STOCKS LAST!

Isle of Arran FROM £7.95 including P&P

Scottish Field FROM £7.95 including P&P

Scottish Field FROM £11.95 including P&P

Scottish Field FROM £7.95 including P&P

order form

I would like to order 2016 Calendars:

Calendar		U.K. inc P&P	R.O.W. inc P&P	Amount
Scottish Field Large	Price	£11.95	£12.95	£
	Quantity			
Scottish Field Small	Price	£7.95	£8.50	£
	Quantity			
Oban Times West Highland	Price	£7.95	£8.50	£
	Quantity			
Arran Banner Isle of Arran	Price	£7.95	£8.50	£
	Quantity			
Total			£	

YOUR DETAILS:

Name _____
 Address _____
 Telephone _____ Date _____
 Email _____ To receive the 2017 brochure straight into your inbox please enter your email address here

If you wish we can send calendars direct to your friends and family on your behalf. Please provide the following details on a separate sheet: Name, address, your personal message, together with a note of which calendar you would like sent.

PAYMENT DETAILS:

I enclose payment for £ _____ by Cheque payable to Wyvex Media Debit/Credit Card

Card Number _____
 Expiry Date _____ Start Date _____ Issue No _____ Security Code (last 3 digits on back of card) _____
 Signature _____
 Name/Title (BLOCK CAPITALS) _____

ORDER ONLINE AT www.scottishcalendars.co.uk or call us on 01371 851 868
 Quoting coupon code CAL16PAPERS OR POST ALL ORDERS TO:
 Wyvex Media Limited, FREEPOST RTEY YUBG TYUB Trinity House, Sculpins Lane, Wethersfield, Braintree, Essex CM7 4AY

Rescue team pays tribute to one of its own

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

TRIBUTES to a 'kind-hearted gentleman' have been pouring in this week for a mountain rescue stalwart who died alongside his friend in Glen Coe shortly after lunch time on Saturday.

Experienced climber Joe Smith, 23, was involved in an accident on the 1,106-metre high Stob Coire nam Beith. He died alongside his climbing friend Simon Davidson, 34, who lived in Edinburgh. Both men were 'skilled climbers'.

Mr Smith was a member of Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team and had been on a life-saving call-out only one week before. He had been a member of the mountain rescue team for two years.

Mountain rescue leader Andy Nelson, who was the rescue co-ordinator on Saturday afternoon when the emergency call was made, said it began to dawn on the team quite early on that it might be one of their own when Mr Smith, the 'man who would do anything for anyone', did not come down the hillside to help as he would have normally done.

Mr Nelson said: 'We knew that Joe was climbing on the mountain because he had told some of the team he was planning to do that. So when he didn't come straight down and we didn't hear from him on his radio, which he had with him, I had a suspicion early on that it might be him.'

Mr Smith has been described as an enthusiastic and fun-loving man, who would go out of his way to help people.

Mr Nelson said: 'He was always smiling, always good fun. He could never do enough for you.'

Mr Smith first moved into the



Joe Smith, who was a member of Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team. He was an experienced climber and a qualified Mountain Leader.

Lochaber area around three years ago from Lancashire, and then to Kinlochleven, where he had recently bought a house.

He was a keen member of various groups. Mr Nelson described him as someone who had already made himself a 'valued part of the community'.

Commenting on his ability as an experienced climber and mountain trainer, Mr Nelson said: 'In a little moment something has gone wrong. We may never know why. It is a sad loss to our team. He was a strong man who would go beyond what was asked of him.'

Friend Oliver Millington, one of the team behind the Three Wise Monkeys climbing venue under construction at Fassifern Road, Fort William, said: 'In my years of climbing, I've not met anyone in the sport that has been so keen and grabbed the bull by the horns quite so forcefully as Joe.'

'This may be due to Joe's background working with cattle, but he brought north with him an awful lot of psyche.'

'That's probably why two years

ago, I spent my 24th birthday trudging up a seldom climbed hill on the Ardnamurchan peninsula, struggling to keep up with Joe who had smelled ice - needless to say there wasn't any, but he just had to check.

'And again the next day for good measure, and again the day after that when we got the climbers gondola aiming to have a go at Morwind - no ice there either.'

'That year, Joe's climbing came on massively as he found numerous partners and got out climbing every day he could, in between the odd jobs he was getting as a newly qualified mountain leader and working on the Jacobite steam train.'

'His climbing ability quickly surpassed mine, and he furiously ticked off climbs all over Scotland, making pretty much everything look horribly easy, usually with toes sticking out the end of his climbing shoes.'

It is understood Mr Smith's parents arrived in the area from Lancaster on Tuesday, along with his German girlfriend.

No details have been released about funeral arrangements.



Primary one teacher Margaret Stewart, left, with pupil Brooke Falconer, presenting Mary MacColl with flowers on her last day at Caol primary.

Caol pupils say goodbye to school assistant, Mary

A CLASSROOM assistant who worked in a Lochaber school across three separate decades has retired.

Mary MacColl, 63, started work at Caol Primary School in January 1999, and finished at the turn of the new year after 17 years' service.

Mary, who lives in Corpach, grew up in Caol and attended Caol primary herself as a child.

She said: 'My years at Caol Primary School were very, very happy. The children were lovely. I was very fond of all the children and the staff were the same, just excellent. Mr Hamilton, the head teacher, was very supportive too through the years.'

'All-in-all it was a very happy, positive experience in my life.'

Prior to working at the school, Mary was employed in the registry office in Fort William.

Head teacher Steven Hamilton paid tribute to Mary's work as an assistant to the primary one class in the school.

He said: 'She was a popular and friendly member of staff who will be missed by staff and pupils alike. She showed endless patience with the infants over her many years in Caol school and we would all like to wish her a long and happy retirement.'

To mark her retirement, Mary was presented with a bunch of flowers on her last day.

She now plans to spend more time with husband Alan, their three children and six grandchildren.

TIMESLINE

Internet problem at GP surgeries

PATIENTS who normally attend GP surgeries in Borve and Habost on Lewis are being asked to be aware of internet disruption to these surgeries.

As there is no access to electronic patient information or the electronic prescribing system from these surgeries, alternative measures have been put in place to allow the appointments and prescribing systems to continue as normal.

While patients may, in some cases, be offered appointments at an alternative surgery or asked to collect their prescription from a different location, NHS Western Isles is aiming to keep any disruption to a minimum and apologises for any inconvenience.

NHS Western Isles stressed that patients should continue to use the normal telephone numbers to contact the surgeries in the first instance.

CalMac check-in row resolved

FERRY passengers in Stornoway will have less time to wait before boarding after Western Isles MP Angus MacNeil had a decision made by CalMac overturned.

Mr MacNeil had accused CalMac of making 'outrageous demands on the travelling public' when it increased check-in times to a minimum of one hour on sailing between Stornoway on Lewis and Ullapool on the mainland. This was due to traffic congestion in Ullapool.

But after the MP stepped in, CalMac has reverted to the 45-minute check-in, but only on services leaving Stornoway.

Woman found

POLICE have confirmed that Tracey MacPherson, has been found safe and well outwith Lochaber.

Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

WIN

A ONE NIGHT DB&B STAY FOR TWO PEOPLE AT EAST HAUGH HOUSE HOTEL



Built as part of the Atholl Estate, East Haugh House was converted into a four star country house hotel in 1989 by the McGown family. The beautiful turreted 17th century stone house boasts 12 bedrooms, including three four-posters. One of Perthshire's hidden gems, the hotel's 'Two Sisters' restaurant is recommended in the Michelin Guide 2015. Award-winning Chef Patron, Neil McGown, leads a talented kitchen team who have a real passion for producing delicious dishes.

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question: How many four-poster rooms are there at East Haugh House?

Terms and conditions: Based on two people sharing a cosy double or twin room, Sun - Thurs, with £25pp dinner allowance. Subject to availability. Valid until 31 March 2016.

East Haugh House Competition

Answer.....
Name.....
Address.....
Postcode.....
Telephone.....
Email.....

To enter, send your answer, name, address, telephone number and email address to Competitions, Wyvex Media, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh, EH5 2DL. Closing date is January 31, 2016. Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Wyvex Media, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Promoter reserves the right to request post publicity. Indicate if you do not wish to receive further information from promoter. Usual Wyvex Media rules apply. This competition is open to readers of other Wyvex Media publications.

Subscribe to our digital e-edition



Now also available on iPad, iPhone and Android devices.

Visit obantimes.co.uk/digital

The Oban Times & West Highland Times | pocketmags.com
Discover Read Enjoy

Everest

Fit the best
TRIPLE GLAZING AVAILABLE ON SOME WINDOWS AND DOORS
Also available Garage Doors, Patio and Bi fold doors, Porches, Flat Roofs, Gutters, Fascias, Soffits, Bargeboards, Driveways

ASK ABOUT SPECIAL DEALS
Do you want a new conservatory roof?
Contact Consultant Peter Ramsay
Tel 07816 934364

Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

In need of a New Year clear out?



UNDER £100 NOW FREE

Sell your unwanted items under £100 for FREE in our west coast classifieds
It couldn't be easier!

Call 01631 568000 or visit www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk to place your ad.

BUY LOCAL | SELL LOCAL | TRADE LOCAL | SWAP LOCAL

Western Isles

NA H-EILEANAN AN IAR'S MSP has welcomed a decision by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar last week to not put air services and school closures out to consultation as part of its budget cut proposals.

Councillors unanimously agreed last week to remove options to end the Benbecula to Stornoway air service, as well as consulting on the closure of Sgoil Eolaigearraidh on Barra and Sgoil an Iochdair on South Uist.

Alasdair Allan, MSP, said: 'These measures would have left no inter-island air services remaining anywhere in the Outer Hebrides, following previous decisions made to remove all flights between Barra and Benbecula and to cut back the service between Benbecula and Stornoway.

'They would also have raised the prospect of Barra and South Uist being left with only one primary school each.'

Campbeltown

THE STAR engineers fronting the UK's race to space will hear Campbeltown's claim for the final frontier at a London conference next month.

Jeff Cole, the man at mission control for Discover Space UK, the spaceport arm of Machrihanish Airbase Community Company (MACC), has been invited to present at The Royal Aeronautical Society's (RAeS) Space Group's conference, 'Spaceport UK - A New Frontier for Growth and Enterprise', on February 3. It will be attended by companies such as Virgin Galactic, Deimos Space UK and the Westminster government. The UK government hopes to have a spaceport operational by 2019.

Mr Cole said: 'The conference is a great chance for the main contenders to explain what a spaceport is all about and why it is so vital. I will explain why Campbeltown is the best site, including the long runway, already twice approved for space flight, and reinforce the idea that a spaceport is about jobs, high-tech engineering and social benefit.'

Coll

NOW the festive period is over, residents on Coll have the chance to get back into activities at the An Cridhe community centre.

A whist night is being held on Wednesday February 3, from 7.30pm. It costs £3 per person and people can bring snacks and a bottle.

Bridge is back and the club welcomes new players. Anyone interested should email Peter Ings at p.ings@btinternet.com

For those looking to shed a few pounds there are early morning gym sessions being trialed during January on Tuesdays and Thursday at 7.30am. Circuit training has also returned on Thursdays at 6pm, with gym circuits on Monday at 6pm. Both cost £5 per person and all abilities are catered for. With only eight spaces at gym circuits on Mondays, booking is essential.

Kilmallie

A RECENT ceilidh in memory of a Lochaber man has raised £400 towards upgrading Kilmallie Community Centre. Sarah Kennedy received a cheque last week from Mairi MacColl, whose late husband Charlie had the idea of holding a Gaelic Hogmanay ceilidh after enjoying the BBC Alba celebrations at the centre in 2014.

Ms Kennedy said: 'The Kilmallie Community Centre committee would like to express their gratitude for the donation of £400 from the proceeds of the Hogmanay ceilidh held at the centre. The ceilidh was Charlie's brainchild after the fantastic BBC Hogmanay celebrations in 2014 and he wanted to repeat the experience. Despite his failing health he was fully involved with Jimmy Cameron and Bobby Henderson in planning this Hogmanay ceilidh.

'Jimmy and Bobby continued his dream and it was a great evening of singing, dancing and music. It was a great night to see in the New Year and thoroughly enjoyed by all.'



Above, Sineag MacIntyre's song class was enjoyed by everyone; below, Angus Nicolson's pipe class gets under way.

South Uist fèis hailed a success

THE FIRST Hogmanay celebration by Gaelic heritage group Ceòlas has been hailed a great success.

Fèis Chullaig ran for three days from December 28 to January 1 and featured class tuition, music sessions, ceilidhs and archaeology walks in South Uist.

Classes, which were attended by locals and national and international visitors, were overseen by Ceòlas stalwarts Angus Nicolson, Allan Henderson and Sineag MacIntyre.

Despite an initial blast of inclement weather delaying the arrival of some students and performers, the opening dance at Talla an Iochdair saw more than 170 people in attendance.

Likewise, early evening music sessions in local pubs were crowded with Uist residents, visitors and Ceòlas



students. In addition to providing a lift to local firms, the fèis also dovetailed with other Uist events. The Old Year Cèilidh in Talla Staoinebrig was also a great success, with Ceòlas tutors adding to the talented line-up.

Commenting on the success of the inaugural fèis, Mary Schmöller, Ceòlas' office manager, said: 'The atmosphere was excellent and the numbers showed this is something that we can continue in future years.

'Running community-orientated events such as this is so important for Ceòlas.'

Sineag MacIntyre, Ceòlas tutor for Gaelic song from Cille Pheadair, added: 'The fèis was such a great idea and I was so pleased that so many of the local community came to the classes at such a busy time of the year. It is amazing what Ceòlas does for the Uist community and long may it continue. Well done to all involved.'

Hamper champs



Kinlochleven High School pupils made 20 Christmas hampers for elderly people. The youngsters donated non-perishable food and asked people in their community who they thought would benefit from the boxes and raised £100 for Age UK.

Music and dance



Christmas was in the air at a festive ceilidh organised by An Comunn Gaidhealachd, Meur Chruachain at Tainuill Village Hall. Tainuill Primary School Choir performed, led by Ann Barlow, together with members of the Isla Sinclair Dancers.

Strontian youngsters shine in festive shows

Acharacle

STRONTIAN Primary School pupils performed Aladdin to a full house in the village hall on December 22.

The primary four to seven youngsters sang and danced to their hearts' content in the pantomime, while the primary one, two and three performed the Nativity, *We Three Kings*.



Strontian Primary School pupils performance of Aladdin was a great success; Primary one, two and three pupils of Strontian performed *We Three Kings* as this year's Nativity.



Tiree

THREE High School pupils have raised more than £200 for an anti-malaria campaign.

The S6 pupils used the school's Christmas service on December 22 to swap the traditional gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh for mosquito nets.

Sean Kemp, Iona Campbell and Eirinn Beese are backing the Christian Aid initiative to help prevent the spread of malaria.

The youngsters were clearly very persuasive as they raised £219.15.

MORVERN lines

Those arguing for 'rewilding' should add Highlander to list of endangered native species

'REWILDING' is a new word which is ricocheting around the West Highlands and islands of Scotland.

According to Wikipedia, not always a reliable source, rewilding is the practice of returning areas of land to a wild state, including the reintroduction of animal species that are no longer naturally found there.

Its fans range from landowners, many of whom I know are already salivating at the prospect of yet another huge handout if they go along with it, to mischievous urban dwellers who look on rural areas as no more than some form of upland Disney World waiting to be exploited.

Taking the land issue first, who doesn't want to enjoy and experience Lord Byron's wild and majestic crags and steep frowning glories of dark Lochnagar for all times?

But as Roy Williamson of the Corries wrote, 'these days are passed now and in the past they must remain'; successive governments, hedge-fund managers, council planners and electricity companies have seen to that.

One need only drive from Loch Sunart, through Glen Tarbert, Glenfinnan and along Lochail-side to Spean Bridge, across the Great Glen and up into Glen Quoich, to see how the finest landscapes in Europe, little changed in the last 50,000 years, have been ruined for generations by dozens of hydro electric schemes, access tracks, pylons, wind farms, ecologically-dead Sitka spruce forests and other forms of industrialisation.

As much as we would like to see it otherwise, the Scottish Government is unlikely now to call a halt to its questionable renewable and forestry targets let alone pay for the loss of habitat and the reinstatement



Many of the area's stunning landscapes have been scarred by many forms of industrialisation.

of numerous hillsides, corries and burns that have been irreparably destroyed in the process. This notion of rewilding is a nonsense and needs to be kicked into reality.

As for the animals, Scotland has indeed lost a great many native species whose reintroduction would be universally welcomed. Unfortunately many groups at the heart of rewilding and other rural restoration projects, insist on including controversial predators such as wolves, bears and lynx on their wishlist, which has done their case no good and only succeeded in getting Scotland's deer stalkers and sheep farmers' backs up.

Norway has been engaged in rewilding for some years, but as this is a nation with a greater rural land-mass and a smaller human population than Scotland, it is hardly worth making the comparison.

A recent report, however, shows the level of predation is so high in Norway it severely impacts where and how much sheep farming goes on. Recorded losses in 2014 were 3,895 ewes and 18,671 lambs, but the government compensation scheme only covered about three fifths of these, forcing many sheep farmers to go out of business. Large tracts of Norway are zoned for species protection and within these livestock farming is no longer possible.

Parts of Argyll have apparently been ear-marked for the release of lynx in the wild. There are two problems with this. Firstly, containment and, secondly, food. Nothing other than mile upon mile of ugly, high-maintenance, Colditz-style electric fencing will prevent these large meat-eating cats from escaping and who among the 'right-to-roam' brigade, the farming community and domestic cat and dog-lovers will put up with that?

Lynx are shy, nocturnal creatures, which puts paid to the argument held by its supporters that their presence will attract large numbers of high-spending visitors to areas such as the island of Mull. What will these animals live on? We already know from the BTO (British Trust for Ornithology) and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds that ground-nesting birds are in terminal decline.

There are no rabbits; grouse and ptarmigan are at an all-time low, and the few remaining small mammals such as voles, moles, shrews and mice, will have to be shared with golden and sea eagles, ravens, crows, buzzards, owls, hen harriers and other raptors. I will not dignify the statement that deer will provide the lynx with its staple diet as their numbers, too, have fallen off dramatically in the past decade, and do we really want to see pregnant hinds and newly born calves with their throats torn to shreds and their intestines hanging out?

There are many other rare and threatened species native to Scotland that are now confined to a few lowland parks which should be considered for rewilding. These include reindeer, kylee (the old breed of small, black, highland cattle), white park cattle, sometimes known as the Wild White (Latin, *Urus Scoticus*) Shetland Cattle, wild goats, garrons, Eriskay ponies, Highland, St Kilda, Orkney, Moorit and Shetland and Soay sheep.

Oh, there is one other rare native species - perhaps the most important of all - that I haven't mentioned yet which lends itself to rewilding, and that is man or rather the indigenous Highlander.

They too have been 'hunted' almost to extinction and forced out of the glens and straths over the last few decades. Encourage this hardy race to come back to the countryside, and to their crofts and 'wee bit hill and glen', and all else will eventually fall into place.

Nominate your Angel OF THE YEAR

If you know someone who really makes a difference in their community or to someone's life then let us know.

You can nominate by post using the form below or online at www.obantimes.co.uk/angel

All nominations will be assessed by a panel of judges including a Wyvex Media director

NOMINATION FORM

Nominee's name Nominee's address

My nominee should win because.....

(please submit up to 200 words on a separate sheet and attach to this form).

Your name Your address

Daytime telephone number..... Email address

Send to: The Oban Times, Angel of the Year, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB.

Full terms and conditions at www.obantimes.co.uk/angel

SCOTTISH RURAL AWARDS 2016

Gala Dinner & Awards
31 March 2016 Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh

SAVE THE DATE

TICKETS GO ON SALE 12 JANUARY

To purchase tickets visit:
www.scottishruralawards.org

Scottish Field, SCOTTISH RURAL AWARDS ALLIANCE, BANK OF SCOTLAND, Chiene+Tait, STRATHALLAN, hwenery, KILGRASTON, cpd, SRUC, GILLESPIE MACANDREW, HUNTERS RESIDENTIAL

Iain Thornber
iain.thornber@btinternet.com

WOMEN in business

FORGET about waiting on a glass slipper, women are shattering glass ceilings. In fact, new research by the Centre for Entrepreneurs reveals that female tycoons are twice as ambitious as their male counterparts. They have narrowed the gender gap by six per cent since 2012 and are adding to the economic engine that is entrepreneurship – this according to a Global Entrepreneurship Monitor 2014 Women's Report, which confirms that more

than 200 million women are starting or running businesses in 83 economies across the globe. An additional 128 million are running established businesses. This week, we meet some of those women who are running successful businesses around Argyll and Lochaber. Their stories are inspiring and their business savvy is impressive. Read about how they followed their passions and their own dream jobs.



Clare Pearson

Owner
Ash Hairdressing

AWARD winning hairstylist Clare Pearson, 37, owner of Ash Hairdressing, has turned her passion into a successful business. 'I got my first job at Toni & Guy in Leeds at the age of 16,' Clare said. 'It was at this point I learned you had to work hard starting at the very bottom and working your way up.'

Clare has owned her own salons for a total of nine years, starting in Leeds and now in Oban, racking up an impressive list of accolades and training, including 2012's English Hair Salon of the Year and Female Stylist of the Year. In 2015 her Oban salon garnered Best Team and Service of the Year. According to Clare, being successful comes down to having the core skills and developing those passionately. 'You need to find your unique selling point, and undertake business skills and marketing training. There are times when people or circumstances will knock you flat on your face – it's how you recover from these setbacks that determine who you are and how successful you can be. It's the people who have a strong determination to succeed and follow their passion that become the most successful.'



Denice Purdie

Owner
Purdie's of Argyll

Originally from Dunoon, Denice currently lives in Kinross, Perth and hopes to relocate to Castle Toward. Denice owns Purdie's of Argyll the Scottish soap company which was Scotland's first organic body products producer. She started the company from her home in 2004, she is also a director in Kapital Residential Ltd.

Denice said: 'I am a very driven entrepreneur who has had businesses since I was 17 years old. I have a condition called Dyslexia and where most people find this a learning difficulty, I see that it's a condition which hinders some things but over compensates in other areas. A huge level of entrepreneurs have Dyslexia.'

'With everything you do in life there are great highs and lows; being self-employed however means you are often accountable in a number of ways for your staff. I run different businesses, manufacturing and wholesale, retail shops, ecommerce, planned developments for housing, rental properties of over 100 properties, a café information centre, yacht charter company, some of my new ventures include retirement apartments in St Andrews and Alloa as well as Castle Toward which we are in the process of completing. There is always a great buzz when something grows to what you have worked so very hard to achieve. I firmly believe having the right staff is the most important thing that enhances a business. A great team can be the make or break of any business. Having to lay off staff due to poor turnover either within a location or just the time of year will always be a low point. We tend to close our shops in January and allow all our staff to take their paid holidays at this point to secure long term employment. Most staff have been with us from the beginning.'

'As a mother before being a business woman I have always had my head office from my home. This means when any one of my family need me I'm right there. This gives me a certain peace of mind.' Being very self-disciplined and well organised at all times has allowed Denice the advantage to be aware how her business interests change on a day to day basis. This allows her to focus on the things that are important and help with time management.

She adds: 'I feel anyone can run a business if they are enthusiastic and hardworking! Give me enthusiasm over qualifications any day. Self-belief is also important, the ability to put your whole self behind a project and have faith in the product will help you succeed. I never had the opportunity to have a full education but this has not stopped me doing lots of courses as I love learning new things.'



Tamsin McVean

Owner/ Alternative Medicine Practitioner
Well Body Argyll

Living and working in Argyll since 2004, Tamsin is a well known practitioner in the Oban area. Her Well Body Clinics, firmly established with 20 years clinic practice, and based in Oban, Duror, & Lismore, regularly welcome patients travelling from all parts of the UK for specialist alternative medicine and complementary health.

Tamsin's motivation for her clinics was driven by her own inspirational recovery from a series of high impact accidents in her twenties, resulting in serious spinal, head and internal injuries.

'I had six weeks to find an alternative to surgery. Traditional Acupuncture & Natural Medicine literally got me back on my feet again, off pharmaceutical drugs including morphine, into a naturally supportive rehabilitation process to full health. I wanted to help others have the same opportunity.' She explains how this experience shaped her Well Body Clinics, also supporting patients in the subtle psycho-emotional responses to pain, disability, poor health or chronic illness.

'I was struck with how difficult it was to find one practitioner I might work with consistently. Each time, we got so far, and then it was time to start again and find someone else. I realised there was a real gap, one that is too often mirrored within a clinic setting. Working with patients, is all about establishing a deeper dialogue - I call this body linguistics - requiring a specialist multiple-therapy approach. In Traditional Acupuncture, detailed pulse and tongue readings help establish this deeper baseline. We then treat holistically using a fully comprehensive range of integrative alternative and complementary therapies with a trusted biomedical research base. In Traditional Medicine we always treat the Ben and Biao - addressing the root, alleviating symptoms and treating at a deeper level using an integrative approach, which also encompasses preventative health.'

Tamsin's Well Body Clinic accreditations are awarded from strictly regulated professional memberships including The British Acupuncture Council, The Royal Society of Medicine, with NHR Organic Oils Soil Association Gold Accredited to the highest Food Grade standard, and patient feedback endorsed by one GP surgery as 'globally positive'.

'Working with patients requires a completely different business ethos and ethical approach. It is a vocation. It is about giving your full self to the process. To do this requires patience, skill, empathy, understanding and the ability to take a big step back for a closer view. It can be gruellingly tough as well as incredibly rewarding, long hours, and the persistence to rigorously research and treat a health problem. Equally important, is trusting and testing your intuition. Traditional medicine offers the body a natural way to heal itself - a wonderfully affirming ethos for the Well Body Clinics to have.'

ash HAIRDRESSING

How would you like Celebrity V.I.P treatment for a WHOLE 6 WEEKS Guaranteeing Gorgeous Healthy Hair?

This exclusive one off package deal includes deluxe services from our Top Designers

- Colour consultation with skin test, assessing skin tone and analyzing everything to ensure the right colour choice is made for you. (value £10)
- Any colouring service from our colour menu (value £50)
- Cut & Design or our specialist Re-Design service with any of our designers (value £35)
- Colour Refresh service to intensify shine and stop colour fade in its tracks. Its like lip gloss for your hair...luscious sexy shine guaranteed (Value £25.00)
- Styling Voucher...You can choose to have a relaxing blow-dry or a head turning celebrity up-do to make sure YOU stand out from the crowd. You can be just like a true celeb and choose a different look every time you step out into the spotlight...the choice is yours (value £28)
- Pamper treatment with sensational head massage. These will dramatically improve the condition of your hair. (value £10)
- Half price Keratin Smoothing Treatment Voucher that tames unruly curls and smooths frizz by 100% and improves the condition of your hair (value £65)

ARE YOU READY TO STEP INTO YOUR CELEBRITY SHOES?

ONLY 15 available
Act fast to take advantage of this fantastic offer

3 Combie Street, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HN
Tel: 01631 567075

Purdie's OF ARGYLL

Purdies of Oban, 18 George Street, Oban, Tel: 01631 562883
Purdies of Inveraray, 68 Main Street West, Inveraray, Tel: 01499 302899
www.purdies.org.uk

Tamsin McVean MSc, PgD, MSc, BA (Hons)
Traditional Acupuncture & Well Body Clinics

Tel: 01631 76032 by Appointment
tamsin@wellbodyargyll.co.uk www.wellbodyargyll.co.uk



Fiona McGlynn

Partner
R A Clement Associates

Fiona McGlynn is one of the four partners running RA Clement Associates. Having graduated from Glasgow University and qualifying as a Chartered Accountant with a Glasgow firm, Fiona joined R A Clement Associates in 1991, becoming a partner in 1999. Although she has specific responsibilities within the firm for HR and "Charity & Audit" clients, she also

works to meet business and individuals' needs for tax and accounting advice. Nowadays this includes advising on the challenges they face in planning for the future and dealing with the current economic environment. The charity and audit team deals with an increasingly complex regulated sector, with recent major changes set to affect many clients no matter how small or large. Fiona said: "With over 100 clients in the charity sector, we have built up the expertise to enable us to assist clients of all sizes through the challenges ahead."

ARE YOU IN BUSINESS AND NEED HELP DEVELOPING IT ?

Business Gateway can help your business develop and grow. We offer FREE impartial, confidential advice tailored to your business needs.

We can help you with a wide range of advice including business planning, funding options and market information

WANT TO BE YOUR OWN BOSS OR CONSIDERING A CAREER CHANGE?

Why not come and meet with one of our advisers to discuss your plans or ideas.

We can help you with a range of advice including how to research your ideas, advice and support with business planning and how to find and keep your customers

Interested?
To book an appointment with an advisor call 01546 604555 or email the Business Gateway team at business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Business Gateway – Argyll and Bute



Susan Windram

Editor
The Oban Times

Susan has a wealth of experience in weekly newspapers having spent almost 10 years as Group Editor of 11 titles in the Scottish Borders, part of Johnston Press. Prior to her time at Tweeddale Press, Susan spent 14 years at The Scotsman.

Susan says: "The Oban Times is a fantastic example of a quality local, family-owned newspaper. It is the paper of record in the West Highlands and it is a real honour to be entrusted with its future development. I am delighted to be part of a company that is forward thinking and offers excellent opportunities for women - the majority of our staff are women, and with the recent appointment of myself and Nicky Murphy to senior management positions, it clearly shows the company's commitment to equal opportunities. This is a very exciting time and I am delighted to be part The Oban Times team going forward."

R A Clement Associates
Chartered Accountants & Business Advisors

www.raclement.co.uk • mail@raclement.co.uk

'Put your BUSINESS in safe hands'
You want the best financial advice...

... and our experienced accountants do more than just accounts and tax. For our full range of services visit www.raclements.co.uk

... then phone us to make a no obligation appointment with one of our partners or accountants.

Your first visit is **free** so call us today at one of these offices

Offices at:
5 Argyll Square, Oban, Argyll PA34 4AZ • Tel: 01631 562643
3 Cameron Square, Fort William Inverness-shire PH33 6AJ • Tel: 01397 700171
Payroll: Abacus Services, 8 High Street, Oban PA34 4BG • Tel: 01631 568272

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Tel: 01631 568000 www.obantimes.co.uk



Nicky Murphy

Advertising Director
The Oban Times

Coming back to the Oban Times after 11 years felt like I was coming home. With all its history and heritage and the fact that it is so embedded in the hearts and minds of the local community makes it an incredibly interesting and fulfilling job to have. My main objective for 2016 is to work more closely with local businesses to ensure that we are engaging with them more and listening to their needs.

We have an amazing skills-set between our advertising, editorial and design teams that means we can offer creative advertising solutions to every type of business. Our market leading range of newspapers, magazines, illustrated maps and directories combined with exciting digital platforms adds exceptional value to our offering. Serving our client base is central to everything we do. If you would like advice on promotion, brand awareness, increasing sales and creative advert design, we will be delighted to work with you. Please don't hesitate to call or call in!

Science, Energy and Technology is ONLY for boys -right? NO!

Girls DO Science, Energy and Technology!

Rosalind Franklin said "Science and everyday life cannot and should not be separated". Marie Curie believed. "Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less."

Energy and technological innovation is important to the world **Be part of it and help create a better world interested in making Science, Energy and Technology a girl thing?**

Contact Kirsty or Katie at **ALIenergy's "Bright Spark project" funded by ScottishPower Renewables**
01631 565183 enquiries@alienergy.org.uk

Come on girls break the mould and be a trailblazer in energy, science and technology.

ALIENERGY Argyll, Lomond & the Islands Energy Agency

SCOTTISHPOWER RENEWABLES



Isabella MacRitchie

Corporate Lawyer
MacPhee & Partners

MacPhee & Partners welcomes Isabella MacRitchie as a new addition to the firm's Corporate legal team. Isabella joins the firm after a lengthy career as a solicitor for a large commercial firm based in Glasgow where she specialised in corporate transactional work and commercial contracts. Isabella recently moved to Argyll with her family and has since undertaken

contract roles working in-house as a legal adviser for a public sector organisation managing a large scale asset sale transaction in Glasgow. Isabella has experience in advising individuals, start-ups, SMEs, charitable organisations and large corporates in a variety of non-contentious commercial and corporate matters across various industry sectors. Isabella looks forward to working with MacPhee & Partners' teams in both Fort William and Oban and strengthening the firm's commercial expertise for the benefit of existing clients and contacts and the wider business community in Lochaber, Argyll and beyond.

MacPhee & Partners Solicitors and Estate Agents

For further information/advice, please contact us on 01631 562308 or 01397 701000
www.macphee.co.uk



Christine Mackay

Commercial Property Solicitor
MacPhee & Partners

Isabella will be joining Christine Mackay who is a Commercial Property Solicitor with over 20 years' experience in the legal profession. Christine has acted for a number of Scotland's largest land developers in the acquisition, development and sale of large-scale housing and mixed/residential commercial sites. She also has significant experience in relation to renewable energy matters, the purchase, sale and leasing of industrial and retail developments, the latter for both landlords and tenants and in relation to the sale and disposal of hotels and other licensed premises. She has acted for small, locally owned businesses and larger companies and in her spare time has been a board member of a local housing association.



Wylie & Bisset LLP provide a comprehensive accounting and advisory service to businesses in the Argyll and Isles area.

Our 40+ years experience of supporting local businesses, both large and small, means we are fully equipped to assist you plan for the future. Our specialists have a wealth of experience in the following areas:

- Audit
- Corporate and Personal Tax
- Corporate Finance
- Business Planning and Forecasting
- Tax Planning
- Management Accounts Benchmarking
- Consultancy
- VAT
- Bookkeeping
- Payroll services
- Insolvency & Debt Counselling
- Financial Services
- IT

For further information on any of our services, or to arrange a no obligation chat contact either of our two specialists Barry Law or Andrew Cowling.

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
info@wyliebisset.com www.wyliebisset.com

Viewpoint

PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB
email: editor@obantimes.co.ukThe Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8216

A young Oban couple, who married in November and have a 14-month old son, have had their dreams shattered after the Home Office notified them that she will be deported to her native Hong Kong at the end of the month unless her husband can prove he earns enough money to support his family.

Ross Addison needs to prove he earns £22,400, which is how much the government thinks a family with one child needs to live without being a burden to the state – regardless of where you reside in the UK.

If he can't, and he says his earnings fall slightly short of this, his wife is on a plane to Hong Kong.

The fact that Mr Addison is a time-served joiner who runs his own business employing three people, and presumably has the support of family and friends here, does not seem to come into the equation.

Surely a young man who is contributing to the local economy and who has been supporting his young family quite adequately until now has done enough to prove the family's eligibility?

The fact that he will be forced to leave the country if their application is refused, with the loss of their home, their support network, not to mention Mr Addison's business and the jobs he provides is red tape gone mad.



Days gone by – Princess Diana and Prince Charles visit Scalpay, July 1985

This week's flashback photograph comes from the files of *The Oban Times*. It features well wishers who came out to welcome Princess Diana and Prince Charles when they visited Scalpay, in the Outer Hebrides, on July 2, 1985. Digital versions of flashback photos for *The Oban Times* can be sent to 'editor@obantimes.co.uk' or prints sent to the editor, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB. Anyone who wishes a print returned should include a stamped-addressed envelope.

Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

GED NACH E RUD ÙR sam bith a th' ann gum biodh argamaidean ionmhais aig cridhe dheasbadan phoilitigs, saoilidh mi gum bi sin gu sònraichte fìor anns a' bhliadhna seo. Chan e a-mhàin gum bheil taghaidhean Phàrlamaid na h-Alba a' tighinn ann am beagan mhiosan ach tha buaidh ghearraidhean a th' air a bhith a' tachairt tha bhliadhnaichean a sior thoir buaidh air beatha làitheil a' mhòr-shluaigh agus tha an-fhois an cois sin. Ann an Alba tha an co-chòrdadh a staidhich Riaghaltas Nàiseantach le Co-chruinneachadh Ughdarrasan Ionadail na h-Alba ann an 2008 a' leantainn, agus tha sin a-nise na thrioblaid mhòr dha Comhairlean na dùthcha le seirbheisean gan lùghdachadh agus cosnaidhean gan call. Ged a tha an Riaghaltas ag argamaid gum bheil an casg air ardachadh ann an Cisean Comhairle na chuideachadh dha na h-uile feadh na dùthcha, tha fianais làidir ann cuideachd gur iad na daoine as mìosa dheth as lugha a tha a' buannachadh. Chan eil teagamh nach eil ann poileasaidh seo

agus leithid chungaidhean-leigheis an-asgaidh gu bhith tarraingeach dha luchd-bhòtaidh, agus chan iongnadh ged a bhiodh pàrtaidhean poilitigeach dùbhlanaich a' fàgail air an Riaghaltas Nàiseantach gur ann a' suirghe taic phoilitigeach a tha iad seach a bhith ag amas air co-ionannachd cothrom is solarachaidh dhan t-sluagh.

Ge b' e dè tha fìor bho gach taobh den argamaid sin, tha cunntasan-bheachd a' dèanamh fàisneachd gun soirbhidh am Pàrtaidh Nàiseantach a-rithist ann an taghaidhean na bliadhna seo. Saoilidh mòran gum bheil eòlas nan ughdarrasan ionadail a' dearbhadh nach eil na poileasaidhean co-ionannachd aig Riaghaltas na h-Alba idir a' coileanadh am prìomh amais, agus aig àm far am bheil ionmhas poblach cho teann gum bheil feum air lasachadh a thoirt gun dàil air a chuingealachadh air Cisean Comhairle. Cha ghabh an soitheach Gàidhealach ach a làn their an seanfhacal, agus tha fhios gum bheil e cuideachd fìor nach urrainn a bhith a sior lùghdachadh bhuidheatan sheirbheisean poblach gun a fheadhainn a tha an eisimeil nan sochair sin fulang ri linn. 'S e carachd inntinneach dheamocratach

a th' ann ach chan eil e na annas gum bheil cuid de Chomhairlean a-nise a' bagairt na Cisean a chur suas a dh'aindeoin 's ged a rachadh càin orra bhon Riaghaltas. Tha Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd air aontachadh cothrom a thoirt dha luchd-obrach, is oifigich aig àrd-ire nam measg, an obraichean fhàgail tràth gus cuideachadh leis a' Chomhairle a cuid chosgaisean a chothromachadh. Chan iongnadh gum bheil luchd-obrach eile a-nise fo iomagain ach cò air a thig na dleasanasan a thèid fhàgail bàn nuair a dh'fhalbhas na daoine sin!

IT IS not surprising that staff at Highland Council are concerned at potentially increased workloads if hundreds of colleagues take voluntary redundancy. Continuous budget cutting obviously reduces services and it is surprising that councils have not abandoned their 2008 Council Tax Freeze Accord with Scottish Government before now. An interesting democratic joust, but the outcome could be a matter of life or death for some people.

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

Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON
robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk

Celtic Connections

SKERRYVORE teamed up with We Banjo 3 to put on a great show in the Old Fruitmarket on Friday January 15 as part of Celtic Connections.

The venue was sold out and what an atmosphere there was inside. We Banjo 3 began the evening and immediately got the crowd totally enthused. If you haven't heard their music, I recommend you look them up. They are two sets of brothers from Galway – Enda and Fergal Scahill, and Martin and David Howley – who are all multiple instrumentalists. Their normal line-up is two banjos, a guitar, and a fiddle. What a driving sound they make out of four acoustic instruments. On Friday they shouted: let us hear you if you like the banjo. The command was greeted by a deafening scream from the crowd.

By the time Skerryvore came on, there was a great atmosphere. They started with Alec Dalglish's song *Put Your Hands Up* – easily getting the whole crowd to do just that. When Martin Gillespie walked on with the bagpipes, he received a momentous cheer. At midnight, the boys made their big announcement about ObanLive – the concert due to be held in Oban's Mossfield Stadium on May 13-14 this year. Part of the line-up was announced on the massive screen at the back of the stage. The

festival will feature Capercaille, Julie Fowlis, Aly Bain and Phil Cunningham, Skipinnish, and the heroes of that evening at Celtic Connections – We Banjo 3 and Skerryvore. That line up certainly went down well with the Old Fruitmarket audience. After the announcement, both bands came on together for a few sets to finish off the night. It was an absolute topper of a gig. I cannot wait to get to more gigs over the course of the next week.

Snow joke!

GLASGOW looked like a Christmas card for much of last weekend due to all the snow. As I walked through the town centre on Saturday afternoon, I was struck by the notable lack of children out enjoying the snow and wondered why there was not a single kid hurling a snowball or building a snowman. I lamented to myself that kids nowadays are too involved in their iPhones and iPads to know the most satisfying feeling of pelting your mate with a snowball.

Just then an absolute cracker of a snowball smacked me square on the noggin. I turned round to find a small boy staring at me. I waited for an apology, but the petulant little pest laughed at me and pointed a mocking finger. Suppressing my anger and embarrassment, I gritted my teeth, smiled, and went on my way.

I decided in that moment that my previous views on the snow were wrong. I am now reflecting that we should celebrate the passing of the snowball into the annals of history, and wishing that someone had bought the wee guy an iPhone!

Climate conference fails our ailing planet

Sir, After the euphoria of the Paris Climate Conference unpalatable facts are emerging. The emission promises as they stand will not solve global warming since, even in the unlikely event that they are realised, they will only cut greenhouse gas emissions by about half of what is required.

In Paris, China won praise for pledging to stop the growth of its greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 but that is still 15 years of increasing emissions by the biggest emitter on the planet. Countries have been allowed to create their own voluntary plans, update voluntarily every five years and be self-monitoring.

The word 'voluntary' has replaced 'compulsory' so the Paris agreement is a far cry from the legally binding international treaty eco-activists had demanded and the reality is now sinking in of just how watered-down the 'successful' summit really was.

The Paris conference is yet another failure in 21 years of climate conference failures.

Clark Cross, Springfield Road
Linlithgow

Letters page is no place for politicking

Sir, Jim Cunningham takes me to task for my comments re political balance (*Oban Times* 31/12/15) claiming I suggested political bias.

Mr Cunningham refers to his experience of *The Oban Times'* a-political approach over a number of years. However, I clearly was not referring to a general policy over a number of years, but was careful to list a specific bulge of letters, from a specific source, during a specific period.

In that period [three weeks], *The Oban Times* had printed letters from Alan Reid, Dunoon. I specifically calculated that 75 per cent of the letters in the newspaper in that short period

came from that single anonymous political source: a source who later revealed himself as our former MP.

I concluded my letter with 'I urge you (*The Oban Times*) to continue to ensure a balanced approach'. Note 'continue'.

Now that I have corrected him on that point, I'm sure Mr Cunningham will be happy to withdraw his criticism of me. For the record, I well knew when I wrote my letter that there had been a recent change in the editorship of *The Oban Times*. In his recent letters to the new editor, Mr Reid failed to identify himself as an aspirant political candidate. In my opinion, a shocking lack of integrity.

My aim was to alert the new editor to the possibility that *The Oban Times* was being used as a journalistic Trojan horse resulting in its letters page containing unbalanced political comment. My assertions are somewhat underlined in the last two editions of the paper. Both editions have carried letters from 'Alan Reid, Prospective etc...'

For the record, unlike the anonymous Mr Reid, in the interests of transparency, I conclude every letter to the editor with my full address and any personal interest in the subject I write about.

Liam Griffin (Sen.), by email.

Try smaller vessels for winter sailings

Sir, May I add my wholehearted support to the Mull and Iona Ferry Committee in its efforts to obtain a more reliable daily ferry service between Mull and Oban by Calmac? (*Oban Times* January 14).

Although Morvern is in the Highland area it depends on the Oban-Mull link for its mail, newspapers and other essentials via the Fishnish-Lochaline ferry.

Where is Mull's MSP and MP in all this? They should be highlighting this appalling nonsense and fighting on behalf of their constituents in Holyrood and Westminster. I understand many people on Mull are

Morvern Lines

I OFTEN enjoy reading Iain Thornber's Morvern Lines, but none more so than the January 7 edition in which he poked a bit of fun at me and my failure to shoot a stag at Glenkie Estate while filming for the Skipinnish documentary on BBC Alba. What a great time we had up at the estate – and I'm glad that Iain enjoyed that part of the film.

What's On

January 22: In conversation with Ronnie Brown, 2pm in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall; Songs of Gaelic Scotland, Anne Lorne Gillies at Celtic Connections, 7.30pm in St Luke's.

January 23: The Urban Teuchters in the National Piping Centre at 7.30pm; Peatbog Fairies and Radio Cos at 7.30pm in the O2 ABC; Fèis Rois 30th Anniversary Concert in the Mitchell Theatre at 7.30pm; Glenfinnan Ceilidh Band in St Luke's at 8pm.

January 24: New voices (Ewan Robertson), 1pm in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall; Bela Fleck and Abigail Washburn and Kris Drever, 8pm in the Old Fruitmarket; Gillebride MacMillan and Kyle Carey in the Tron Theatre at 8pm.

Pub scene

Park Bar – Thursday January 21: Session; Friday January 22: Scott Harvey; Saturday January 23: Heron Valley; Sunday January 24: Scott Harvey

Islay Inn – Friday January 22: The Raggaels; Saturday January 23: The Estecado Express

now reluctant to travel to Oban for the day in case the ferry goes off and they are left stranded.

It is well known the captain of any vessel has the final word, but it would appear the decision to sail is being determined externally rather than by local knowledge and common sense.

Of course, the vessels used by CalMac are far too large-sided for winter use. These liners should be replaced at the end of the season by smaller boats offering a shuttle service. Historically, the Sound of Mull was better served a century ago than it is today. A pity perhaps that Sir Compton Mackenzie, author of *Whisky Galore*, *Laxdale Hall* and other famous comedy films based on real life, isn't still around!

Iain Thornber
Lochaline, Morvern

Thank you CalMac

Sir, I would like to express my gratitude for all that CalMac does, and the efforts it makes.

The Sunday Herald's (January 10) headline reads 'Scientists' warning: Climate change means wild weather in Scotland is the new normal'.

Our weather is increasingly variable and severe, and we are told that we will have to get used to more winters like this one, as climate pollution from vehicles and industry warms the planet and wreaks havoc with the weather.

At a CalMac public meeting held on the island last year, the same complaints that continue to be made were addressed. There is no easy solution, particularly vis-a-vis the infrastructure of the terminals, mostly common owned. At least the amber warnings give us time to make contingency plans.

We asked for bigger ferries, cheaper fares, more sailings and more facilities. Increased cancellations could be partially reflective because of the increased number of winter sailings. Norway is experiencing similar problems. So thank you, CalMac.

Minty MacKay
High Lee Croft, Buessan, Mull

Press policy

WE AT The Oban Times 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 you think we have made a significant mistake and you wish to discuss this with us, please let us know as soon as possible by any of the three methods: emailing editor@obantimes.co.uk; telephoning the editor on 01631 568046; writing to the Editor at The Oban Times,

Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB.

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, which will investigate the matter. You can

either telephone IPSO on 0300 123 2220 or email inquiries@ipso.co.uk. IPSO is an independent body which deals with complaints from the public about the editorial content of newspapers and magazines.

We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

Your letters

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. The editor also reserves 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 telephone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not

be printed. Please write or fax to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk.

FLOORSHOP
BIGGEST EVER OFFCUT SALE
LUXURIOUS BEDS TO GO AT
FANTASTIC PRICES
VINYLs, LAMINATES AND
ALL YOUR FLOORING
REQUIREMENTS COVERED
free measuring service and samples to your door
WE WONT BE BEATEN ON PRICE
Telephone: 01631 563316 • Unit 12, Mill Lane, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HA

DONT MISS OUR MOTORING SUPPLEMENT
MY16 PLATE
FREE IN NEXT WEEK'S PAPER
The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Feasibility cash in place for memorial toilets

PLANS to build new toilets next to a major Spean Bridge tourist attraction could start soon after funding for a feasibility study was approved by two organisations, writes Steven Rae.

Thousands of visitors come to see the bronze statue and garden of remembrance at the Commando Memorial, which lies about one mile outside of the village, each year.

Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council applied for the feasibility study back in December and announced at its meeting on January 5 that funding had been approved. Highland Council will pay 50 per cent of the costs, with Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) matching the funding. Due to legal reasons, the Community SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation) has now taken over the project from the community council.

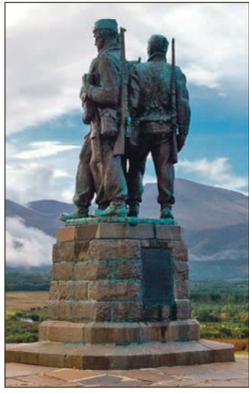
The monument is dedicated to the men of the original British Commando Forces, who fought in the Second World War, and was unveiled by the Queen Mother in 1952.

Chairman of Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council John Fotheringham said there had been a number of complaints over the past three years about people having nowhere to go to the toilet.

Mr Fotheringham said: 'We have had a lot of complaints over the past three years about people getting caught short at the memorial, so we felt we had to do something about it.'

'The study we are looking at is for toilets of a compostable nature and would be fairly low maintenance.'

'The SCIO has made the application as a community council can't own property, so the SCIO



The memorial is a popular visitor attraction.

would take on ownership.' Mr Fotheringham said the cost of putting in standard toilets would be in the region of £500,000, however the cheaper option, which the community council was looking into, would be between £60,000 to £100,000.

The community council has looked at similar facilities, including the RSPB site at Moidart Gardens, to estimate the costs. Mr Fotheringham added that the community council was in discussions with 'a number of bodies' about funding the project, adding: 'It's a very popular destination and we don't want to stop people going.'

'Hopefully they will be camouflaged from the monument and memorial garden. We will be looking at all possibilities. The council has been very supportive.'

'It's an iconic monument of considerable importance to serving and retired service personnel, and we don't want anything to detract from visitors' experience.'

Housing charity offers support to private landlords

A NEW service aimed at helping private landlords in Lochaber to provide better support to their tenants is being launched at the end of the month.



The Private Landlord Support Project is being piloted by Shelter Scotland in partnership with Lochaber Housing Association.

The service offers tailored information and practical assistance by working together with private landlords in Lochaber to help them meet their own aspirations and ensure they provide excellent quality, private-rented accommodation.

Bryan Powell, private landlord support officer, with Shelter Scotland said: 'With a shared passion for safe, secure and affordable homes for the community, our new service is designed to provide information and practical assistance tailored to a landlord's individual aspirations.'

'The free service brings the substantial expertise and knowledge of Shelter Scotland with it to help private landlords be as

professional as possible. We'll advise on getting registered, understanding and meeting legal requirements, improving property and energy efficiency and applying for grants and financial assistance.'

'There are many benefits to landlords spending time, money and energy on improvement. Not only does it help maintain or increase their property's value, it also means the property is easier to let and tenants are happier and more likely to stay longer.'

'Providing a long-term home looks after the bricks and mortar investment and ensures a capital and social return in the future.'

Private landlords interested in the project should contact Bryan on 07493047942 or email: Bryan.Powell@shelter.org.uk or

MSP steps in over Uig ferry row

HIGHLANDS and Islands MSP Rhoda Grant has stepped into the row over the Uig triangle ferry to demand that MV Hebrides returns to the route rather than covering other routes while those ferries are in dry dock.

The Hebrides, which normally covers the Uig/Lochmaddy/Tarbert run is in dry dock and is planned to be deployed as a cover vessel for other ferries while they undergo maintenance over the winter.

Mrs Grant has been told by constituents that the replacement ferries are not fit for purpose on the triangle route as they are smaller, so despite supposedly more sailings there is less space.

The sailings on the smaller ferries are also much more likely to be disrupted because of inclement weather.

Mrs Grant has been told that since the new timetable came into force on January 3 sailings have only gone to plan on two days and even these were running late.

She said: 'On Sunday, constituents were given an hour's notice of an extra sailing that day as it was viewed unlikely that the Monday morning boat would sail.'

'It did eventually sail at 5pm, but an hour's notice of an alternative is insufficient time for anyone to prepare and then get to the ferry.'

'This is not only totally unacceptable for individuals but businesses cannot be expected to work on this basis.'

'The communities in Harris, North Uist and Uig want to have their boat back when it comes out of dry dock and, given that the MV Hebrides is normally the most reliable service to both Harris and North Uist, it creates chaos for everyone when it is disrupted.'

'I am writing to the SNP's Transport Minister, and to CalMac, asking for the MV Hebrides to be reinstated on the Uig triangle as soon as it is out of dry dock.'

FWCC resigns but vows to fight council inertia

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

A MASS resignation from Fort William Community Council (FWCC) on Tuesday night saw every member step down saying they were 'tired of being ignored' by Highland Council.

However, immediately following the move, a new group Fort William First was formed from the same members, who say they will not bow down to the local authority.

The newly formed group Fort William First is promising to fight against 'the inertia of Highland Council'.

Leading the attack was Drew Purdon, the acting chairman of FWCC who along with the seven other members of the statutory group said 'enough is enough', claiming Highland Council didn't listen to 'anything we have to say'.

The resignations saw the loss of more than 100 years of collective service to community councils, and veterans such as Patricia Jordan, Alex Farquhar, Neil Clark, Sheila MacLennan and Ian Kennedy stood down with immediate effect.

Even new members such as Duncan Brown said he was



The community council resigned en masse on Tuesday night.

shocked at the 'lack of support for anything in Lochaber from Highland Council'.

In a final act, prior to the resignations, members voted to give £4,622 to the Town Team for the west-end project for a roundabout. One member suggested the money should fund a statue 'putting two fingers up to Inverness'. All eight members said the community council system was only a 'tick box exercise for Highland Council'.

Acting chairman, Mr Purdon said: 'Someone is paid to sit in an office and send out letters - and that is what is understood by Highland Council as consultation. They take no account whatsoever of anything that we have to say. As time has gone on that has only gotten worse.'

One by one community

councillors made resignation speeches, sharing disappointments in the lack of engagement with Highland Council and its officials. Even Police Scotland were named for not coming along to the group. It was also claimed that officials are running the local authority and not the elected members.

Mr Purdon said: 'It is a historic day and a sad day that it has come to this. We have got too much to give to this town to stop sticking up for it. We will write to Alec Neil MSP, minister for communities, to find out what he has to say about the way in which we have been treated.'

'Lochaber is the land that Highland Council forgot. We are no longer prepared to kowtow to officials who work out of a Stalinist organisation.'

Barra is the place to be to pass your driving test

LEARNER drivers on Barra are twice as likely to pass their test than those in part of the mainland, according to new statistics.

Barra had a 100 per cent pass rate in 2014/15, the highest in the whole of Scotland.

The data, released by the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) highlights the gap in pass rates between rural and urban areas.

Barra, part of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, has no traffic lights, roundabouts or pedestrian crossings, earning the island a reputation as being one of the

easiest places in Britain to sit a driving test.

In Scotland as a whole, the driving test centres have an average pass rate of 77 per cent and a first-time pass rate slightly above the UK average, at 54 per cent, with some areas well below the average.

The test centres which rank highest are overwhelmingly remote and rural, with Mallaig, Benbecula, Arran and Orkney among the top 10.

However, driving in rural areas remains hazardous, with accidents on country roads accounting for more than half

of all fatal road crashes in Scotland in 2014.

A spokesman for the breakdown cover and insurance broker the Automobile Association (AA) said the discrepancy was not necessarily unfair, as candidates were trained for the driving conditions where they live.

Lesley Young, chief driving examiner for the DVSA, said: 'The driver testing and training regime tests candidates' ability to drive safely and responsibly, as well as making sure they know the theory behind safe driving.'

Dangerous driving

POLICE in Fort William are appealing for witnesses following reports of a Silver Vauxhall car being driven in a dangerous manner by overtaking vehicles in the face of oncoming traffic on Achintore Road around 4.35pm on Friday January 15.

Anyone driving in the area at the time who has information should call Fort William Police Station on 101 quoting reference number NP634/16.

New minister

A NEW Minister for Duncansburgh MacIntosh and Kilmonivaig Presbyterian churches has been appointed after a three year wait.

The parish has been without a minister since the retirement

TENDERS are expected to be completed by the end of the month for the construction of a retail park at North Road, Fort William, which will support around 180 construction jobs.

Developer, Morbaine, has announced that the deal to bring a M&S Food store has been finalised, adding to previous agreements with Aldi and Home Bargains. It expects to fill the remaining unit before the centre opens.

However Morbaine said there will be a short delay to the start of the construction after the discovery of a BT chamber containing fibre optic cables underneath a proposed roundabout to access the park.

The chamber was only discovered during detailed enquiries with Transport Scotland, but BT says it will need ongoing access to upgrade and maintain its network.

Because of this, the roundabout must be moved 10 metres, altering the boundary and requiring a full new application to The Highland Council.

Morbaine intends to submit this as soon as possible to minimise delays.

Reverend Donald MacQuarrie in January 2012.

Reverend Richard Barker was the sole nominee. He preached to the congregations on Sunday (January 17) and the vote went in his favour, with 145 votes for and three against. He will take up his role in the spring.



Rev Richard Barker will take up his post at Duncansburgh MacIntosh and Kilmonivaig churches in the spring.

Vaccinations for young people

YOUNG people in the Western Isles are being invited to participate in the national vaccination programme for protection against meningitis and septicaemia.

Appointments will be sent to all people aged 14 to 18 years between January and March. The programme in the Western Isles is based in GP practices rather than in schools, unlike the rest of Scotland.

If you have a child aged 14 to 18 years, or you are in the age group and wish to be vaccinated, look out for your letter or contact your GP practice directly.

CalMac check-in row resolved

FERRY passengers in Stornoway will have less time to wait before boarding after Western Isles MP Angus MacNeil had a decision made by CalMac overturned.

Mr MacNeil had accused CalMac of making 'outrageous demands on the travelling public' when it increased check-in times to a minimum of one hour on-sailing between Stornoway, on Lewis, and Ullapool on the mainland. This was due to traffic congestion in Ullapool.

But after the MP stepped in, CalMac has reverted to the 45 minute check-in, but only on services leaving Stornoway.

/hydroPD
 @hydroPD

After a storm,
my Daddy makes
sure everyone's
electricity is on

We're ready for winter. Are you?

Keep your phone charged

Get our free Power Track App

Save our number 0800 300 999

Get ready at ssep.co.uk

Scottish and Southern Energy Power Distribution

Subscribe

Subscribe to the Oban Times and receive

12 weeks FREE

Save £13

+

2 FREE Candles

Worth £20

Courtesy of The McKelvie Candle Company

+

a 2016 Calendar

Worth £7.95

www.obantimes.co.uk/subscribe

or call: 01371 851868

QUOTE OTNS1115

Terms and conditions apply. Minimum one year subscription. New subscribers only. Cancellation charges apply and no refunds can be given. UK subscribers only. While stocks last. Fragrances in this free gift may vary. Discounted price for 52 editions with the first 12 editions free is £44.65. £58 for a one year print subscription thereafter. Price includes postage and packaging. McKelvie candle Argyll & Highland stockists: Tobermory Gift Shop, Appin Craft Shop, Ards (Portree), Easdale Village Shop, Atlantic Islands Centre (Luing), Cairns Community Shop, Mla Mackinnons Marmalade Biscuits, Cray (Oban), The Ferry Shop (Mull), Green Weir Shop (Tynrums), Loch Fyne Galleries (Tarbert).

Arena

> cinema, radio and what's on listings > leisure ideas > local events

Cliù – for Tìree High School and some Highland Gentlemen

FILMG, MG ALBA's Gaelic short film competition, has announced the shortlist for this year's competition, with budding filmmakers, community groups and school groups from around the country making the final cut.

This year's FilmG theme, 'Cliù' (Fame/Reputation) inspired an array of new ideas and stories from filmmakers, making it an exciting yet difficult job for the panel to pick out the best from this year's entries.

The panels comprised of a variety of directors, producers and scriptwriters currently working in the industry. They included Angus Mackay, director of Corran Media Productions, based in Stornoway.

Angus has previously been on the panel and was very impressed with this year's films.

He said: 'FilmG is a fantastic competition that's fulfilling a very important function in encouraging both amateurs and young professionals to make more films in Gaelic. I was greatly encouraged by the rise in the overall quality of entries since I last served as a judge – that in itself is a great testament to FilmG's success.'

'This year's entries show that we have young people in the industry with great development potential, but also that there are people in the wider Gaelic community who already have the talent to produce compelling content of

their own. I would warmly encourage them to continue to use and develop these talents.'

Amongst those with talent worth developing are the pupils of Tìree High School. Pupils across all the years who were interested in making a Gaelic short came together and produced a fantastic film which has been shortlisted for both the 'Best Production' and the 'Best Film'. In their film *Làmhnan Glana* (Clean Hands), Raonaid has been accused of her best friend's murder and questions whether a person's reputation really reflects who they are.

Taking a hilarious swipe at CalMac over the Uist-Mallaig ferry situation is traditional music

band, The League of Highland Gentlemen. Their film *Seachdain gun Seòladh* (A Week without Sailing) follows the ferry, the 'Loch Never', which travels between Mallaig Street and Uist Street in Glasgow but for various reasons never makes it to its final destination.

All the shortlisted films are now available to view online from the FilmG website, where all the entries in this year's competition can also be viewed.

The winners will be announced at the prestigious FilmG awards ceremony, which takes place at the Old Fruitmarket in Glasgow on Friday February 19.

Oban youngsters blow away chief with spectacular dance

HUNDREDS of parents and dancing enthusiasts made their way to the Corran Halls in Oban last week to watch Oban High School's dance show, which left Ballet West's vice principal 'amazed'.

Spectators were treated to three shows over two days of dance on Wednesday and Thursday, with a number of performances from Ballet West's full-time students, students from their outreach programme, led

by Amanda Sloss, and 250 pupils from Oban High School. Dance groups from S1-S6, the gymnastics squad, Highland dancers and Oban High School Pipe Band, primary hip hop, and S1, S2 and S3 Oban High School of Dance all ensured the show was a huge success.

Speaking about Wednesday's show, Jonathan Barton, vice principal at Ballet West, said: 'I was actually amazed by the dance show. I've

watched it every year for the last four years and there was a big difference in their performance.

'Each year the level of dancers has been steadily getting better, but this year took it to a new level. It's because Oban High School has embraced dancing over the years. It encourages them to learn at a high level, not just a club level, and the difference is huge.'

Anyone that was there would have had a great night.'

Twenty-six senior dance leaders have held a full programme of classes from August in preparation for the show, at no cost to pupils attending. Three dance leaders also held a weekly class at the high school for P6 and P7 pupils, which was a new addition to the show. The matinee performance on Thursday



RockSkool give pupils a Dance Platform

A NEW creative group at Kinlochleven High School has been launched and will stage a special gig in Fort William this spring.

Many students at the school enjoy drama, art, singing and playing instruments, including the horn, bass guitar, euphonium, violin and much more.

The musical pupils have found a home in RockSkool, a locally-run music group

in Kinlochleven. The group performed as part of the recent play, titled *Glen of Thrones: Winter Star*. They have also played at school assemblies.

RockSkool aims to help people either build on their skill in groups and on stage, or to help people to learn how to play music, of any genre.

Pupils of all ages are now collaborating for *Dance Platform*, an

eight-minute takeover of Eden Court Theatre, to be held in April, which will see pupils taking part in dance, drama, music and art, and using their talents to contribute to an amazing experience.

This is the first year the school has staged *Dance Platform*. Already a huge amount of work is being put into the final performance, which the school hopes will be spectacular.



Pictured are pupils from Kinlochleven who took part in the recent *Glen of Thrones* performance.

Celtic Connections celebrates 10th anniversary of Anne Lorne Gillies's seminal book

CELTIC Connections this year presents a feast of Gaelic music to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the publication of *Songs of Gaelic Scotland*, Anne Lorne Gillies's seminal book, now in its third edition.

Hailed by performers, academics and interested readers alike for its contribution to the understanding and appreciation of Scotland's rich storehouse of Gaelic song, it was described recently by singer Kathleen MacInnes simply as the 'Gaelic singer's Bible'.

Tomorrow, Friday January 22, Celtic Connections, in partnership with Glasgow's Gaelic Arts Organisation An Lòchran, will showcase a concert of wall-to-wall jewels from the book (and also one or two of the hundreds of Gaelic songs that remain unpublished). Some of the most popular singers in the Gaelic world will be performing – Arthur Cormack, Angus MacLeod, Kathleen MacInnes, and the enduring

Anne Lorne Gillies herself. Anne's daughter Rachel completes this truly superb group of singers.

Anne said: 'It's an enormous pleasure to be taking part in such a feast of Gaelic music, alongside some of the people for whom I have the greatest possible love and respect – not only as outstanding musicians and esteemed professional colleagues, but also as dear personal friends.'

'But the real stars of this concert are the songs themselves and the singers now departed who looked after our precious Gaelic oral tradition on behalf of future generations.'

The concert will take place in Saint Luke's in Glasgow (17 Bain Street) and will be followed by a second event at noon on Saturday (January 23) in the National Piping Centre in which Anne will be joined by Radio nan Gàidheal's John Carmichael to talk not only about the book, but also her interesting life and distinguished career.

Anne Lorne Gillies, who published the 'Gaelic singer's Bible'.

Mike Vass and Mairi Campbell collaborate on exciting new project and tour

SCOTTISH musicians Mike Vass and Mairi Campbell have joined forces for the exciting new creative project, *The Dead Stations*, which will tour Scotland and includes a date in Ardfern.

The *Dead Stations* combines live music, recorded audio drama and animation to tell the thrilling tale of what happens after a passenger alights at a deserted train station in a forest. The show is inspired by a train journey on a remote rail track, and by abstract

ideas about Little Red Riding Hood.

An award-winning composer and multi-instrumentalist, Mike has composed the music for the project. And in his first serious foray into song writing, he has written two songs, *Sleepless* and *Eyes Fixed*, especially for the project. Mike's last album *In The Wake Of Neil Gunn* was nominated for the Scottish Album of the Year (SAY) Award 2015.

Mari, who has just won Instrumentalist of the Year at the Scots Trad

Music Awards, gives voice to Mike's epic songs, which combine classical, electronic and pop influences.

Both will perform the score to *The Dead Stations* on the project's launch tour, which includes a night at Craignish Village Hall, Ardfern on February 28, 2016. In the live piece, Mairi sings and plays viola and Mike plays tenor guitar and violin.

'I'm really proud of how the songs have turned out,' said Mike. 'Mairi was the obvious

choice for the songs and for this project. I love the tone, character and emotion that she conveys with her voice and with the fiddle.'

The Dead Stations is written and directed by Charlotte Hathaway, an exciting new Glasgow-based writer, and is supported by Creative Scotland, Arts Trust Scotland and Edinburgh College of Art.

Mike and Charlotte first worked together creatively on the Remembered/Imagined project in 2013, which saw composers and

writers pair up to create a new work that was performed by Mr McFall's Chamber.

Charlotte said: 'Mike and I wanted to build on our first creative project to make a more ambitious and immersive piece, and it's been really exciting to tie all the different elements of that together.'

'The actors, recording engineer, animators and sound designers have all been fantastic to work with, and Mike and Mairi are the most incredible musicians, so this has been a creative

dream team for me.

'In terms of the narrative of the story, I don't want to give too much away at this stage. It's quite dark, but I'm intrigued to see how the audience will feel about the characters in the end.'

Mairi said: 'I'm excited to be part of Mike and Charlotte's vision to bring music and story together.'

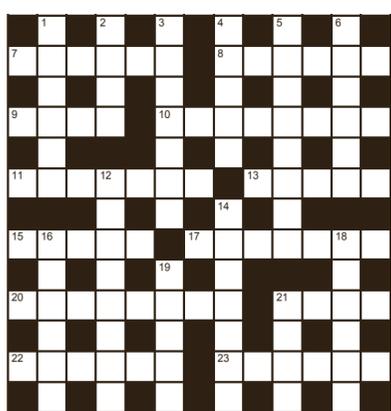
'Mike has such a unique and interesting song writing voice. The songs he has written for this project are just gorgeous.'

SCOTS
Heritage Magazine SPONSORS

THE OBAN TIMES
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE
CROSSWORD

WINTER EDITION
OUT NOW

www.scotsheritagemagazine.com



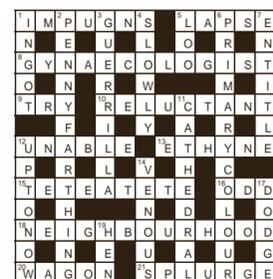
Across

- 7 Complain about bird (6)
- 8 Flowering shrub (6)
- 9 Wet earthy smell (4)
- 10 Wash without water? (3,5)
- 11 Attendant (7)
- 13 Loyalty (5)
- 15 By chance (5)
- 17 Vivid (7)
- 20 Proclaiming on the bible perhaps (8)
- 21 Curve of the hand? (4)
- 22 Accidental knock (2-4)
- 23 Beverages (6)

Down

- 1 Fold (6)
- 2 Mass (4)
- 3 Horse not used for breeding (7)
- 4 Woodland deity (5)
- 5 Slot where post is kept... (8)
- 6 ...but not this type of letter (6)
- 12 Of high worth (8)
- 14 Military unit (7)
- 16 Every time (6)
- 18 Call on for help (6)
- 19 Plains Indian (5)
- 21 Dam (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



CASK & Still MAGAZINE

A NEW Free 84-PAGE WHISKY MAGAZINE

Visit www.caskandstillmagazine.co.uk for your FREE digital version

Arts & Culture

Arts & Culture

Arts & Culture

Arts & Culture

Arts & Culture

Arts & Culture

Arts & Culture

Arts & Culture

Arts & Culture

Arts & Culture

Arts & Culture

Arts & Culture

led by hundreds of school pupils, the new first year taking part in the...
 her Denise Gem... along with the PE... organised the...
 id: 'We are so proud... pupils; they worked... and put on a very...
 onal show...
 younger pupils... certainly benefiting... School of Dance



CHOIR: Sequence ladies choir filled up both the dance floor and the room with their performance at the Oban and Lorn Lions Club Old New Year Ceilidh in the Royal Hotel on Saturday evening. Other performers included James Divers and Kate MacPherson, dancers from Lorna Munro's school of dance; and Oban High School's traditional music band. 15_104royal04

Former Lochaber policeman launches debut novel

A RETIRED Lochaber policeman has swapped the beat for the bookshop after the launch of his first novel. After discovering abandoned cottages while out hill walking in remote areas, Graham Mackenzie decided to research the Highland Clearances. His novel, *The Forgotten Glen*, features two families who were cleared from their homes in a remote part of the west Highlands. Graham, 65, of Spean Bridge, was a police officer in various parts of the Highlands and islands, including Spean Bridge and latterly Fort William, before retiring from the force in 1999. The book follows the lives of two families, and while it is a fictional tale, it is set against the background of real events in the late 18th century. *The Forgotten Glen* was initially only available as an e-book on Kindle, but is now available as a paperback. It is on sale at the House of Clan Jamfrie, Fort William High Street, and online at www.amazon.co.uk.

Exclusive discount code for 10% off ObanLive tickets

FOLLOWING their exhilarating set at the Old Fruitmarket in Glasgow as part of this year's Celtic Connections, folk-fusion band Skerryvore announced the first acts joining them for OBANLIVE on May 13 and 14. A superstar line-up of Scottish acts includes Julie Fowlis, Aly Bain and Phil Cunningham, Skipinnish and the legendary Capercaille - who will be returning to their home town with a host of special guests. Joining them will be multi-award-winning Irish group We Banjo 3, who will visit Argyll as part of their world tour. Skerryvore will be joined by special guests Blair Douglas and former Silencers frontman JJ Gilmour as they return to the scene of their special Decade concert last May. Skerryvore piper Martin Gillespie told *The Oban Times*: 'We are absolutely delighted that the biggest names in Celtic music are coming to Oban in May for the first ObanLive. Many of these acts have been musical icons of ours that provided the inspiration to our sound and development, so to share the stage with them is a real honour and very exciting for us - and to think we still have the headline act to announce!' Readers can now take advantage of early bird tickets for the event, which go on sale on Saturday January 23. *The Oban Times* has teamed up with ObanLive to offer the first 500 readers 10 per cent off tickets, using the special code below. Go to www.obanlive.com and click on the link to buy tickets which will take you to the ObanLive Eventbrite Ticket Page. Select the tickets you wish to buy and at the bottom of the page you will see 'enter promotional code'. Click here to enter your exclusive *Oban Times* code. The discounted tickets are only available to the first 500 people who use the code - so be quick!

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Official Media Partners for

SKERRYVORE'S OBANLIVE

MAY 13 & 14 2016

MOSSFIELD STADIUM, OBAN

EXCLUSIVE EARLY BIRD TICKET OFFER

10% OFF

YOUR EXCLUSIVE OBAN TIMES ONLINE DISCOUNT CODE

OBANTIMESLIVE10

AVAILABLE TO THE FIRST 500 READERS TO APPLY THE CODE - SO GET IN QUICK! VISIT OBANLIVE.COM

Tickets go on sale, online, Saturday January 23, 2016 at noon.

How to claim this offer
 Visit www.obanlive.com. Click on the link to buy tickets. This will take you to the Oban Live Eventbrite Ticket Page. Select the tickets you wish to buy and at the bottom of the page you will see an 'enter promotional code'. Click here to enter your exclusive Oban Times Code OBANTIMESLIVE10. Only available to the first 500 people to apply the code - so get in quick! **Good luck!**

Keep up to date with Oban Live news, anywhere, anytime by subscribing to The Oban Times digital e-edition. Available on iPad, iPhone and Android devices. Visit obantimes.co.uk/digital.

Terms and conditions: 10% discount only available on Oban Live Early Bird Tickets to the first 500 people to apply the code and whilst early bird tickets last. First come, first serve basis. All tickets are subject to Oban Live terms and conditions which can be found at www.obanlive.com.



- community-owned and run
 Tel: 01631 562905 www.obanphoenix.com
- 22 January - 28 January 2016**
- Creed (12A) 153mins**
 Fri, Mon, Tue, Wed: 19:30, Sat: 21:15, Sun: 20:15, Thu: 16:00
 Creed - Parent & Baby Screening (12A) Tue: 11:30
 Adonis Johnson (Jordan) never knew his famous father, world heavyweight champion Apollo Creed, who died before he was born. Still, there's no denying that boxing is in his blood, so Adonis heads to Philadelphia, the site of Apollo Creed's legendary match with a tough upstart named Rocky Balboa. Once in the City of Brotherly Love, Adonis tracks Rocky (Stallone) down and asks him to be his trainer. Creed Parent & Baby Screening - Lights will be left on at a dimmed level and baby changing available.
- In the Heart of the Sea (12A) 142mins**
 Sat: 18:40, Sun: 13:45, Mon, Wed: 16:30
 In the winter of 1820, the New England whaling ship Essex was assaulted by something no one could believe: a whale of mammoth size and will, and an almost human sense of vengeance. The real-life maritime disaster would inspire Herman Melville's *Moby-Dick*.
- Kids Club: Ice Age - The Meltdown (U) 87mins**
 Sat: 12:00
 Children's Classic. Manny, Sid, and Diego discover that the ice age is coming to an end, and join everybody for a journey to higher ground. On the trip, they discover that Manny, in fact, is not the last of the woolly mammoths.
 Kids £4 - Adults free!
- Les Liaisons Dangereuses (15) 210mins**
 Thu: 19:00
 Former lovers, the Marquise de Merteuil and Vicomte de Valmont now compete in games of seduction and revenge. Merteuil incites Valmont to corrupt the innocent Cecile de Volanges before her wedding night but Valmont has targeted the peerlessly virtuous and beautiful Madame de Tourvel. While these merciless aristocrats toy with others' hearts and reputations, their own may prove more fragile than they supposed.
- Sisters (15) 138mins**
 Daily Except Sat, Sun: 16:15, Sat: 17:35, Sun: 16:40
 Two sisters decide to throw one last house party before their parents sell their family home.
- Snoopy and Charlie Brown: The Peanuts Movie (U) 113mins**
 Sat: 13:30, Sun: 12:00
 Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Lucy, Linus, and the rest of the beloved "Peanuts" gang make their big-screen debut, like they've never been seen before, in state-of-the-art 3D animation.
- Spectre (12A) 170mins**
 Sat: 15:30
 A cryptic message from Bond's past sends him on a trail to uncover a sinister organization. While M battles political forces to keep the secret service alive, Bond peels back the layers of deceit to reveal the terrible truth behind SPECTRE.
- Star Wars: Episode VII - The Force Awakens (12A) 156mins**
 Fri, Tue: 16:30, Sat: 14:45, Sun: 17:15
 A continuation of the saga created by George Lucas set thirty years after *Star Wars: Episode VI - Return of the Jedi* (1983).
- The Good Dinosaur (PG) 121mins**
 Sat: 12:30, Sun: 11:30
 "The Good Dinosaur" asks the question: What if the asteroid that forever changed life on Earth missed the planet completely and giant dinosaurs never became extinct? In this epic journey into the world of dinosaurs, an Apatosaurus named Arlo makes an unlikely human friend.
- The Revenant (15) 176mins**
 Daily Except Sat, Sun: 19:15, Sat: 20:10, Sun: 19:10
 Inspired by true events, THE REVENANT captures one man's epic adventure of survival and the extraordinary power of the human spirit.
- Vertigo (Hitchcock) - Silver Screening 150mins**
 Sun: 14:30
 Concessions (age 60+) entry just £2.50! Includes complimentary tea and cake. A San Francisco detective suffering from acrophobia investigates the strange activities of an old friend's wife, all the while becoming dangerously obsessed with her.
- Coming Soon**
- Joy (12A) 05/02/2016**
- Kids Club: Sleeping Beauty (U) 30/01/2016**
- Mystery Movie (15) 03/02/2016**
- The Hateful Eight (18) 29/01/2016**

OBAN FM Community Radio - your local radio station
 Tune in to 103.3 or listen live at www.obanfm.com

For requests, competitions or questions please email: studio@obanfm.org.uk or call us on 01631 570057

MONDAY: 0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Monday Morning With Andy and Stephen, 1100 Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1700 Drivetime With Marcus, 1900 Rosie's Highland Fling, 2000 John McLuckie's Show, 2100 David Cullen

TUESDAY: 0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 1000 Ken Hunter, 1200 Memories are Made of This with Ken Hunter, 1500 Lesley Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 1900 Sounds Scottish with Archie Cameron, 2000 Highest Praise with Stuart, 2100 Elaine Lamb, 2300 Northern Soul with Gordon Covey

WEDNESDAY: 0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Sound Scottish (repeat), 1000 Comfort Zone with Doug Carmichael, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Elaine Lamb, 1700 Drivetime with Campbell, 1900 Country Meets Rock with Len & Ken, 2100 Gordon's Grooves

THURSDAY: 0800 Morning show, 1100 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Gordon Covey, 1700 Drivetime with Stephen, 1900 Christine's Collection, 2100 Ann's Ceilidh, 2200 Margo Till Midnight

FRIDAY: 0800 Jean Ainsley Breakfast Show, 1000 Teeny and Tiny Show, 1300-1500 Weekend Warmup with Ian Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 1845 Sports View, 1900 Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig, 2000 Friday Night with Innes, 2100 TFI Friday with Jim Lawn

SATURDAY: 0800 Breakfast Show, 1000 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crosher, 1330 CLYDE 2, 1800 Sports View with the Dream Team, 1900 Marcus, 2000 Dave Lewis

SUNDAY: 0900 Sunday Morning with Breege, 1100 - 1400 Sunday Brunch, 1630 Archie Darling, 1800 Ken's Friends with Ken Hunter, 1900 New Country Show with David Entwistle, 2100 Drum & Bass with Graham Scott

Clan MacAlpine Society - Call for Representers
Family Convention to be held at
Abbotsford House, Melrose Roxburghshire on September 10, 2016

The Clan MacAlpine Society seeks to gain formal recognition of a Chief of Name and Arms by the Lord Lyon King of Arms. Having an armigerous Chief, MacAlpine would then be constituted and regarded as a clan or family in its own right.

The Convention will be held under the supervision of Mark D. Dennis Esq., Ormond Pursuivant of Arms as the appointed Supervising Officer and representative of the Lord Lyon.

Those wishing to be considered as interim Commander, chosen at a Family Convention as above, should request fuller information from the Secretary of the Clan MacAlpine Society by email at robinlmacpine@yahoo.com or Robin L. McAlpine, 3061 Harbor Blvd., Ventura, CA 93001, USA

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

To advertise in our community noticeboard call 01631 568000

Advertise in the Community Noticeboard for just £16.67 (plus VAT)
 This section is available to charitable organisations with a charity number.
 All AGM's will be placed on the Public Notice Page. Please ask for details

NETHERLORN PIPING SOCIETY
QUARTET & SOLO PIPING
 (by members of Oban Pipe Band and Oban High School Pipe Band)
 Wednesday 27th January 2016
ARGYLLSHIRE GATHERING HALLS
 AT 7.30pm
 ENTRY: Adults £3
 Children Free

Like
 like us on facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

Farming

Sponsored by NFU Mutual
Oban, call Euan Warnock
and Donna MacDougall
on 01631 567 036 for
your insurance needs.

Agent of The National Farmers Union
Mutual Insurance Society Limited.



C. Hodge Fencing

IAE equipment available to order at discount from list price

C. HODGE FENCING
01631 563271 www.hodgefencing.co.uk

A.W. GILLIES

FENCING CONTRACTOR & SUPPLIER

Stockist of

- Bryce electric fencing
- Galvanised Steel Gates & Fittings
- Tornado high tensile wire
- Winders, Steeples, Fencing Tools
- Sentinel rylock
- Straining Posts, Stobs, Rails

and all your Fencing requirements

Telephone: (01586) 552673 Mobile: 07887728406

Morris Leslie

PLANT AUCTIONS

Monthly Commercial & Plant Auctions

10:30am Wednesday 27th January 2015
Morris Leslie Plant Ltd, Errol Airfield, Errol, Perth PH2 7TB

Wednesday 27th January 2016

Over 300 entries: All types of plant, machinery, agri equipment, vehicles, HGV's, tools, cabins, trailers and equipment entered.

Many lots direct from councils and utility companies

Many lots direct from councils and utility companies - UNRESERVED

Full online bidding available: morrisleslie.com

For further information Call 01821 642940 or visit morrisleslie.com

ARGYLL AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERS

NEW MCCORMICK X6-430

NEW MCCORMICK X6-420 FULL SPEC

NEW LANDINI 5H100 DUAL POWER

DEMO LANDINI 6C140 FULL SPEC - ASK FOR DEMO

POLARIS UTV - PETROL AND DIESEL FOR DEMO
USED POLARIS DIESEL UTV 2012

NEW MAJOR LOG SPLITTERS FLEMING EQUIPMENT

Argyll Agricultural Engineers
Glenshellach Terrace, Oban, PA34 4BH
Tel: 01631 565011 Mob: 07831 609 128
Email: info@argyllagricultural.co.uk

Be prepared for winter weather

JUST think about the winter we're going through. Storm Abigail in November was quickly followed by Storm Desmond and Storm Frank the following month. There is little doubt that our weather is becoming wetter and windier, and this is particularly apparent in the winter months. Thankfully the west coast has missed, so far at least, the severe flooding witnessed in other parts of Scotland and the north of England. In those areas, property, farmland and livestock took a battering. But even here the stormy conditions have taken their toll, as land has been severely waterlogged and gale force winds have torn lumps out of farm buildings. Sheltering valuable livestock, equipment and feedstuffs from the elements, our farm buildings need regular maintenance, and this is something that should be built into the farming year. The old proverb about 'a stitch in time' certainly holds true for building maintenance. A quick repair of a few slates or a section of loose rigging today, for example, could save a lot of expense and grief by the time Storm Gertrude (yes, she's next in line) comes a-calling. Stock management outside is made no easier when the ground is saturated, but the job of keeping sheep and cattle safe and secure is entirely dependant on having secure stock fencing. Keep an eye on your fences and gates this winter, and if a repair needs doing, contact your local fencing supplier and do the job properly. Leave the baler twine in your pocket. If you think your fences need an overhaul, there's a contractor who will be able to assist. Another important aspect of winter farming is the maintenance of machinery and equipment. Follow a proper maintenance routine, covering aspects such as lubrication, checking brakes, engine coolant, antifreeze and oil levels and making sure batteries are operating. It is the job of the employers to make sure that their workers are safe. This includes doing regular maintenance checks on farming machinery and equipment as well training their workers in a proper manner. Professional help in maintaining farm tractors, ATVs and other equipment is available in the local area, along with advice in purchasing new items of machinery. Adequate fuel supplies are also vital during the winter months. Heating fuel, be it oil or wood, can run down quickly in the cold weather, and bad weather can mean deliveries might be delayed. Farming in winter is really about preparing for the worst while hoping for the best. In the second half of January there is still plenty of winter to come, so think ahead, stock up on supplies, check your machinery and keep livestock well fed. But at least the days are now getting longer, with the promise of more daylight - and let's hope for a decent spring ahead!

Best of Kintyre Blackface Sheep to face off

THE KINTYRE branch of the Blackface Sheep Breeders Association will hold their annual stock judging competition on Saturday January 30. The event will take place on Langa Farm at 7.30pm, by kind permission of Rory and Mary Colville. The competition has been running for over 14 years and generally attracts large attendances. There will be eight classes of sheep to judge with an overall championship at the end. There will be an open competition with separate classes for ladies and juniors, as well as an overall team competition. There is also a specific class for members of the Young Farmers Club. Refreshments will be available.

Harbon Wind Turbines are Powering The Future energy needs of Highland & Island Farms and Businesses

Harbon Wind Turbines have recently installed their 28th wind turbine near Oban - the latest in a fleet of turbines powering the future energy needs of local farms and businesses. Eligible to receive the recently amended Government feed in tariff; a Harbon wind turbine installed in a windy location in Western Scotland, is still potentially a very good long-term investment. Ownership & rental options offer additional income, low cost renewable energy and reduced energy bills. Built to a high specification with all components being sourced in the EU; Harbon offer their customers a proven, rugged and reliable wind turbine, ideal for windy, difficult to access and industrial locations due to its class I wind rating, tilt up towers and ability to handle high levels of turbulence. Enquiries: please contact sales@harbon-windturbines.co.uk or call 01302 320173.

Stoddarts

Old Crofters, Oban PA34 4HU

NEW HONDA TRX420 4X4
ONLY £47 PER WEEK OVER 33 MONTHS !!!!
24 MONTH HONDA WARRANTY
DEPOSIT £563, TAP £6891

NEW HONDA TRX500 FM MANUAL
POWER STEERING OR INDEPENDENT SUSPENSION
ONLY £57.22 PER WEEK OVER 33 MONTHS!!!
DEPOSIT £675, TAP £8,231

STODDARTS OF OBAN
01631 564176/07799692072
john.stoddarts@btconnect.com www.stoddarts.co.uk

Argocat Magnum for sale

Red kohler engine. Purpose built transport trailer. Many new parts and spare wheels. £2,500 ono

Contact 07876225665

WANTED

Landrover Defenders from 1990-2015, all Japanese pickups 2 or 4WD, Toyota Landcruisers, Hilux, MOT'd or not. All models required. Contact James 07500 603068 or 07875 671994.

Massey Ferguson 135, 1965, new wings, starts first time, £2,950 No VAT

Massey Ferguson 135, 1979, Cab, Loader, good tyres, £4,500 No VAT

Massey Ferguson 565 with Quickie Loader, £4,700 No VAT

Telephone 07598 712565

HARBON WIND TURBINES

Made in the UK for Farms & Businesses

Lower Energy Bills
Lower Carbon Footprint

- Government Feed-in-Tariff
- Made in Britain
- High wind sites (wind class I & II)
- Difficult to access locations
- Tilt-up & Monopole towers (18, 22, 30, & 36m)
- Own or Rental options
- Remote Monitoring & Service

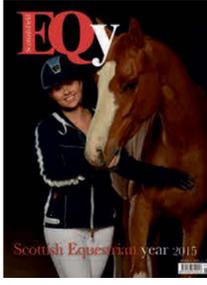
Contact us now 01302 320173
sales@harbonwindturbines.co.uk
www.harbonwindturbines.co.uk
Gordon Street | Doncaster | DN1 1RS

POWERING THE FUTURE

It's good to talk in times of stress. Don't suffer in silence.

rsabi

Call in confidence today
0300 111 4166
Email: rsabi@rsabi.org.uk www.rsabi.org.uk



OUT NOW!

Scotland's newest and best equestrian magazine

- Dressage
- Eventing
- Carriage driving
- Show jumping
- Breeding
- Polo
- Paralympics
- Equestrian art
- Great hacks



Available from all WH Smiths, all good independent newsagents or online

www.eqymagazine.co.uk

West Coast MOTORING TIMES

DRIVETIMES SAILING TIMES GARAGES CAR DEALERSHIPS MOTORING NEWS

Call 01631 568000 to sell your car in our Drivetimes section

Car, Bike, Home and Van Insurance with Adrian Flux

40 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Great Insurance deals for your Car, Bike, Home and Van

Adrian Flux Insurance Services offer a range of policies which reflect the low risk nature of highland life. We can offer you great insurance deals on your car, bike, home and van. Call us today for a free no obligation quote.

0800 032 5231
adrianflux.co.uk

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

S. D. MacDOUGALL AUTOSERVICES

All cars fully serviced and MOT'd by ourselves

FOR SALE

2011 VAUXHALL COMBO VAN 1.3 CDTI, WHITE SIDE DOOR, 73,000 MILES.....	£3,600+VAT
2006 VAUXHALL ASTRA EST 1.9 SRI CDTI,150, SILVER, 76,000 MILES.....	£1,975
2006 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXI+ 3DR, BLACK, 90,000 MILES, MOT AUGUST 2016, CLEAN LOCAL CAR.....	£1,675
2005 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXI 3DR SILVER 68,000 MILES, MOT NOVEMBER 2016.....	£1,650
2006 VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.4 SDR BLACK, 81,000 MILES, MOT JULY 2016 (FOR SALE ON BEHALF OF CUSTOMER).....	£1,475
2001 FORD ESCORT VAN 1.8, DIESEL, WHITE, MOT SEPT 2016, NEW TIMMING BELT FITTED RECENTLY.....	£875
2002 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2, 3DR, BLUE, 94,000 MILES, MOT JULY 2016.....	£650

Call in to have your winter check now.
MOT's Car Repairs, Services and Car Sales

Unit 6, Lochavullin Ind. Est., Oban
Tel: 01631 566502 01631 566470

Oban Times DRIVE TIMES
Oban Times DRIVE TIMES
Oban Times DRIVE TIMES
Oban Times DRIVE TIMES
Oban Times DRIVE TIMES

Mitsubishi Shogun Sport Trojan 2.5

TD Silver. 57 plate 75,000 miles. 2 owners from new. FSH, tow bar, leather interior. MOT until Oct 16.
£5450

Tel: 01770 600952 (Arran)

DRIVETIMES

Mitsubishi L200 Pickup

2002 only 61,678 miles alloy wheels. 10 months M.O.T. Hard top, towbar and liner.
£2,495 + vat o.n.o. REDUCED PRICE FOR QUICK SALE

Tel: 01852 300203 / 07771920621

Vauxhall Astra Club Estate for sale

1600cc engine. Automatic transmission. Petrol. MOT until October 2016. Damage to rear corner panel on drivers side.
£800 o.n.o.

Tel: 07850 558667

MUNRO'S OF OBN

MOTs • Servicing • Repairs
All makes of vehicle serviced and repaired.
Including Volkswagen & Skoda.

Munro's of Oban, Lochavullin Ind. Estate, Oban PA34 4PL
Tel: 01631 564463
Email: munrosoban@aol.com
Web: www.munrosoban.co.uk

WILLERBY, RICHMOND 2009 RESIDENTIAL CARAVAN

8 BERTH, 3 BEDROOMS, DOUBLE GLAZED, CENTRAL HEATING, GAS SYSTEM CERTIFIED FOR ONE YEAR.
£12,500 o.n.o.

PLEASE CONTACT 01866 822129

Sanderson Rough Terrain forklift

Selling due to replacement with telehandler.
£1700 + VAT

Tel: 07747 016900

MOBILITY VAN RENAULT MASTER SL28 2.2 DIESEL

May 2002, but only 79,000 miles, rear wheelchair hoist. For spares or repair, non runner, needs engine replacement.
Offers when seen.

Tel: 07785 542811 Campbeltown

Nissan Navara Pickup

10 months MOT 59 plate, great runner.
£7500

Contact 07785 345593

WANTED

Volkswagen transporter van or Caravelle campervan considered.

Telephone 07929080500

WANTED

any 4x4 vehicle, Landrover, Toyota, Mitsubishi etc, all makes and models, any age, mileage or condition, non runners/MOT failures accepted. Collection anywhere. Top cash prices paid.

Call 07789855381 for a hassle free sale

Vauxhall Astra

4 door hatch, 1.3 petrol, 52 reg, 3 months MOT, 4 good tyres, power steering, CD player, central locking, good condition for year, good on fuel, good mechanically, cheap to insure, good little runaround.
£550 o.n.o.

Tel: 07554 571070

Renault Clio I-Music 1.2 16V 3 Door Hatchback

2010 60 Plate Petrol Air Conditioning 42,000 miles MOT Sept 2016 Parrot Hands Free Kit Installed.
£3650 o.n.o.

Tel: 07708 696135

WANTED

Motorcycle, any age, size, condition considered.

Telephone 07836 500403

SUZUKI GRAND VITARA 1.9 TURBO DIESEL 2009

Black, new alloy wheels and tyres 1 year ago, MOT'd for 1 year, new side bars, new towbar.
£4,400 o.n.o.

Tel: 01586 552465 (days) or 07906 030884 (mob)

Vauxhall Corsa SXi Ltd edition

1.2 57,000 miles Lovely condition 2 former keepers service history and MOT.
£1950

Tel: 07980 671267 (Arran)

VAN FOR SALE Citroen Berlingo Diesel

2004 very economical, good condition, 70,000 miles. Timing belt done.
£950

Tel: 07980 671267 (Arran)

Citroen Dispatch Enterprise 1.6 HDi panel van 2011 silver

60,000 miles, ply lined, twin side loading doors, 3 seats, Air Con, short wheel base, low roof, MOT March, full service history, 4 new Michelin tyres, dealer fitted towbar, clean bodywork and interior.
£6,500

Tel: 07771 918430

Nissan X Trail 4x4 2.2 TDi SVE

55 Reg, 94,000 miles, full service history, really good condition, 8 months MOT, full leather interior, tow bar, satnav, CD player, good tyres, economical. Lovely vehicle.
£3,950

Tel: 01631 710173

2004 Subaru Forester X All Weather

87000 miles, MOT'd till September, Good runner, 4 good winter tyres.
£1500

Tel: 07747 016900

Wilkinson Catering Trailer

Includes gas 4-pot ban marie, hot water urn, double griddle and full gas oven with 4 ring hob. Electric hook-up powers water pump, internal light and runs 2 fridges. Approx size of trailer is 6ft x 8ft.
£4500 o.n.o.

Please call: 01852 500350

WD Semple Scotland's most established Renault dealer

These are just a small selection of cars currently in our showrooms

USED CARS	
65 Renault Captur DYN S Nav, 1.5 DCI, 5Dr, Grey/Black, Delivery Mileage.....	£15,950
14 Dacia Duster Laureate DCI 4x2, grey, 3100 miles.....	£11,995
14 Renault Scenic Dyn, Energy DCI, 1.5, T/tom, Black, 15,250 miles.....	£12,950
64 Renault Twingo DYN TCE SS, 3Dr, White, 10,000 Miles.....	£8,995
64 Renault Clio EXP+, 1.2, 5Dr, Grey, 10,000 Miles.....	£8,950
14 Ford Ka, Plain Red, 6600 miles.....	£5,950
63 Skoda Octavia S, TDI Estate Silver 14,000 miles.....	£12,995
62/13 Renault Megane dyn, 1.6, coupe, silver, 13,000 miles.....	£9,450
12 Renault scenic XMode DYN, T/T, DCI, Red, 41,000 Miles.....	£8,500
12 Renault Clio Exp +, 1.2, 3dr White, 18,250 miles.....	£5,750
61 Renault Wind roadster, GT line 1.6 convertible, black, 58,000 miles.....	£5,250
11 Renault Clio DYN, T/tom DCI Est 1.5, Blue, 52,500 miles.....	£6,250
11 Peugeot 308 Access SW HDi Est, 1.5, Black, 46,000 Miles.....	£6,250
10 Renault Megan EXP, 1.5DCI h/b, 5Dr, Red, 63,000 Miles.....	£4,500
59 Ford Fiesta Titanium 1.6 3 dr blue, 67,000 miles.....	£4,500
09 Suzuki jimny, J1X 1.3, 3 Dr, Grey, 37,000 Miles.....	£5,500
08 Renault Kangoo EXP, 1.2, Silver, 60,000 Miles.....	£3,750
07 Kia Sorrento, X6 V6 Auto with gas conversion, Black, 68,000 Miles.....	£4,650
56 Citroen Picasso 1.6DCI, silver, 44,000 miles.....	£2,250

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE TO VIEW A MORE COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF VEHICLES ON OFFER

Approved Renault Dealer
www.wdsemple.com
Inveraray - Shore Street.
Tel: 01499 302150 Fax: 01499 302281
Lochgilthead - Highbank Park.
Tel: 01546 606767 Fax: 01546 606272



New and Pre-Reg Renaults and Dacias ready for immediate delivery

COMMERCIALS

11 Vauxhall Combo 1700 cdti, white, 61,000 miles.....	£4,250+VAT
60 Vauxhall Vivara DCI Van.....	£7,000 plus VAT
08 Renault Master SWB, White.....	£6,000+VAT

NOW AVAILABLE The New Dacia Range from £5,995*

Dacia Sandero = from £5,995*

Dacia Sandero Stepway = from £8,395*

Dacia Duster = from £9,495*

Logan MCV Estate = from £6,995

Sandero shown is a Laureate 1.2 16V 75 from £7,995. sandero Stepway shown is a Laureate TCE 90 from £9,795. Duster shown is a Laureate DCI 110 4X2 from £12,995. Metallic paint optional on Sandero/Duster at £470.

NEW CAR INDEX

ISUZU

S & S Services
Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr
Tel. 01292 880080 01292 880440

VAUXHALL

Autovision
40 Harbour Road Inverness
Tel. 01463 251500
www.scottishvauxhall.co.uk

SUZUKI

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

SUBARU

S & S Services
Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr
Tel. 01292 880080 01292 880440

W.D. Semple
www.wdsemple.com
Inveraray Shore Street
Tel. 01499 302150
Lochgilthead Highbank Park
Tel. 01546 606767 01546 606272

TO PROMOTE YOUR NEW CAR DEALERSHIP PLEASE CALL: 01631 568000

Like us on facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

Oban Times DRIVE TIMES Oban Times DRIVE TIMES Oban Times DRIVE TIMES Oban Times DRIVE TIMES
Oban Times DRIVE TIMES Oban Times DRIVE TIMES Oban Times DRIVE TIMES Oban Times DRIVE TIMES

west coast recruitment

www.hie.co.uk

AMBITIOUS FOR SCOTLAND

Operating across half of Scotland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise is one of Europe's most highly-regarded development agencies. HIE's unique integration of economic and community development is central to its success in generating sustainable economic growth in every part of the Highlands and Islands, particularly in fragile areas.

AREA MANAGER - ARGYLL and the ISLANDS

Lochgilthead, £62,720 - £72,328 per annum, excellent benefits package

With strong leadership and managerial skills, bringing experience of economic development at a senior level, you will be responsible for HIE's contribution to the delivery of the Scottish Economic Strategy in the Argyll and the Islands area.

You will also contribute directly to delivery of HIE's objectives across the region, leading in particular areas. You will play a key role ensuring effective delivery of HIE's services to both businesses and communities, developing and advancing local/regional partnerships and providing strategic economic leadership across the diverse geography of Argyll and Islands. You will lead in the delivery of complex regionally significant investments, and will bring strong influencing and negotiating skills together with excellence in project management.

In this role you will report to the Director of Strengthening Communities and bring a good understanding of the opportunities and challenges relating to the regional economy. Proven budget management, advanced leadership and communication skills are all essential.

TO APPLY ONLINE VISIT: www.hie.co.uk/vacancies

JOB REFERENCE: 524

CLOSING DATE: 4 February 2016

INTERVIEW DATE: 16 February 2016 in Glasgow

We encourage online applications but if you are unable to apply online please contact us for an application pack, e-mail recruitment@hient.co.uk or call 01463 244 414.

CREIDAS NAR | INVESTORS
COSNAICHEAN | IN PEOPLE

Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Ionairt na Gàidhealachd 'n nan Eilean

AGRICULTURAL CONSULTANTS / TRAINEES

Oban and Balivanich

£22,052 - £34,701 pa (depending on experience and qualifications you may be appointed at trainee consultant or consultant level)

SAC Consulting, a division within SRUC, is focussed on the delivery of consultancy services to the rural sector has opportunities for Agricultural Consultants or trainees.

In the office, field or farm, our Consultants enjoy a varied role, providing advice and support to farmers and rural businesses on everything from animal feeding to business accounts.

To be considered for the either of these roles you'll need an HND, Degree or equivalent in Agriculture or other relevant discipline and proven experience in a similar field. FBAAS and FACTS would be useful.

Please indicate your location preference in your application.

Further information can be found at: <http://www.sruc.ac.uk/jobs>

Closing date: 31 January 2016 Please quote: C/CS/150/15

SRUC: Leading the way in Agricultural and Rural Research, Education and Consultancy.

SRUC. A Charitable company limited by guarantee, SC003712. Registered in Scotland No SC103046



Caledonian MacBrayne

Hebridean & Clyde Ferries

CalMac Ferries Limited is currently recruiting for the following permanent positions:

Senior Port Assistant – Colonsay

Port Assistant – Kennacraig

Nightwatchman – Oban

CalMac Ferries Ltd is a multi-award winning business serving some of the most beautiful parts of Scotland. With over 30 ferries, we provide lifeline services to the islands and peninsulas on Scotland's West Coast.

Our excellent benefits package includes a competitive salary plus a general annual leave entitlement. You could also take advantage of free ferry travel for you and your family.

To view further details of these vacancies and details of how to apply, please visit our website at www.calmac.co.uk/careers

Caledonian Ferries Limited is an equal opportunities employer.

YOUR LOCAL PAPER

51% of people turn to their local newspaper first when looking for a new job.

Source: Recruitment Choice, The Newspaper Society 2005

Regional Press
closer to home

Drew Kennedy require

Time Served Ames Taper, Painter and Decorator

Driving licence essential, willing to travel/ stay overs, Mid Argyll area.

Telephone Kelly - 07799 444251

Carers Direct Limited are an independent provider specialising in care at home.

We are looking for Carers to work in the Inveraray Area.

Competitive hourly rate.

Alternate weekends essential. SVQ 2 preferred, training provided. Application forms from 01631 569 550. Registered with Scottish Care Commission. Applications subject to PVG Scheme vetting.

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Deputy Editor

The Oban Times is looking for someone with proven editorial and managerial skills to join the West Highland's largest selling weekly newspaper.

As well as excellent news sense, the successful candidate must be an experienced sub-editor with a flair for design, headline writing and page layout, and be fully qualified (or have relevant time-served experience), with a sound knowledge of Scots law and the IPSO Code of Practice.

The ability to deputise for the editor and organise the newsroom is essential, as is the ability to work well under deadline pressure.

Candidates will have excellent communication skills, both verbal and written. They will be responsible for managing daily workflow, working with reporters to get the best content possible, providing clear briefings and feedback on content requirements.

They must be self-motivated, highly organised and able to take instruction as well as manage own workload efficiently.

An understanding of digital would be an advantage as the right candidate will be required to liaise with the editor on the digital strategy and ensure that content is promoted via an effective social media presence.

Above all, the new member of the team will be hard working, passionate about the role and have a positive attitude.

A full driving licence is essential. The position is based in Oban.

In return, we offer a good, competitive salary, private health care, enhanced pension, life assurance, as well as excellent benefits. A relocation package may be offered.

Please apply with full CV and contact details to Alison Arden - ali@obantimes.co.uk

INVERARAY CASTLE SEASONAL STAFF REQUIRED

Full/Part-Time

TEAROOM/GIFT SHOP GUIDES

An interest in Scottish history and foreign languages an advantage

Please send your current CV to:-
Mrs J Young, Castle Manager
Inveraray Castle, INVERARAY PA32 8XF
E-Mail - manager@inveraray-castle.com

Waltons of Oban

We have a vacancy for a smart, resourceful, reliable, customer focused, CPC holding

Delivery Driver

We are a small and growing business delivering chilled and frozen foods to commercial and private customers.

Please apply by 05 Feb with CV to
Waltons of Oban, 13, Lochavullin Road, Oban, PA34 4PL. Or email to eric@waltonsofoban.co.uk

Driver training may be available to an ideal but unqualified candidate.

Redevelopment Project Manager

Following a successful Round 1 Heritage Lottery Fund bid, Kilmartin Museum is seeking to appoint a Redevelopment Project Manager to progress our major redevelopment project. The Manager will work in the key areas of capital fundraising, procurement, grant management, and oversee the next stages of the architectural design. This is a full time project funded contract until June 2017 with the likelihood of further extension, subject to successful funding applications. The salary is £29,150 per annum. Some remote working may be considered, subject to business need.

Funded by Heritage Lottery Fund, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Argyll and Bute Council.

For more information and an application pack please email kay@kilmartin.org or phone Kay Owen on 01546 510 278. Closing date 12 February, 2016, interviews will be held during the week commencing 7 March, 2016.

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Senior Reporter

The Oban Times has an opportunity for a bright, passionate and hungry reporter to join our busy team in Oban.

The person we are looking for will be fully qualified with shorthand, multi-media literate and be unafraid of hard work.

They will be bursting with ideas on where to look for stories, understand the importance of fostering great contacts and knowing their patch and be capable of working on their own initiative as well as part of a team.

They should also hold a full driving licence.

As well as writing for the newspaper of record for the West Highlands, they will be expected to take pictures on the job, as well as contribute to our social media channels.

In return for all this we offer a competitive salary, great experience and training, as well as private health care and an enhanced pension.

Please apply by email, sending your CV, plus a covering letter and some examples of your work to: Alison Arden - ali@obantimes.co.uk

Marine Harvest Scotland is the largest producer of Atlantic salmon in Scotland. The Company employs a workforce of over 600 throughout the Highlands and Islands and produces over 50,000 tonnes of salmon annually. Our farming operations are based in Fort William and the Company prides itself in being a major employer of skilled people and strives to produce high quality, healthy and nutritious seafood in the most sustainable way.

Operations Director Farming

We are seeking an exceptional aquaculture professional with strong leadership skills and technical experience. As a minimum applicants should be educated in a biological discipline to post graduate level or have an exceptional career history in aquaculture companies preferably salmonids. We invite candidates with several years farming experience to apply.

Interested Candidates can speak in confidence directly to the line manager for this position: **Ben Hadfield, Chief Operating Officer Feed & Managing Director Marine Harvest Scotland 0047 (Norway) 45395642.**

Please apply in writing detailing relevant experience and qualifications no later than Friday 29th January 2016 to: **Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Limited, Stob Ban House, Glen Nevis Business Park, Fort William PH33 6RX.**

West Coast PROPERTY GUIDE

LETTINGS COMMERCIAL PROPERTY SALE PROPERTY REVIEWS PROPERTY NEWS LOCAL ESTATE AGENTS

Association of Residential Letting Agents and National Association of Estate Agents – 2016 predictions for the housing market



David Cox, managing director, Association of Residential Letting Agents (ARLA) provides an overview of what may be seen in the private rented sector in 2016:

Rising cost of renting

'UNFORTUNATELY for renters, rent prices are likely to go up in 2016. There are various pieces of legislation coming into play in 2016 which will result in increased compliance costs for landlords, and as a result push up rents for tenants. We urge the Government to re-think its proposals around reducing Mortgage Interest Relief, scrapping the Wear and Tear Allowance and hiking up Stamp Duty by three per cent on buy-to-let properties. Whilst these remain, the Government's goal of increasing the percentage of people in home ownership is getting further out of reach.

'The issue of supply and demand in the rental market will be increasingly pushed to its limit with rising demand outstripping supply.

Regulation of the sector

'The good news is that regulation in the industry looks like it will be tightening up in 2016. We hope that the provisions of the Housing and Planning Bill – when brought into force – will give enforcing bodies and the courts more teeth in tackling rogue and criminal landlords and agents. This will develop in 2016 to enforce harsher penalties for landlords and unregulated agents that aren't complying with basic laws.

'The Right to Rent checks introduced in the Immigration Act 2014 will be rolled out nationally from February 1 2016 following a successful pilot scheme in the West Midlands. However, we worry that the goodwill established towards the scheme may be tested by the increase in volume, disenfranchising landlords from the process.

On Scotland

'We applaud the Scottish Government for its recent bold plans for regulating the lettings industry and look forward to working with them during 2016 on the roll out of the proposals.

'However, we caution against the introduction of rent controls and the withdrawal of 'no-fault' possession route for landlords as this will reduce investment into the Scottish private rented sector at a time when rental housing is needed more than ever before.'

Home buyers' market

Mark Hayward, managing director, National Association of Estate Agents (NAEA) provides an overview of what may be seen in the housing market in 2016: 'Next year we will see a growing struggle for those trying to get on to the home ownership ladder, with house prices further beyond the reach of low to middle earners and rent costs eating away at more of their income.'

First-time-buyers

'It is important that first-time-buyers (FTBs) remain at the top of the Government's agenda in order to help them get a foot on the housing ladder. However, if the supply, specifically of 'affordable housing', doesn't significantly increase in 2016, FTBs will continue to feel driven out of the market.'

Supply and demand

'Supply is a key issue; if we truly want to see FTBs able to buy their first home we absolutely have to address this.'

'Osborne's announcement that he'll be building 200,000 new-starter-homes is a good place to start, but it's not enough to solve the worsening crisis. We are at risk of doing too little, too late. We are still waiting to see new homes being built; and whilst we wait, house prices continue to rise.'

like us on facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

TO LET
To Let Taynuilt
One bedroom furnished semi detached bungalow in quiet cul-de-sac, £450 per month plus bills, one month deposit required, no pets, no dss or smokers. Landlord registration number 244145/136/212121.
Telephone 07747844935

Barriers to home ownership fall as housing market sentiment improves

UK CONSUMERS have reported that all the major barriers to property purchase have fallen, the BSA's final Property Tracker of 2015 reveals.

Raising a deposit - the single biggest barrier since 2010 - is now at its lowest level for six years. However, it still presents a barrier to more than half of consumers with 52 per cent saying it is a hurdle to overcome. This is down from 59 per cent in September 2015 and the high of 69 per cent in September 2011.

From September to December 2015, access to mortgage finance as a barrier to home ownership dropped from 41 per cent to 38 per cent. The affordability of monthly mortgage repayments fell from 35 per cent to 33 per cent and lack of job security is now at 26 per cent,

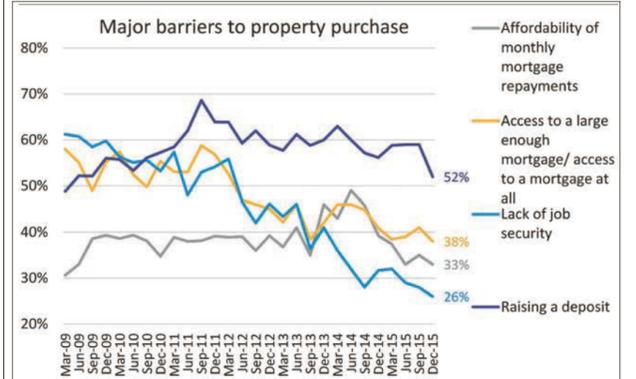
down from 28 per cent. The results indicate that people are feeling reasonably confident about home ownership as an option for them. This could partially be as a result of the focus on housing in the Autumn Statement in November and is evidenced by the strong lending by building societies and other lenders across the market this year.

Paul Broadhead, BSA head of mortgage policy, said: 'This snapshot of sentiment in the housing market shows that consumers are feeling reasonably optimistic about getting on or moving up the property ladder. Awareness of Government schemes, such as Help to Buy and the new Help to Buy, London plus the availability of higher loan-to-value mortgages

helps to bring choice and competition to the market. Housing generally needs to remain a top priority for the Government.'

'Now is the time to focus on building more homes, supported by appropriate investment in infrastructure, in order to begin to address the long term imbalance of housing supply with demand.'

'Innovative mortgage products and intermediate forms of tenure must also be championed – not just by building societies – but by all lenders, the regulators and government. This will go some way to delivering a sustainable housing market which caters to the needs of a wide range of credit worthy consumers, not just those with 'vanilla' borrowing requirements.'



west coast recruitment

OES

Due to an internal promotion, we have a vacancy for a Contracts Surveyor based in our Oban office.

This would suit an individual with a commercial background within the Electrical or FM sector. Excellent career opportunities and benefits package. Consideration will be given to applicants who have a strong Electrical background and are willing to receive training to achieve the standard required. As an organisation, we encourage further training and education for our staff. Please send your applications c/w a copy of your CV to: **Angus MacPherson, Managing Director, OES Ltd** 19, Stevenson street, Oban, PA34 5NA 01631 564203 amacpherson@fes-group.co.uk

Argyll HomeCare

Argyll HomeCare will shortly be launching a new initiative in the Mid Argyll area as part of the Integrated Care Fund and we are currently recruiting for this exciting new project.

You will be able to work on your own and/or part of a team providing care services across a range of clients.

Position: Initial Responder (Care at Home)
Full time: 35 hours per week (£8.00 per hour)
Part time - 7.5 hours per shift
(£8:00 per hour - contract/guaranteed hours)

Previous professional or informal care experience is desirable

Full driving licence essential (pool car provided)

All successful applicants are required to undergo a PVG check.

Closing date extended: 29th January 2016
For further information or an application pack please telephone 01546 600333 or email info@argyllhomecare.co.uk

ACCOMODATION

A unique opportunity to occupy a comfortable 2 bed detached Lodge, with garden and workshop, on small West Argyll estate for an elderly, fit, pensioned Artisan/Tradesperson/s to pursue their interests in retirement. In exchange for occasional assistance with maintenance of land and buildings.

Apply Box No.13, Oban Times, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

MACLEOD CONSTRUCTION REQUIRE JOINERS

FOR CONTRACTS IN MID-ARGYLL & CAMPBELTOWN

VALID CSCS, H & S QUALIFICATIONS & DRIVING LICENCE ESSENTIAL

APPLICATIONS TO: Kilmory Industrial Estate Lochgilphead PA31 8RR or e-mail - lil@mkmacleod.co.uk

Council Cuts: There is now a clear alternative

The alternative budget proposals are now available at www.breslin.scot.

These were drawn up by myself and Cllrs Bruce Marshall and Vivien Dance. We urge you to read these as soon as you can. If you support what we're saying, tell your local councillors.

Our proposals protect many services, save dozens of front line, lower paid jobs and cut management costs. They localise decision making and make your councillors more accountable. The proposals invest in the area, demonstrate ambition and reject most of the current proposed cuts.

If you can't access my blog, call 01369 707 165.

Leave your name, address and postcode and I'll post our budget to you.

So don't sit back. Tell your local councillors your views and do this before February 11th when the council sets its budget.

Advert personally funded by Cllr Michael Breslin, Dunoon ward

The Tobermory Harbour Association plan to install four new Moorings within Tobermory Bay, each with a 25T capacity. If you would like to Tender for the supply and installation of the moorings, please contact Katherine Cripps by email kat.cripps@tobermoryharbour.co.uk by the 8th February.

To qualify, you must be able to complete the job by the end of April 2016.

BREEDON AGGREGATES

BREEDON AGGREGATES

BLAST AT BANAVIE QUARRY

22 January 2016
1400hrs - 1500hrs

69% of the business community read the regional press

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Trainee Reporter

Fort William office

Here at the Oban Times, the West Highlands' best-selling weekly newspaper, we pride ourselves on producing quality grassroots journalism. A vacancy has arisen for an ambitious trainee reporter with plenty of ideas, energy and enthusiasm to be based in our Fort William office; someone who can really get under the skin of our communities to find the stories that will engage readers. Ideally you'll have passed your NCTJ diploma exams, including shorthand. You must have a full current driving licence. As digital plays an increasingly important part in our news coverage, ideally you will be confident in the use of social media and digital storytelling techniques. We're offering a fantastic opportunity to join one of Scotland's leading independent news publishers, with a salary and conditions that reflect this - private health care, enhanced pension, life assurance and financial assistance with relocation. Please apply by email with full CV and contact details to ali@wvymedia.co.uk

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

Donald McLean Contractors

PLANT FITTER & MECHANIC

Donald McLean Contractors require one experienced plant fitter & mechanic to work on excavators, tractors, plant and company vehicles. Based at our workshop, travel to site will be necessary on occasion, predominantly in and around South Argyll. Candidates should ideally hold a current CSCS and CPCS qualification.

Apply in writing only to mcleandonald@btconnect.com to receive more information on terms and conditions.

First Registration of a Croft

Mrs Diana Charlotte Snelgrove has registered the croft 4 Treslaig (Shares), Treslaig, Ardgour, 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 23 August, 2016.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/ home. The croft registration number is C2025.

First Registration of a Croft

Kenneth Stewart has registered his croft 139 Kilmory, Ardnamurchan & Sunart on the Crofting Register held by Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 29 July 2016. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/ home. The croft registration number is C1098.

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

Regional Press

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

Argyll Bute COUNCIL

THE ARGYLL AND BUTE, LAND AT KINLOCHLAICH, APPIN, ARGYLL TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NO. 01/16

The above Authority under Section 160 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 has made a Tree Preservation Order which takes effect on 15th January 2016 and hereby gives notice that:-

- The Tree Preservation Order was made to ensure the protection of individual trees and three groups of trees situated at Kinlochlaich, Appin, Argyll and considered by the Authority as the Local Planning Authority to be of considerable merit and contribute to the overall setting of the property and the local area;
- A certified copy of the Provisional Tree Preservation Order and map has been deposited at Argyll and Bute Council Development and Infrastructure Office at Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban, Argyll and may be inspected during all normal working hours;
- Objections and representation with respect to the Tree Preservation Order may be made to the undersigned in accordance with Regulation 5 of the Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation Order and Trees in Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Regulations 2010, which Regulations state that:-
 - every objection or representation to the Planning Authority with respect to an Order shall be made in writing, shall state the grounds thereof, and specify the particular trees, groups of trees, or woodlands in respect of which it is made;
 - an objection or representation shall be duly made if it complies with Regulation 5 and is received by the Planning Authority by 18th February 2016

(i) The Tree Preservation Order shall take effect on 15th January 2016 and shall continue in force until the expiration of a period of 6 months beginning with the date on which the Tree Preservation Order was made unless before the expiry of said period of 6 months the Tree Preservation Order has been confirmed by the Authority. In the event that the Tree Preservation Order is confirmed within said period of 6 months, it shall continue until a Revocation Order is made by the Authority.

CHARLES REPPKE, Head of Governance and Law, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead

YOUR LOCAL PAPER

Regional & local press advertising gets the job done.

Source: Recruitment Choice, The Newspaper Society 2005

Regional Press closer to home

public notices

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



PLANNING
These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected at Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban PA34 4AW, Monday to Friday 9am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5pm. On Wednesdays, the Customer Service Points will open at 10am. At the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

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

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/02794/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, detached garage, wind turbine (7 metres to hub height) and installation of roof mounted solar panels	Land South Of 8 Kilkenneth Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute PA77 6XF	Tiree Area Office
15/02918/PP	Formation of new vehicular access	Kinachrean Forest Stronmilchan Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Dalmally
15/03426/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of new vehicular access	Land South East Of Kentallen Farm Aros Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Aros Isle of Mull
15/03492/PP	Demolition of dwellinghouse and erection of replacement dwellinghouse	Caolas House Isle Of Coll Argyll And Bute PA78 6TB	Sub Post Office Isle of Coll
15/03508/PP	Retrospective application for the retention of Zno. containers	Yard North Connel Argyll And Bute	Oban Area Office
15/03509/PP	Variation of condition 3 relative to planning permission 14/00191/PP - Erection of garage/workshop for the purpose of servicing lorries, incorporating office accommodation and demolition of existing offices. (Amendment to working hours from 08.00 to 17.00 to 07.00 to 19.00)	Yard North Connel Argyll And Bute	Oban Area Office
16/00006/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse (amended design relative to planning permission 12/01864/PP)	Kilmore And Kilbride Parish Church And Adjoining Land Kilmore Argyll And Bute	Oban Area Office
16/00012/PPP	Renewal of Planning Permission reference 13/00183/PPP - Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land Adjacent To Bayview Cottage Lochdon Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA64 6AP	Sub Post Office Craignure

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

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/03496/PP	Installation of ATM cash machine	33 Main Street Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA75 6NU	Tobermory Area Office
15/03533/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land South West Of Ferry House Kerrera Oban Argyll And Bute	Oban Area Office
16/00132/PP	Formation of path and steps (retrospective)	Holy Cross Church Portnacrosich Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Connel

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 1A Manse Lochgilphead Brae PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

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

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
16/00034/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and detached garage, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land East Of Laggan View Glenegeadale Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute	Bowmore Area Office Isle of Islay

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

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/02789/PP	Erection of garden shed/store (part retrospective)	59 Main Street Port Wemyss Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA47 7SR	Sub Post Office Portnahaven
15/03262/PP	Installation of ATM cash machine	Co Operative Retail Services Ltd Main Street Bowmore Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA43 7JJ	Bowmore Area Office Isle of Islay
16/00077/PP	Variation of condition 2 of planning permission reference 14/00161/PP (Erection of dwellinghouse and formation of new vehicular access) - change of window material from timber to upvc	Land Between 17 And 19 Shore Street Port Wemyss Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Portnahaven

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>
The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Central Validation Team, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead PA31 8RD.
A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.
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.

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATIONS

K & Mrs J Tindal Sandbank, Kilfinichen & Kilvickeon 0.022 ha - For alterations and an extension to an existing dwelling house 4.86.62335

D Grant Hill Park Croft, Kilchrenan & Dalavich 0.7298 ha - Site for a dwelling house 4.86.62332

Comments can be made to the Crofting Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 28 days of the date of this newspaper.
Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk

DECROFTING DIRECTION ISSUED

C Turner 84 & 85 Lochyside, Kilmallie 0.023 ha - Amenity ground 4.86.59420
Conditions: 3b, 4

Conditions
(3) Complete enclosure of the land with a stock proof fence within 4 months of:
(b) the proposed development completion
(4) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.

Any person with an interest in the application may appeal against a decision to the Scottish Land Court within 42 days of the date of this advert.

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times

Upper Sonachan Wind Park Limited ELECTRICITY ACT 1989 TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2000

Further to the notice of an application for consent to construct and operate a wind farm at **Upper Sonachan, near Portsonachan, Ardbrecknish and Cladich** (Central Grid Reference: **NN065188**) and for a direction under Section 57 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 that planning permission for the development be deemed to be granted. The installed capacity of the proposed generating station would be **up to 64.6 MW, comprising 19 turbines with a maximum overall ground to blade tip height of 136.5 metres.**

Notice is hereby given that additional information has been received by Scottish Ministers on this application. Copies of this information have been forwarded to **Argyll and Bute Council, Municipal Building, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AW** to be made available for public inspection by being placed on the planning register. This information can also be viewed on the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit website at: <http://www.energyconsents.scot/>

Request for copies of this additional information from Scottish Ministers or any queries about this additional information should be directed in the following ways: In writing to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit, 4th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow G2 8LU or emailing to energyconsents@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Any subsequent additional information received by Scottish Ministers before determination of the application, if considered to be materially relevant, will be similarly forwarded to Argyll and Bute Council to be placed on the planning register and made available for public inspection. However, no further public notice will be issued.

Any representations should be made in writing to The Scottish Government, Energy Consents Unit, 4th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow G2 8LU or emailed to representations@scotland.gsi.gov.uk identifying the proposal and specifying grounds for objection or support, not later than **29 February 2016**.

Representations should be dated and should clearly state the name (in block capitals) and full return email and postal address of those making representation. Only representations sent by email to the address stipulated will receive acknowledgement.

All previous representations received in relation to this development remain valid.

Fair Processing Notice
The Scottish Government Energy Consents and Deployment Unit process applications under The Electricity Act 1989. During the consultation process letters of representation can be sent to Scottish Ministers in support of or objecting to these applications.

Should Scottish Ministers call a Public Local inquiry (PLI), copies of these representations will be sent to the Directorate of Planning and Environmental Appeals for the Reporter to consider during the inquiry. These representations will be posted on their website with all personal data redacted, including the full name, address, email address, signature and home telephone number.

Copies of representations will also be issued to the developer on request, again, with all personal data redacted as previously indicated.

You can choose to mark your representation as confidential, in which case it will only be considered by Scottish Ministers and will not be shared with the Planning Authority, the developer, the Reporter (should a PLI be called) or any other third party.

If you have any queries or concerns about how your personal data will be handled, please email the Energy Consents and Deployment Unit at: energyconsents@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

or

in writing to Energy Consents and Deployment Unit, 4th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU



The Gas (Calculation of Thermal Energy) Regulations 1996

Notice is hereby given that, in pursuance of Regulation 8 of the Gas (Calculation of Thermal Energy) Regulations 1996, the calorific value of natural gas supplied by SGN (formerly known as Scotland Gas Networks) on and after 4 February 2016 shall be set out in the schedule.

Schedule

A calorific value of 39 megajoules per cubic metre In the Strathclyde region Part of the local authority district of Argyll and Bute Dated 13 January 2016

By authority of SGN

subscribe to **The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES**
Subscribe from **£22***
Call subscriptions on **01371 851868** or subscribe online at www.obantimes.co.uk/subscribe
Subscribers should note that to keep down the cost of postage, some special supplements may, on occasions, be excluded from the subscribers editions of the paper. *£22 for 3 month UK subscription.

WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003 WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011 APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF AUTHORISATION SAILEAN RUADH (ETIVE 6) MCFE, LOCH ETIVE

An application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Dawnfresh Farming Ltd to vary water use licence number CAR/L/1042067 authorising the carrying on of a controlled activity at, near or in connection with Sailean Ruadh (Etive 6) MCFE, Loch Etive, as follows:

Description of change to controlled activity	Waters affected	National grid reference
Change in effluent dispersion and benthic footprint due to a change in the cage positions	Loch Etive	NM 9830 3410

SEPA considers that the above change(s) to a controlled activity may have an impact on the interests of other users of the water environment.

A copy of the application and any accompanying information may be inspected free of charge, at the SEPA Registry below, between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays). Alternatively, the application may be viewed on SEPA's website at: <http://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/consultations/advertised-applications-under-car/>

Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting reference number CAR/L/1042067:

Registry Department, SEPA, Dingwall office, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall Business Park, Dingwall, IV15 9XB

Written representations received by SEPA within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining whether or not to grant the application.

Before determining the application, SEPA will:

- assess the risk to the water environment posed by the carrying on of the activity or activities;
- assess the indirect effects of that impact on any other aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected;
- consider any likely adverse social and economic effects of that impact and of any indirect environmental effects that have been identified;
- consider the likely environmental, social and economic benefits of the activity;
- assess the impact of the controlled activity or activities on the interests of other users of the water environment;
- assess what steps may be taken to ensure efficient and sustainable water use; and
- apply and have regard to relevant legislation.

SEPA will then either grant or refuse to grant the application.

WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003 WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011 APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF AUTHORISATION PORT NA MINE (ETIVE 3) MCFE, LOCH ETIVE

An application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Dawnfresh Farming Ltd to vary water use licence number CAR/L/1010366 authorising the carrying on of a controlled activity at, near or in connection with Port na Mine (Etive 3) MCFE, Loch Etive, as follows:

Description of change to controlled activity	Waters affected	National grid reference
Change in effluent dispersion and benthic footprint due to a change in the cage positions	Loch Etive	NN 0338 3318

SEPA considers that the above change(s) to a controlled activity may have an impact on the interests of other users of the water environment.

A copy of the application and any accompanying information may be inspected free of charge, at the SEPA Registry below, between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays). Alternatively, the application may be viewed on SEPA's website at: <http://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/consultations/advertised-applications-under-car/>

Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting reference number CAR/L/1010366:

Registry Department, SEPA, Dingwall office, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall Business Park, Dingwall, IV15 9XB

Written representations received by SEPA within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining whether or not to grant the application.

Before determining the application, SEPA will:

- assess the risk to the water environment posed by the carrying on of the activity or activities;
- assess the indirect effects of that impact on any other aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected;
- consider any likely adverse social and economic effects of that impact and of any indirect environmental effects that have been identified;
- consider the likely environmental, social and economic benefits of the activity;
- assess the impact of the controlled activity or activities on the interests of other users of the water environment;
- assess what steps may be taken to ensure efficient and sustainable water use; and
- apply and have regard to relevant legislation.

SEPA will then either grant or refuse to grant the application.

www.highland.gov.uk



TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9.30am - 4.30pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and 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
15/04157/PIP	Aultbea 201 Arivegaig, Acharacle	Erection of house
15/04266/FUL	Church Fassifern Road Fort William	Reposition cafe, installation of lift & staff facilities
15/04570/FUL	Westcourt Achintore Road, Fort William	Change of use to bed and breakfast
15/04611/FUL	Guest Accomodation Allt-Nan-Ros Hotel, Onich, Fort William	Alterations and erection of balcony and porch
15/04723/FUL	Land 40M South of Runival Mallaig	Erection of house
15/04743/FUL	Ardnarmurchan Strontian, Acharacle	Temporary change of use of forestry to film set & associated works
15/04767/FUL	Saddle Mountain Hostel Invergarry	Alterations and extension
15/04771/FUL	Kingshouse Hotel Glencoe Ballachulish	Alterations & Extension (including demolition of previous extensions), new service building, upgrade of access road & bridge, formation of car park, landscaping works & lochans, installation of new surface water drainage & underground services & up-grade of foul drainage

Time period for comments is 14 days. 15/04771/FUL is 21 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011

Realignment of pipeline & extension of temporary access track for the consented Nevis Range Hydro Scheme (amendment to 14/03043/FUL)

Application Reference: 15/03402/FUL

Applicant: Nevis Range Hydro Company Ltd

In accordance with the provisions of Regulation 26(1)(b) of the above Regulations, The Highland Council hereby gives notice that planning permission for Realignment of pipeline & extension of temporary access track for the consented Nevis Range Hydro Scheme (amendment to 14/03043/FUL) at Allt Choille-Rais Burn 1900M East Of Top Gondola Station, Nevis Range Torlundy Fort William by Nevis Range Hydro Company Ltd as described above, has been granted by the Council.

A copy of the planning permission is available through the Council's web based eplanning portal online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/> (search using the application number 15/03402/FUL) or during normal office hours at The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX.

S.Black
Director of Development and Infrastructure

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



COMMUNITY SERVICES: EARLY YEARS IS YOUR CHILD ELIGIBLE FOR FREE EARLY LEARNING & CHILDCARE PROVISION?

Early Learning and Childcare from August 2016 will be available for:-
• Four year old children whose birth date falls between 1st March 2012 and 28th February 2013
• Three year old children whose birth date falls between 1st March 2013 and 28th February 2014
A list of current preschool education providers, including those offering Gaelic Medium, is available from:
• All Early Learning & Childcare Providers
• All Primary Schools
• <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/early-years>
• Early Years Helpline noted below
Information leaflets will be available from Early Learning & Childcare Providers at the time of registration and parents can obtain further guidance from the Early Years Helpline, Argyll and Bute Council, Argyll House, Alexandra Parade, Dunoon PA23 8AJ (Telephone 01369 708503).
Parents of eligible children should register at their preferred provider, taking along their child's birth certificate or passport, during week commencing 1st February 2016 during the normal operational hours of the unit.

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

CHIMNEY SERVICES

ARGYLL & ISLES CHIMNEY SERVICES
07834 640989
 www.argyllchimneyservices.co.uk

When Was The Last Time You Had Your Chimney Cleaned?

- AWARD WINNING POWER SWEEPING SYSTEM
- OPEN FIRES • WOOD BURNING STOVES
- OIL & GAS FLUES
- AGA & RAYBURN
- CCTV CHIMNEY INSPECTION

FULLY QUALIFIED & INSURED

Covering Oban, Lochgilphead, Inveraray, Tarbert and Kintyre, sweeping through Argyll

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

CRUACHAN
 HOME IMPROVEMENTS info@cruachanhome.co.uk
 Exceeding expectations www.cruachanhome.co.uk

JANUARY SALE

- ROOFLINE
- SEAMLESS FLAT ROOFS
- TILED CONSERVATORY ROOFS
- DRIVEWAYS • WINDOWS & DOORS
- GARAGE DOORS • CONSERVATORIES

t. 0800 0467323 m. 07789 488805

PAINTING & DECORATING

John T Telfer Ltd
 Painting
 Decorating
 Ames Taping

TEL: 07444 912780
 EMAIL: info@johnntelfer.co.uk

MOBILITY

Tower Mobility

we supply a wide range of mobility products from walking sticks to scooters

Mathesons, Tweedmill, Soroba Road, Oban.
 Tel: 01631 565195 www.towermobility.co.uk

LOCAL SERVICES

COUNSELLING

RELATIONSHIPS SCOTLAND

Couple Counselling Argyll
 Do you have a relationship problem?
WE CAN HELP

Appointments are available in
OBAN, LOCHGILPHEAD, CAMPBELTOWN & HELENSBURGH
 Call 0300 111 0031
 www.argyllcouplecounselling.org
 SC023995

FIREWOOD

FIREWOOD FOR SALE

Seasoned Hardwood Logs In Bulk Bags
 Free Delivery In Lorne Area
 £70.00 per bag

Telephone 07920 116297

REMOVALS & STORAGE

MACQUEEN BROS LTD

Removals/Storage & Self Storage
 Full range of packing materials
 We store boats, caravans, trailers etc
 Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HG
 Tel: (01631) 564848
 www.macqueenbros.com

STOVES

OBAN STOVE CENTRE
 Experienced and Established Suppliers
 of Heizomat Biomass Boilers

TRADE SUPPLIES AVAILABLE

Scotland's Premier Stove, Spares & Flue Suppliers

Oban Stove Centre, Old Crofters Yard,
 Soroba Road, Oban, PA34 4HU Tel: 01631 564790

Oban Times TRADE CLASSIFIED

Oban Times TRADE CLASSIFIED

Oban Times TRADE CLASSIFIED

Oban Times TRADE CLASSIFIED

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Gordon & Strathern Ltd
 HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Roofline Conservatories/Porches
 Fascias, Soffits & Gutters

GRP/Flat Roofs Replacement Sealed Units
 Garage Doors Doors & Windows
 Carports and Door canopies

TEL 01631 720074 or 07776402550
 sales@homeimprovementsargyll.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

STATIONARY

Wedding stationery
 Invitations, order of service, menus, place cards, thank you cards

Event stationery
 Invitations, raffle tickets, thank you cards

krisp print

Contact us at: Krisp Print & Stationery,
 Main Street/Longrow South,
 Campbeltown PA28 6JD
 Tel: 01586 554975 Email: staff@krispprint.co.uk
 www.krispprint.co.uk

WEST COAST CLASSIFIEDS
 www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk

BUY LOCAL **SELL LOCAL** **TRADE LOCAL** **SWAP LOCAL** £

FREE LISTINGS FOR ITEMS UNDER £100

Advertise your unwanted items in The Oban Times, Campbeltown Courier or Argyllshire Advertiser and your ad will also appear online at www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk. Simply use the coupon on this page or visit the website and input your details there.

BICYCLES

LADIES BIKE needs some TLC + 1 tyre repair, £15 Telephone 01838 200406.

COFFEE MAKER Dolce Gusto Coffee Maker, hardly used, excellent condition, £30 Telephone 01838 200406.

BUILDING / DIY

DEWALT 18V CORDLESS DRILL and saw. Used, good condition, £75 Telephone 07979 227698.

COOKER white New World electric cooker with four hot plates, in as new condition, £99 Telephone 07825 475143.

MILWAUKEE CORDLESS DRILL new, never used, £85 Telephone 07979 227698.

COOKS PROFESSIONAL NUTRIBLEND 10 piece set. New, unwanted purchase, £35 Telephone 01631 720768.

MULTIPURPOSE ALUMINIUM folding ladder with platform. Easy to store, easy to transport, used once. Tarbert, £40 Telephone 01880 820860.

FRIDGE BEKO TLS 480 tall fridge, 248 litres. H 144, W 55, D 56. Could deliver locally, £45 Telephone 07966 435245.

NEW ONE SUPER Pro Articulated Ladder, £50 Telephone 07546 418104?.

SMALL MODEL Free standing chest freezer. White (John Lewis) Tarbert, £40 Telephone 01880 820860.

PINE DOORS 4 panel Doors 1@762x1981, 1@686x1981, 1@610x1981, 2@762x1981 8 pane glazed doors g.c unpainted, may sell separately, £60 ono Telephone 01631 563096.

UNDER COUNTER FREEZER, FREE Telephone 07917 331880.

POWER TILE CUTTER Plasplugs Master Tiler, power cutter, Diamond wheel. Well used but still in good condition, £50 Telephone 01838 200406.

ENGLISH SPRINGER SPANIEL PUPS liver & white, both parents from working strains and can be seen, mum KC Reg, three bitches left, ready January 30th onwards, £350 Telephone 01700 811364 or 07584 664050.

CARS AND CAR PARTS UNDER £250

WINTER TYRES 4 Good Year, Size LT215/75R/15, Hardly used, £30 each Telephone 01838 200332 or 07099 993312.

FURNITURE

2 SINGLE BEDS nearly new, £40 each Telephone 07795 308741.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

ARGOS SILVER FRIDGE FREEZER 14 a neat appliance suitable for small kitchen. not big enough for a family, each compartment has three shelves, 18 months old, £60 Telephone 01852 316053.

BLACK LEATHER 2 seater sofa, good condition. 20inch flat screen TV, as new, will suit bedroom or kitchen, wall mountable, buyer collects, £70 for both Telephone 07935 961661.

BEKO DISHWASHER 12 place, free standing Beko dishwasher, £99 Telephone 07748 794984?.

BOOKCASE small white wooden bookcase, 36" high, 22.5" wide, 5.5" deep. Please call mid morning or early evening, £15 Telephone 01586 554097.

BOSCH FRIDGE almost new in excellent condition, white, £50 Telephone 01546 606612 or 07958 005852 Ardrishaig.

COFFEE TABLE large wooden coffee table, cream fleck formica top. Legs come off for transport, £20 Telephone 01838 200406.

BUILT IN ELECTRIC DOUBLE OVEN Stoves New Home, 900mm, very clean, good condition, £60 Telephone 01866 822051.

ITALIAN LEATHER SOFA and two armchairs, with wooden feet, brown, £99.99 Telephone 01546 810197.

BUSH CHEST FREEZER almost new, excellent condition, white, £50 Telephone 01546 606612 or 07958 005852 Ardrishaig.

SOLID PINE CIRCULAR TABLE extendible + 6 chairs, £99.99 Telephone 07917 331880.

GARDEN

FRUIT CAGE self assembly, various layouts possible, metal poles includes netting and instructions, £10 Telephone 01838 200406.

MAIL ORDER

SCOTTISH FIELD CALENDARS, featuring spectacular photography of some of our most scenic lochs, rivers, beaches and mountains. Places include: Stirling, Fort William, Glencoe, Aberdeen, Isle of Skye, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Loch Lomond, Kelso, Aviemore, Forfar, Rum and Eigg, Shelland, Grentool and Dryburgh. Always a popular gift for family and friends at home or abroad. Order on-line at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

PET ACCESSORIES

RAT CAGE large pet cage, comes with exercise ball for rats and other small rodents and a book on rat care, £25 Telephone 01631 720498.

GARDEN CULTIVATOR/ROTAVATOR hardly used, electric, works well, £25 Telephone 01838 200406.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Places include: Inveraray, Appin, Oban, Seil, Isle of Mull, Campbeltown, Tarbert, Machrihanish, Fort William. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

PRINTING AND STATIONERY

LAMINATING Keep your important documents safe from dust, dirt, tears and creases. A4-E2, A3-E3. Contact Krisp Print. Telephone 01586 554975.

MANUAL LOG SPLITTER smart log splitter, only used once, £80 new, will accept £10 Telephone 01838 200406.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Places include: Inveraray, Appin, Oban, Seil, Isle of Mull, Campbeltown, Tarbert, Machrihanish, Fort William. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

PARTY INVITES Customised to suit any style or occasion, come supplied with envelopes. 50 invites and envelopes for £28.00. From Krisp Print. Telephone 01586 554975.

PRESSURE SPRAYER Kingfisher Sprayer, 16ltr, spares included, £10 Telephone 01838 200406.

TOYS AND GAMES

LARGE FOOTBALL TABLE approx 5' x 3' by Harvard, hardly used, in very good condition. With all players, 4 footballs and 2 drink holders. Suitable for house, pub or club. Can deliver, £80 Telephone 01631 564578?.

TRAILERS

SMALL CAR TRAILER, £60 Telephone 07770 623486?.

HOBBIES AND CRAFTS

PEARLISED PAPER & CARD White, Blue and Pink colours in stock available in A3/A4/A5 sizes, from 13p per sheet. Contact Krisp Print. Telephone 01586 554975.

MISCELLANEOUS

DOCUMENT CASE real leather brown document case with handle. In new condition. Excellent quality, £15.00 Telephone 01631 720768.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

ORLA XM900 Expander. Home use only, £375 ono Telephone 01546 603537?.

HOME ENTERTAINMENT

BUSH CD COMPACT MICRO SYSTEM Bush CD Player, hardly used, very good condition, £30 Telephone 01631 562885.

TELEVISION 50"LG, excellent condition, £90ono Telephone 01967 421227 or 07765 383704.

Oban Times PRIVATE CLASSIFIED

Oban Times PRIVATE CLASSIFIED

HOME FURNISHINGS

FREE TO A GOOD HOME Dragon plant. Dracaena marginata 7 ft tall in pot. Indoors. Collect from Oban. Telephone 01631 562944.

KITCHEN AND BATHROOM

NEW STAINLESS STEEL SINK single bowl kitchen sink - Lamona by Howdens Joinery Co. 480mm x 925mm. Still in original sealed wrapping. £10 for quick sale. Telephone 01546 602087.

Oban Times PRIVATE CLASSIFIED

Oban Times PRIVATE CLASSIFIED

LEISURE AND LIFESTYLE

FOOT SPA Babylis Hydro Jet Foot Spa. Brand new, still in box, £20 Telephone 01838 200406.

PICNIC HAMPER cane picnic/boating hamper filled with assorted items of crockery (plastic) and glassware, £10 Telephone 01631 7207680.

In need of a New Year clear out?

UNDER £100 NOW FREE

Sell your unwanted items under £100 for FREE in our west coast classifieds

It couldn't be easier!

Call 01631 568000 or visit www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk to place your ad.

BUY LOCAL **SELL LOCAL** **TRADE LOCAL** **SWAP LOCAL**

DID YOU KNOW?

Your business has the potential to reach more than 35,000 people every week* with an advert in the local paper.

The Oban Times
 & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
 01631 568000

*Source: JCREG data 01/04/2014

ENGAGEMENTS

YOUNG - CALDERWOOD - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement, which took place in Rome on January 12, 2016, of Chris, son of Paul and Sharon, Lower Kingswood, Surrey and Colleen, daughter of John and Patricia, Oban. Congratulations to you both.

DEATHS

CHRYSTAL - On January 12, 2016, peacefully, at Mid Argyll Hospital, Lochgilphead, surrounded by his family, Alasdair, aged 70 years, a dearly loved husband, father, brother, grandfather and uncle, sadly missed by all. Funeral service at Inveraray Parish Church, on Thursday January 21, at 12 noon, interment thereafter at Glen Shira Cemetery, to which all family and friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for Glenaray Ward, Mid Argyll Hospital and Inveraray Pipe Band.

FINDLAY - Suddenly at home, Ceol-Na-Linne, Connel, on January 1, 2016, Jimmy beloved husband of Peggy. Sorely missed.

GOODALL - David (Kinlochlevin) passed on peacefully on January 9, 2016 at Belford Hospital, Fort William. You'll be forever loved and missed by Steve, Freya, Callum and families. "Forever walk the hills Davey white sox".

KIRKPATRICK - Peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on Saturday January 16, 2016, David, beloved husband of the late Margaret MacColl, a dear brother and uncle. Missed by all who knew him.

MACDONALD - Peacefully on Thursday January 14, 2016 at Cowal Hospice, Dunoon, surrounded by family, James beloved husband of Christina, loving dad to Neil, Euan, Christina, James and Alasdair and a much loved grandpa and great-grandpa. The funeral service will take place at Our Lady and St Mun's Church, Dunoon on Thursday January 21 at 11.00a.m., followed by interment at Cowal Cemetery, to which all are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please but donations, if desired, to "Yorkhill Children's Charity".

MACFADYEN - Peacefully at RAH, Paisley on Tuesday January 12, 2016, age 91 years, Marion of Burnside (formerly Braglenmore). Beloved wife of Angus and much loved mother to Mary and Angie and mother-in-law to Eddie and Rosemary and devoted granny and great-granny and much loved sister and aunt. Funeral service to be held on Tuesday January 26 in Oban Parish Church at 1pm. Family flowers only. Sadly missed by all.

PEARSON - Peacefully, surrounded by his family, at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on January 13, 2016, David, aged 76 years, loving husband to Helen (Craigie), adored dad to Catherine, Helen, Nicola and Kirsty and devoted papa to seven grandchildren, friend to many. Sorely missed.

PILKINGTON - Peacefully, at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on January 12, 2016, Marjorie, aged 93 years, dearly loved mum to Jackie, much loved nana to Dougie, Alison, Jamie, Kerrie and Ruairidh and a much loved big nana to Aidan, Erin and Logan. Funeral service at Cardross Crematorium, on January 25, 2016 at 12.15 pm. Family flowers only, retiring collection/donations to Oban and Lorn Dementia Support Group. Dearly missed.

ROSS - Peacefully, at the Glenaray Ward, Mid Argyll Hospital, Lochgilphead, on January 13, 2016, with his family by his side, Leonard Ross, in his 87th year, of Vaia, Kilduskland Road, Ardrishaig and formerly of Stonefield, Tarbert and Scalloway, Shetland, loving husband of Jean McAllister and much loved father of Kenneth and James. Also a dearly loved father-in-law and brother-in-law. A private service was held at Cardross Crematorium, on Tuesday, January 19, 2016.

SINCLAIR - Peacefully surrounded by her loving family on January 13, 2016, Nancy Sinclair (née McAllister), aged 90 years, beloved wife of the late Donald Sinclair and much loved mother of Margaret, Donald John, and Anne Lillias and loving gran of Graeme, Ross, Fraser, Calum and Helen. Funeral service to be held on Thursday January 21 at St John's Church, Port Ellen, Islay at 11am and thereafter to Kilnaughton Cemetery.

SMITH - Bruce Smith (67), peacefully passed away on Tuesday January 12, 2016 at home surrounded by his family. He is survived by his wife Heather, children Nicola, Cameron and Struan also his grandchildren Annika, Jack and Jessie. Bruce was a good husband, father and a great friend to many. There will be a private funeral service for Bruce and a memorial gathering will be advised at a later date.

WILSON - Heather, (née Lockhart), formerly of Longdale Crescent, Oban, widow of Robert James Wilson, passed away suddenly, on January 11, 2016, in her 76th year, beloved mother, grandmother and sister. Heather will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral to be held on Thursday January 28, 2016, at Oban Parish Church, Glenclrudden Road, Oban at 1.00 p.m. Thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only, donations if desired to the British Heart Foundation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CAMERON - Christine, Jennifer and family of the late Angus Cameron (Angie), wish to thank most sincerely all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy they received in their recent very sad loss. Special thanks to Rev Adrian Varwell for his comforting service. We are truly grateful to Dr J Tangney and his team for their wonderful care of Angus and also the Community Nurses. Thank you to the Alexandra Hotel for providing the refreshments. We wish to express our thanks to John McLellan Funeral Directors, especially to Scott Greenlees who guided us through a difficult time with such care and dignity. Finally thank you to all who paid their last respects at the Church and graveside and generously donated £600 which will be divided between CAU - Belford Hospital and Glen Mor Surgery.

DOUGAL - The family of the late Morag Douglas would like to express their thanks to relatives, friends and neighbours for their kindnesses, support, cards, flowers and condolences. A big thanks to Rev. Robert Brookes for his comforting services at the church and graveside. Also a big thanks to Hamish Hoey and Son for their caring and professional arrangements. Thanks to the Taynuilt Hotel for the catering and sincere thanks to everyone for attending the service to show their last respects to Morag and for the generous collection for Cancer Research.

EDMOND - Fay. Peter, Sandy and our families would like to thank all relatives and friends for their support, kindness and thoughts following the loss of our mum Fay. A special thanks to the Rev Richard Corbett for the comforting services at both St Ciaran's, Achnacarry and at Dalnotter Crematorium. The retiring offerings of £407 will be given to the R.N.L.I., a charity very close to Fay's heart.

FERGUSON - Dadie, Charles, Lorna and family of the late Charles John Ferguson would like to thank everyone most sincerely for all the kind expressions of sympathy, visits, telephone calls, flowers and home baking received during this very difficult time. Thanks also to Rev Dr Roddy MacLeod and Rev Cliff Acklam for a comforting service. Francis Madden, Organist for his beautiful music and Angus MacColl for his wonderful piping. Thanks to Dr Phillips and staff at the Mid Argyll Hospital for care given and to Billy and Neil, Scottish Ambulance Service. Sincere thanks to Roddy and Fiona, Donald MacDonald Undertakers for caring and efficient funeral arrangements, to Morna, Florist and to the Stag Hotel for lovely lunch. We would like to thank everyone for their attendance at church and graveside, with a special mention to members of Oban Pipe Band. Finally, a very special thank you to Alasdair, Mary, Colin, Karen and Bobby for being there for us all. Retiral collection has so far raised £1,115 for British Heart Foundation and Lochgilphead and District Macmillan Cancer Support Group. Heartfelt thanks to you all.

FINDLAY - Peggy sincerely thanks friends and neighbours for kind expressions of sympathy and support in her sad loss of Jimmy. To Ian of D and A Munn for guidance and understanding. Oyster Inn, Ambulance Service, Police and Connel Surgery.

HILL - The family of Jimmy would like to thank everyone for the cards, phone calls and kind expressions of sympathy. Also Rev. Dugald Cameron for the heartfelt service, Hamish Hoey and staff for the efficient funeral arrangements, the Rockport Hotel for the wonderful catering. Finally special thanks to the staff at Ward I, Lorn and Islands Hospital and the girls from Careplus for the kind care and attention given to Jimmy.

MACKINNON - The MacKinnon family would like to thank all relatives and friends for their kind words, thoughts and support on the sad passing of our mother Flora on December 21, 2015. A special thanks to the Rev. Charles MacKinnon for his heartfelt and comforting services in Glasgow and Tiree. Also thanks to Mrs Joyce MacInnes, organist. The retiring collection of £657 will go to Alzheimer's Scotland.

MACKINNON - The family of the late Archibald MacKinnon of Seafield, Cornaigmore, Isle of Tiree, would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for cards, telephone calls, visits and support received following the sudden death of Archie. Grateful thanks to Reverend Alan Millar for conducting the funeral service and his ongoing kindness and understanding. Thanks also to Lachie MacKinnon for his Gaelic Prayer, Norman MacKinnon for his beautiful Gaelic song and Joyce MacInnes and Iain Smith for the lovely music. Our appreciation to the Co-Operative Funeral Service, especially to John Donald MacLean, to those who prepared the grave and to Scarinish Hotel for providing sustenance. Special gratitude to the Tiree Medical Team, whose attention and compassion towards Archie was second to none. Finally, many thanks to all those from the Mainland and Island who attended the Church and Graveside to pay their respects. Your presence was greatly appreciated. The retiral collection in aid of the Tiree Surgery Fund and Cancer Research UK realised £700.

MACRAE - The family of the late Carol MacRae, who died on January 1, 2016, would like to thank everyone who came to the funeral. Thanks also to Duncan MacDonald for a lovely ceremony. Billy McLymont for excellent funeral services, Linda Cameron for fantastic food and The Flower Basket for beautiful flowers. Special thanks to Mr Andrew Holman and family, Greg and Diane, Erica and Chris, who made Carol's final wishes possible.

MORRISON - Ishbel, Ellen and John would like to thank everyone who attended the funeral of John, a dear husband, father and grandfather. Additionally, we would like to thank most sincerely the family, friends and neighbours for the many cards and visits that they received following the sad passing of John. Special thanks to Dr John Wallace, the District Nursing Team and Macmillan Nurses for the dedicated care they provided. Grateful thanks to the Rev 'Kiki' MacRae for his kindness and touching service. Thanks to Mike McFall Undertakers for their caring and efficient funeral arrangements and to Ian and the staff of the Corpach Hotel for providing refreshments. The generously donated retiring collection of £710 goes to Craig Nevis Surgery and Macmillan Nurses (Lochaber).

MEMORIALS

BRODIE - In loving memory of my dear sister Cathie, who died January 19, 2012. Always remembered. - Amy.

CAMPBELL - Remembering today our mother and grandmother Marion, who died January 17, 1997. Time passes memories stay Loved and remembered every day. - Lorne and Kathy, Eriskay and Alasdair, Christine and family, Blairgowrie.

CRAWFORD - In memory of Jessie, died January 20, 1995, a dear mother and gran. Sadly missed. - The family.

GALBRAITH - In loving memory of George of Drumfingal, Dervaig, Mull, who died January 20, 1995. - Brenda and family.

KIRSOP - Treasured memories of John who passed away January 25, 2007. A much loved and missed husband, father, father-in-law, grandfather and great-grandfather. Remembered with much love and admiration by all of the family. - Mary and family.

MACBETH - Lizzie. Unforgettable mother, granny and great granny, died January 24, 2010. The roses will bloom again. - Mima and family, Fort William, Arbroath and Darlington.

MACDONALD - Precious memories of David Hepburn (Davie), who passed away on January 26, 2001. Miss you and love you always - Margaret, Elspeth, David, Roslyn and Ewan.

Gentle Jesus up above Please give Grandpa all our love - Kyle, Emma and Ally.

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

OBAN MEMORIALS
A & D MacLean
Master Sculptors
Glenalma, Soroba Road, Oban
Design and prices on request
LETTERING AND RENOVATING
DONE IN MOST CEMETERIES
TEL: 01631563123 / 07765815982

MACDOUGALL - Precious memories of my darling son and brother David, tragically died in a road accident on January 24, 1996, aged 31 years. Behind a smile There's many a tear For one we lost And loved so dear To a beautiful life Came a sudden end He died as he lived Everyone's friend. - Inserted by Mum, Ann and Charlie. We love you uncle David and always will. - Darren, Liam, Siobhan and Aidan.

MACGILL - In loving memory of Nancy, who passed away January 18, 2015, beloved wife of the late Donald, treasured memories of our loving, caring mum of Anne and Neil and dearly loved granny of Sophie and Donald. Sorely missed and always in our thoughts.

POTTER - 15th Anniversary of our youngest daughter and sister Jennifer Jane, tragically killed on January 20, 2001 aged 17. Loved and missed. - Mum and family at home and away xxx

MACKINNON - Donald, 10th Anniversary - In loving memory of our dad Donald (wee Dan) who passed away on January 19, 2006. Also remembering our mum Jean who passed away on July 19, 2009. The hands of time keep turning And years may slip away But memories are the keepsake No one can take away. Always remembered and loved forever

- The MacKinnon family x
MACLEAN - Isa. To the World's best mum. My world has changed forever with every day and in every way I miss you more than words can say! - Love Ann x

MACLEAN - Treasured memories of a much loved mum Isa, who passed away January 22, 2015. As we said goodbye the tears began to flow and just how much we miss you no-one will ever know. Also remembering our special dad Charlie, who passed away June 28, 2008. Love and miss you both always - Gordon and Hazel xxx

MACLEAN - In loving memory of a special granny who passed away January 22, 2015. If tears could build a stairway and memories a lane I'd walk right up to Heaven and bring you home again. Also remembering my special papa who passed away June 28, 2008. - All my love your special girl Diane xx

PEARSON - Treasured memories of our precious son Jamie, tragically taken from us on January 24, 1996, aged 27. We miss you more than anyone knows As time goes by the emptiness grows The tears we shed are wiped away But the ache in our hearts is there to stay. - Loved always Mum and Dad xx

In memory of Jamie, a loving brother, brother-in-law and uncle Remembered and missed every day. - Audrey and Gregor xx

Love and miss you loads - Gemma xx and Ashleigh xx

Thought for the week

John 11:35 Jesus wept
THE WORD wept is different from that which is used to express weeping Martha and friends at the death of her brother Lazarus. This word means not the cry of lamentation nor the wail of excessive grief, but the calm shedding of tears.

They are on the way to the sepulchre, near to which they have now arrived. He is conscious of the power which He is about to exercise, the raising of Lazarus from the dead but He is conscious also of the suffering hearts near Him, and the sympathy with

human sorrow is no less part of His nature. People have wondered to find in the Gospel which opens with the express declaration of the divinity of our Lord, and at a moment when that divinity was about to receive its fullest manifestation, these words, which point them still to human weakness.

But the central thought of St. John's Gospel is 'The Word was made flesh', and He is for us the Resurrection and the Life, because He has been manifested to us, not as an abstraction which the intellect only could receive, but as a

person, living a human life, and knowing its sorrows, whom the heart can grasp and love. A God in tears has provoked the smile of the stoic and the scorn of the unbeliever; but Christianity is not a gospel of self-sufficiency, and its message is not merely to the human intellect.

It is salvation for the whole man and for every man; and the sorrowing heart of humanity has never seen more clearly the divinity of the Son of Man than when it has seen His glory shining through His human tears.

Bill Harvey

LIFE lines

Big Money, Big Job

OPPOSITION Members of the Scottish Parliament are unhappy about the salary level of some of the Scottish Government agencies' most senior staff. They find annual remuneration packages in excess of £100,000 'unacceptable', and there will be many members of the public who agree. By the standards of some football clubs, for example, £2,000 a week is well below average pay, so why the fuss?

People are generally paid according to what they return for their employer, so the superstars will always command high remunerative packages because they generate profit. Public servants are paid for by the taxpayer so performance in the public sector might not be measured in profit, but senior staff will have specific targets to meet and carry responsibilities for personnel in the thousands and budgets in the millions. Public working conditions have to be able to compete with those in the private sector to attract leaders with the right qualifications, experience and expertise. Otherwise public services will always be led by B-Listers at best. Do any of us really want that?

It wasn't so long ago that the public was outraged at the high salaries and even higher bonuses paid to senior figures in the banking and financial services sectors. When it emerged that some of these characters had taken too many risks with other people's money, their careers were over and their reputations ruined.

Of course, it would be easier to live in disgrace and without any job prospects with several million pounds in the bank.

Johnston Adams

Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

WEDDING



NAPIER - MACKAY
At Crieff Hydro on September 11, 2015, Keith Alexander, eldest son of Ian and Sheila, Lanark to Shona Mhairi, eldest daughter of John and Joanie, Tobermory.

JOHN McLELLAN
FUNERAL DIRECTORS
Built on Tradition, Experience & Trust
- Since 1923 -
01397 702128
24 Hour Caring, Personal Service
Golden Charter Funeral Plans
www.johnmclellanfunerals.co.uk

OBAN HOSPICE
CARING FOR THE FUTURE
Donations always gratefully accepted
Please contact Jack Tollan Birch Hill Achnacreebeg North Connel, PA37 1RE

CANCER RESEARCH UK
Fighting Cancer on all fronts...
CRC Scotland spends more on research than any other organisation
Commitment of over £15 million each year
Cancer Research UK
Angel Building
407 St John Street
London EC1V 4AD

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
West of Scotland Fundraising Office
1st Floor, Erskine House
North Avenue, Clydebank
Business Park, Clydebank G81 2DR
Tel 0808 100 6000
In memory of Dawn Joyce

MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE
Oban & Lorn Fundraising Branch
Donations always gratefully accepted
Please contact Mrs Lillian Kermode Tynwald, Glenburn, Soroba Road, Oban 01631 571009

CHARITY DONATIONS

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS
YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wywex Media Limited. Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wywex Media Limited Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications. 1 Advertiser copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes. 2 The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement. 3 The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice. 4 An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertiser's order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person. 5 Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement. 6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose. 7 The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement. 8 Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular advertisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose. 9 The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order. 10 Advertisers under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance. 11 Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice. 12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions. Published by Wywex Media Limited, P.O. Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB. Tel: (01631) 548000 Fax (01631) 548001 www.obantimes.co.uk and registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. http://termsandconditions.wywexmedia.co.uk

The Oban Times
& West Highland Times
THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL
The Oban Times is the best-selling weekly newspaper in the Highlands and is distributed via 1742 newsagents every week
Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB
Tel: 01631 568000
Fax: 01631 568001
www.obantimes.co.uk

Editorial
Chief reporter Louise Glen lglen@obantimes.co.uk
Senior Reporter Steven Rae srae@obantimes.co.uk
Trainee Reporter David McPhee dmpchee@obantimes.co.uk
Newsdesk
Oban 01631 568060
Fort William 01397 703003
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising
Advertising supervisor Nadine Ross nross@obantimes.co.uk
Advertising executive Rhona McKillop adverts@obantimes.co.uk
Advertising executive Stephanie Dunstaffnage sdunstaffnage@obantimes.co.uk

Branch Offices
Fort William
Tel 01397 703003
Lochgilphead
Tel 01546 602345
Campbeltown
Tel 01586 554646

find us on facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

Martial Arts

FOR the start of the New Year it is appropriate to recap on the various club details for those who would like to join and help shed some of the festive excesses. There is no time like the present.



Shukokai Karate

THE OBAN classes take place in Oban High School from 6.30pm to 8pm on Thursday evenings with a mixture of traditional Shukokai karate and freestyle karate being taught. Beginners are welcome from the age of five with no upper age limit.

The instructors at the club are; Kenny Gray 4th dan, Flo McBurnie 4th dan, Andrew Lawson 2nd dan and Andrew Buchanan 2nd dan.

Contact details: Kenny Gray on 07884 183905 or kenni.gray@btinternet.com

Ladies Kickboxing

THE CLASSES cover self-defence and kickboxing and take place in the Oban Martial Arts Centre (above Stoddarts/Stove Centre).

Club instructor Sharon Dickison said: "We decided to start a ladies only class because it can be really intimidating walking into a mixed class for the first time."

"Most people think that they are going to get hurt but that is not the case, most of us have to go to

work the next day. The class started in April last year and we have had a broad spectrum of ladies from ages 14 to 52 years and from 8 stone in weight to 18 stone.

We have ladies with very little fitness to ladies with lots of fitness. One thing we all share is we have a great time. We work to everyone's own ability, and we work as a group to help each other.

As a result, six of the ladies that started at the class have now also joined Wullie Rodger's kickboxing classes on Wednesdays which is fantastic as the ladies have gained so much confidence that they have started grading. Come and try it. The first class is free and if you like it, each class after that is £5 per class.

Training is on Sunday afternoons from 2pm till 3.30pm.

Contact details: Sharon Dickison on 07508 726334 or go on Facebook and look for 'Senshi Do Kickboxing for women' for further information.

Kyokushinkai Karate

THE OBAN class takes place in

the Oban Martial Arts Centre (above Stoddarts/Stove Centre).

The instructor is Iain Rodger a 5th dan in Kyokushinkai Karate and the chief instructor for Scotland for the IKKU.

He teaches traditional Kyokushinkai Karate to a syllabus recognised throughout the world.

Beginners are welcome from age eight upwards, with no upper age limit, the kids' class is on Thursdays at 6 to 7pm and the adults from 7 to 8.30pm. The first class is free so trying it out won't cost anything extra.

Contact details: Iain Rodger on 07584 166542 or iain@ikku.co.uk

MMA/BJJ

APART from the Thursday class, which is in Atlantis Leisure, all the other classes are in the Oban Martial Arts Centre.

Monday: BJJ fundamentals wearing a gi at 7.30pm, Tuesday: MMA beginners at 7.30pm, Thursday (Atlantis Leisure) no gi at 7.30pm for rolling and Friday 6-6.45pm for kids BJJ & 7-8 for Open Mat.

Kids are welcome from the age

of five. Open Mat is for members to go over what they want or feel they need.

Contact details: Iain (Coogie) Potter on 07824 881271 or coogiepots@gmail.com

Kickboxing

SENSHI Do Kickboxing (SDKB); K1/Japanese style Kickboxing and real world self-defence. Senshi Do translates from the Japanese as the Warrior Way or Way of the Warrior, Senshi = Warrior, Do = Way.

The training is open to everyone who wants to get stronger, fitter and build confidence, the training is hard work but everyone starts at their own pace and progresses from there.

Wednesdays: juniors 6.30pm - 7.30pm, seniors 7.30pm - 9pm
Sundays: juniors 11am-12 noon, seniors 12 noon-1.30pm, Sharon's Women Only Session 2pm-3pm.

Head coach Wullie Rodger 6th Dan.

Assistant coaches, Craig MacLachlan 2nd Dan, Colin Campbell 2nd Dan, Andrzej Dariusz Pytko 2nd Dan, Rory Fleming 2nd Dan, Sharon Dickison 1st Dan and Doug Craig 1st Dan.

Contact details: Wullie Rodger on 07588 513618 or shihanwill@gmail.com



Top and above: Woman pictured at a kickboxing training session.



Senshi Do Kickboxing youngsters training at the Oban Martial Arts Centre.

Argyll rally teams compete at Knockhill

THE NEW rally season got underway at a very seasonal Knockhill Racing Circuit in Fife on Sunday January 10 with the opening round of the 2016 Scottish Tarmac Rally Championship, The Grant Construction Stages hosted by Borders Ecosse Car Club.

The weather at Knockhill is unpredictable at the best of times and it didn't disappoint with heavy snow and dense fog welcoming the crews out on to the stages. Knockhill provides a stern early test of machinery (especially windscreens wipers and heaters) with various layouts

using the perimeter roads on the hill and the famous circuit itself, more used to the attention of Touring Cars and Superbikes.

There were two all-Argyll crews in attendance with Donald Bowness and Ian Parker bringing the newly upgraded TDC Autocare Nova and Steven and Scott Paterson heading off Mull for the weekend in their Corsa Kit Car.

Both crews had a day to forget with Donald and Ian having a fairly hefty bump in the Nova on Stage 2 and, in the process, trying out their HANS devices and proving they are worth their weight in gold. Fifty mph to a standstill in barely more than the thickness of a gatepost. Both were a bit sore but otherwise unscathed and are looking forward to the next round already.

Steven and Scott made it a couple of stages further into the event but unfortunately also recorded a DNF on stage 4.

Mull's Amanda Morrison,

Rallying

partnered by Erle Strachan in his Mitsubishi Evo 6 managed to bring the car home in a creditable 24th overall and 10th in Class 5.

The early lead in the STRC Championship has been taken by Gary and Gordon Adam in their Ford Escort MkII with Alan Kirkaldy and Garry Muir putting in a magnificent performance to grab second place, also in a 2WD Escort, with the ever-entertaining Stuart Walker finishing off the podium in his Skoda Fabia S2000 guided around the stages by Julie McGuire.

The next round of the championship is at Ingleston with the DCC Stages taking place on April 2 with a full entry almost guaranteed. The Scottish Rally Championship kicks off in the forests surrounding Inverness in February with the Arnold Clark Jury's Inn Snowman Rally"



Donald Bowness and Ian Parker.



Steven and Scott Paterson.



Erle Strachan and Amanda Morrison.

Big three battle it out at the top in an exciting Oban Pool League

OBAN Pool League sponsors Gordon & Strathern Limited must have a big smile on their faces after another pulsating round of fixtures. It has now become apparent that the league table has effectively been split into three separate categories, race for the championship, race for the top five and lastly the race to avoid the dreaded wooden spoon.

With the slenderest of margins in each of the three inter-leagues it was suggested, tongue and cheek, that maybe the league committee try to re-negotiate their sponsorship deal.

Lochnell topped the official table by virtue of frame difference as they visited Markie Dans 'A' and their intimidating venue - notorious for being one of the most feared away matches on the pool calendar.

Markie Dans 'A' knew anything other than a win would certainly quash any lingering outside chance they had of lifting aloft the championship. Ultimately a lack of composure from the home side at crucial moments allowed a relieved Lochnell to vacate the premises with the two points, although they have been dislodged at the league summit.

Reigning holders the Lochavullin's Cellar hosted Lancaster 'B' hoping to pile more misery on their visitor's disappointing start to the campaign. The venue affectionately dubbed 'The Combi Street Colosseum' has witnessed some gladiatorial battles over the years, although this tie wasn't forecast to be one of those epic battles.

At times the roof threatened to cave in on the Lochavullin's Cel-

lar's quest to retain their crown, due to the tenacious effort from the visitors.

Although falling short of defying the odds, The Lancaster 'B' gave a good account for themselves but unfortunately the battle-hardened champions used every ounce of their table nous to creep over the finishing line in the defining doubles.

The Lancaster 'A' now lead the championship charge after producing a flawless performance against league newcomers The Wide Mouthed Frog. The historians and statisticians have been trawling through the archives to check if the feat of winning a match without conceding a frame has ever been achieved.

At this point all that can be verified is that, under the new format implemented this season, no-one had previously not conceded a frame throughout a fixture, giving The Lancaster 'A' bragging rights to the only impeccable display this season anyway.

The sceptics will claim a team half full of Scotland internationalists should be putting sides to the sword regularly but it was the manner of the victory that should strike fear into the hearts of their upcoming foes.

The match had been originally scheduled to take place at The Lancaster Hotel but was switched to allow The Wide Mouthed Frog to stay open with the bulk of their staff fulfilling their scorecard. It was the same staff who recently contributed to the establishment winning a prestigious award for best hotel within the area and the mid-break meatballs dished up certainly done nothing to tarnish their growing reputation. At least

Pool

temporarily they slowed down The Lancaster 'A' juggernaut, but the bigger challenge will be building a team capable of replicating their culinary delights.

As the top trio continue to disappear into the stratosphere, the battle for an elusive top five spot has just cranked up a notch. Markie Dan's 'A' sit fourth despite their defeat and would be many people's favourites to secure a coveted spot but hot on their heels are the Gluepot after a convincing victory over The Lochavullin.

The concluding tie saw the second whitewash of the week with Markie Dan's 'B' overpowering basement boys Outreach. Buoyed from the previous week's point against their senior counterparts, Markie Dan's 'B' looked like a different team to the one that started the season and were brimming with confidence from the opening leg.

Another fruitless result keeps The Outreach marooned at the bottom with only The Wide Mouthed Frog keeping them company as the two look set to battle it out for the wooden spoon.

Results: January 14 - Lochavullin's Cellar 8-4 Lancaster B; Wide Mouthed Frog 0-12 Lancaster A; Markie Dan's A 4-8 Lochnell; Outreach 0-12 Markie Dan's B; Gluepot 10-2 Lochavullin.

Fixtures: January 21 - Wide Mouthed Frog v Lochavullin's Cellar; Lancaster A v Lochnell; Lochavullin v Markie Dan's A; Lancaster B v Outreach; Markie Dan's B v Gluepot.

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE. . .



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

E Macdonald
McIntyre Terrace
Lochgilthead

K Devine
Longdale Terrace
Oban

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £1850

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB



Name

Address

.....

Tel No

Take a bow Connor Howe . . .

Oban Saints	4
Dumbarton United	1
DFDL Under 19 League	

WITH a sheet of snow blanketing Oban High School's all-weather pitch and snow falling from the sky, visibility wasn't at its best, but Oban Saints Under 19s had no difficulty in finding the back of the net.

The home side's emphatic first half performance was enough to secure all three points last Saturday, running out 4-1 winners over Dumbarton United.

Saints started the game well and early on Fraser Macfarlane gave the Dumbarton defence something to think about when his pass caught them by surprise.

Dumbarton recovered well, but they only managed to clear their lines as far as Matty Kelly, who sent a cross into the box that found Innes MacColl, who slotted the ball into the bottom left hand corner of the net from six yards.

The home side wasted no time in regaining possession from the restart and after some good

football in the middle of the park, which ended with a through ball to Douglas MacLeod.

MacLeod found himself one on one with Dumbarton goalkeeper, Craig Ronald, and the Saints midfielder skilfully chipped the ball over Ronald then followed it in with a header to make sure the ball crossed the line.

The Oban side continued to control the game and made it 3-0 when Innes MacColl secured his second goal of the day with a shot from the edge of the 18-yard box.

Connor Howe then got his name on the score sheet with an excellent goal. The Saints man expertly pulled the ball out of the air on the half way line, turning his marker in the process, and drove forward into the United penalty area before accurately placing the ball into the far right corner of the net leaving the goalkeeper with no chance.

This led to a voice in the Saints coaching team shouting: 'Take a bow Connor Howe.'

The first half ended with the home side well in control. However, they seemed to take their foot off the pedal and allowed the



TAKE A BOW: Connor Howe, No 7, slots the ball home past Dumbarton keeper Craig Ronald for Saints fourth goal of the game.

visitors back into the game in the second half. Jason Burrows had a great opportunity to start a comeback. Burrows was one-on-one with Oban's Mateusz Polewaczky and tried to chip the Saints goalkeeper, but Polewaczky pulled off a great save to deny the United striker.

Saints then regained some control and Macfarlane, who was eager to get on the score sheet, volleyed the ball from the edge of the box, but his shot drifted past the wrong side of the post.

The man who looked the most likely to score for Dumbarton, Burrows, had another chance.

He took the ball round the Saint's goalkeeper, but before he was able to slot the ball home, he was closed down by the Oban defence who recovered well.

Dumbarton did manage to get

a consolation goal after Ross McGroggan's header found its way into the back of the net but Saints fully deserved their 4-1 victory after a great first half performance.

Oban Saints	6
Dunoon	0
DFDL Under 13 League	

SAINTS Under 13s took on Dunoon last Sunday on the 3G pitch and the youngsters turned in a first class performance, running out comfortable 6-0 winners.

The home side's Neily Russell opened the scoring, before Lee Harris made it two after the pair, who are both from Lochgilphead, linked up well. Harris ran the ball in to the box before drilling it past a helpless goalkeeper.



SAVE: Saints Under 16 goalkeeper Cammy MacMillan, left, saves from his Under 15 namesake Cammy Kerr during their game last Sunday which the Under 16 team won 8-2. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

Oban Saints youths results and fixtures

LAST weekend's results: Under 13s 6, Dunoon 0. Scoring for Saints were Lee Harris (3) and Neily Russell (3). Under 14s v Milngavie postponed. Under 15s 2, Under 16s 8; Netting for the Under 15s were Cameron Kerr and Rory Dowd while Stewart MacAlister (3), Kenny MacDonald, Craig Easton, Daniel McCuish and Guiseppe Lopez were on target for the Under 16s. Under 19s 4, Dumbarton United 1. Saints marksmen were Connor Howe (2), Douglas MacLeod and Innes MacColl. This weekend's fixtures: Condorrat v Under 13s (Saturday); Dumbarton Riverside v Under 13s (Sunday); Dumbarton United v Under 14s; Under 15s v Cali Thistle; Port Glasgow v Under 16s; Under 19s v Mill United.

Football

The home side were then awarded a free kick on the edge of the box after Dunoon's goalkeeper ventured one step too many outside his box when kicking the ball out of his hands.

Russell scored his second and Saints' third of the day from the set piece, striking the ball over the wall and into the back of the net with a little help from the post.

Russell then played the ball through to Harris, who fired the ball accurately into the top

right hand corner to make the score 4-0. Harris wasted no time in completing his hat-trick. The ball fell to him on the edge of the box and the youngster volleyed it home to make the score 5-0.

Not to be outdone Russell then completed his hat-trick and the scoring for the day when he chested the ball down on the edge of the box before volleying it into the back of the net to make the final score 6-0.



HAT-TRICK: Oban Saints Under 13 hat-trick hero Lee Harris, right, takes on a Dunoon defender during last Sunday's match.

Royce roll into town

Football

FOLLOWING the recent convincing Scottish Amateur Cup fifth round win over last season's beaten finalists Craigshill Thistle, Saints should have returned to league business last weekend with a trip to East Kilbride.

They were due to face old adversaries East Kilbride Rolls Royce but unfortunately, like most amateur games in the country, it fell foul of the atrocious weather conditions and the game was called off due to an unplayable pitch.

However, the teams will meet again this Saturday, but this time in Oban. Saints will be hoping the weather relents to allow the game to go ahead at Glencruitten. If not, the match will transfer to Oban Community 3G pitch. The game will kick-off at 2pm with referee John Scott in charge.

Saints and the Rolly have crossed swords many times over the years in the Scottish Amateur Football League often with very little to choose between the two sides.

Saints last visit to East Kilbride was on cup duty back in October when a Donald Campbell hat-trick inspired Saints to a 5-1 win to knock the Rolly out of the West of Scotland Amateur Cup at the second round stage. Also on the score sheet in an emphatic win were Craig MacEwan and Willie Gemmill. Since then Saints remain unbeaten in seven competitive matches with only two dropped league points in a thrilling 4-4 draw at Goldenhill being the only blot on an otherwise perfect record.

Development days at Atlantis Volleyball

YOUNG volleyball enthusiasts in Oban will be able to take part in three development days at Atlantis Leisure in the coming months.

Girls and boys aged 12-15 will be able to attend the events, which focus on developing ball control, serve receive and attacking skills.

They will take place on Saturday February 6, Saturday March 5, and Saturday April 9, from 12pm until 3pm. Each session costs £3 and is payable on the day.

The Scottish Volleyball Association is running the courses in order to increase junior participation and influence the number of youngsters progressing in the sport.

Rugby falls foul of the weather

BT West Division One Helensburgh P-P Oban Lorne
OBAN Lorne were again left without a fixture on Saturday with the team's West Division 1 Fixture away to Helensburgh being called off due to a frozen pitch. Such was the severity of the weekend's cold weather, only five fixtures were played in the whole of Scotland.

The latest postponement means that Oban Lorne have only played two fixtures since the start of November, both away games to Kilmarnock and Lenzie. Glencruitten has not seen any rugby played at home since the October 31.

The Green Machine now face a huge fixture backlog from now until the end of the season with the team having played only seven out of 18 league matches.

Despite the recorded number of games called off the team is still maintaining high numbers at training with 20-30 players turning out every Tuesday and Thursday evening.

Next up in the league is a tough league game against promotion chasing Carrick RFC. Oban went down 51-5 to the same opposition in October and will be looking for a much improved

performance this time around. A win for Oban Lorne will see the team firmly cement their place in the top half of the league while closing the gap on the top four places. Hopefully the weather conditions will allow Oban to host their first home game in three months. Kick off is 2pm at Glencruitten.

BT West Division 4 Argyll and Bute P-P Cowal
ARGYLL and Bute's league game at home to Cowal was postponed on Saturday with both Glencruitten and North Connel pitches being frozen. This was extremely frustrating for Argyll who had managed to assemble a healthy squad of 22 players.

As with Oban Lorne, this was the latest in a string of postponements that Argyll have had to deal with this season. While the team is performing much better and gaining better numbers than last season it has been hard to gain any momentum with the number of postponed games.

This Saturday Argyll and Bute host Hyndland RFC. Argyll recorded their second win of the season at Hyndland in November and will be looking for another positive result this weekend.

Rugby

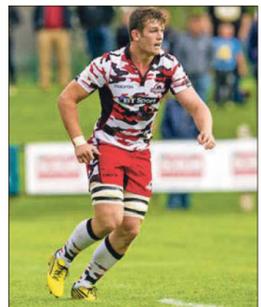
Kick off is 2pm at Glencruitten or North Connel.

BT Women's National League Division One
OBAN Lorne Women are back in action this Sunday as they take on league leaders Ayr at Glencruitten. Oban Women are currently on the lookout for new players. Anyone interested can attend training on Wednesday nights 6-7pm at the clubhouse.

Oban Lorne Mini Rugby
OBAN Lorne's Mini Rugby section has seen a huge rise in playing numbers over the winter. With Wednesday night training moved indoors in Atlantis Leisure in November, the club is now attracting around 30 youngsters every week.

Mini Rugby training is open for all P4-7 players while the club also caters for P1-3 too. The club will be attending an indoor festival at Atlantis on Sunday January 31 along with other Argyll clubs.

The Dalriada festival season starts again on Sunday March 6 with Mid Argyll hosting the first festival of 2016.



Magnus Bradbury

Magnus scores for Edinburgh in European Cup match

FORMER Oban Lorne player Magnus Bradbury was on the score sheet as Edinburgh Rugby defeated French side Agen 23-0 to secure a bonus point victory in the penultimate pool game of the European Challenge Cup.

The home side went into the interval with a slender 8-0 lead thanks to Magnus's try and a Greg Tonks penalty. However, the home side put the

Rugby

pressure on their opponents and ran in another three second half tries to make the match safe.

Edinburgh now face Grenoble on Saturday at the Stade des Alpes in the final game of Pool 5 with a place in the European Challenge Cup quarter finals up for grabs.

THE INTERSPORT SPORTS SHOP

4 MacGregor Court, Oban PA34 4DJ Tel: 01631 562050 thesportshop-oban@btinternet.com

GET FITTER! GET INTO SPORT!

SPEND OVER £30 AND GET 15% DISCOUNT

(EXCLUDES SALE ITEMS) OFFER ENDS SATURDAY 6th FEBRUARY

SPONSORS OF THE OBAN TIMES WEATHER AND TIDES

NORTH WEST MARINE
DIVING & MARINE SPECIALISTS

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, buoys all available to purchase in Oban

WEATHER

Thursday Light Cloudy with light rain
Winds moderate south easterly
Temperatures 5°C to 6°C.

Friday Heavy rain
Winds strong southerly
Temperatures 7°C to 9°C.

Weekend Outlook Light rain on Saturday
Light rain on Sunday
Winds strong south south Westerly
Temperatures 6°C to 9°C.



Stop Press: New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday January 21, 2016** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST)

Date	am			pm		
Thur	03.36	3.4	10.01	1.3	16.19	3.6
Fri	04.22	3.6	10.56	1.1	17.00	3.7
Sat	05.03	3.8	11.41	1.0	17.37	3.8
Sun	05.41	4.0	12.23	1.0	18.11	3.9
Mon	06.20	0.8	06.17	4.1	13.02	1.0
Tues	00.59	0.8	06.53	4.1	13.39	1.1
Wed	01.36	0.8	07.27	4.0	14.14	1.2

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

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

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

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

FORT WILLIAM & LOCHABER EDITION

Established 1861 No 8286

Thursday 21 January, 2016

www.obantimes.co.uk

80 pence

EXCLUSIVE

Don't miss our early bird ticket offer, with 10% off – see inside for your code



Rescue team pays tribute to one of its own

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

TRIBUTES to a 'kind-hearted gentleman' have been pouring in this week for a mountain rescue stalwart who died alongside his friend in Glen Coe shortly after lunch time on Saturday.

Experienced climber Joe Smith, 23, was involved in an accident on the 1,106-metre high Stob Coire nam Beith. He died alongside his climbing friend Simon Davidson, 34, who lived in Edinburgh. Both men were 'skilled climbers'.

Mr Smith was a member of Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team and had been on a life-saving call-out only one week before. He had been a member of the mountain rescue team for two years.

Mountain rescue leader Andy Nelson, who was the rescue co-ordinator on Saturday afternoon when the emergency call was made, said it began to dawn on the team quite early on that it might be one of their own when Mr Smith, the 'man who would do anything for anyone', did not come down the hillside to help as he would have normally done.

Mr Nelson said: 'We knew that Joe was climbing on the mountain because he had told some of the team he was planning to do that. So when he didn't come straight down and we didn't hear from him on his radio, which he had with him, I had a suspicion early on that it might be him.'

Mr Smith has been described as an enthusiastic and fun-loving man, who would go out of his way to help people.

Mr Nelson said: 'He was always smiling, always good fun. He could never do enough for you.'

Mr Smith first moved into the



Joe Smith, who was a member of Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team. He was an experienced climber and a qualified Mountain Leader.

Lochaber area around three years ago from Lancashire, and then to Kinlochleven, where he had recently bought a house.

He was a keen member of various groups. Mr Nelson described him as someone who had already made himself a 'valued part of the community'.

Commenting on his ability as an experienced climber and mountain trainer, Mr Nelson said: 'In a little moment something has gone wrong. We may never know why. It is a sad loss to our team. He was a strong man who would go beyond what was asked of him.'

Friend Oliver Millington, one of the team behind the Three Wise Monkeys climbing venue under construction at Fassifern Road, Fort William, said: 'In my years of climbing, I've not met anyone in the sport that has been so keen and grabbed the bull by the horns quite so forcefully as Joe.'

'This may be due to Joe's background working with cattle, but he brought north with him an awful lot of psyche.'

'That's probably why two years

ago, I spent my 24th birthday trudging up a seldom climbed hill on the Ardnamurchan peninsula, struggling to keep up with Joe who had smelled ice – needless to say there wasn't any, but he just had to check.'

'And again the next day for good measure, and again the day after that when we got the climbers gondola aiming to have a go at Morwind – no ice there either.'

'That year, Joe's climbing came on massively as he found numerous partners and got out climbing every day he could, in between the odd jobs he was getting as a newly qualified mountain leader and working on the Jacobite steam train.'

'His climbing ability quickly surpassed mine, and he furiously ticked off climbs all over Scotland, making pretty much everything look horribly easy, usually with toes sticking out the end of his climbing shoes.'

It is understood Mr Smith's parents arrived in the area from Lancaster on Tuesday, along with his German girlfriend.

No details have been released about funeral arrangements.



Primary one teacher Margaret Stewart, left, with pupil Brooke Falconer, presenting Mary MacColl with flowers on her last day at Caol primary.

Caol pupils say goodbye to school assistant, Mary

A CLASSROOM assistant who worked in a Lochaber school across three separate decades has retired.

Mary MacColl, 63, started work at Caol Primary School in January 1999, and finished at the turn of the new year after 17 years' service.

Mary, who lives in Corpach, grew up in Caol and attended Caol primary herself as a child. She said: 'My years at Caol Primary School were very, very happy. The children were lovely. I was very fond of all the children and the staff were the same, just excellent. Mr Hamilton, the head teacher, was very supportive too through the years.'

'All-in-all it was a very happy, positive experience in my life.'

Prior to working at the school, Mary was employed in the registry office in Fort William.

Head teacher Steven Hamilton paid tribute to Mary's work as an assistant to the primary one class in the school.

He said: 'She was a popular and friendly member of staff who will be missed by staff and pupils alike. She showed endless patience with the infants over her many years in Caol school and we would all like to wish her a long and happy retirement.'

To mark her retirement, Mary was presented with a bunch of flowers on her last day.

She now plans to spend more time with husband Alan, their three children and six grandchildren.

TIMESLINE

Internet problem at GP surgeries

PATIENTS who normally attend GP surgeries in Borve and Habost on Lewis are being asked to be aware of internet disruption to these surgeries.

As there is no access to electronic patient information or the electronic prescribing system from these surgeries, alternative measures have been put in place to allow the appointments and prescribing systems to continue as normal.

While patients may, in some cases, be offered appointments at an alternative surgery or asked to collect their prescription from a different location, NHS Western Isles is aiming to keep any disruption to a minimum and apologises for any inconvenience.

NHS Western Isles stressed that patients should continue to use the normal telephone numbers to contact the surgeries in the first instance.

CalMac check-in row resolved

FERRY passengers in Stornoway will have less time to wait before boarding after Western Isles MP Angus MacNeil had a decision made by CalMac overturned.

Mr MacNeil had accused CalMac of making 'outrageous demands on the travelling public' when it increased check-in times to a minimum of one hour on sailing between Stornoway on Lewis and Ullapool on the mainland. This was due to traffic congestion in Ullapool.

But after the MP stepped in, CalMac has reverted to the 45-minute check-in, but only on services leaving Stornoway.

Woman found

POLICE have confirmed that Tracey MacPherson, has been found safe and well outwith Lochaber.



Dave Thompson MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch (SNP)

will be holding the following joint surgeries:

Friday 22nd January
10.30am - 11.00am Badenoch Centre, Kingussie
11.30am - 12.00pm Aviemore Leisure Centre

Saturday 23rd January
11.00am - 11.45am Alexandra Hotel, Fort William
12.15pm - 12.45pm Caol Community Centre

Saturday 30th January
10.30am - 11.15am Aros Centre, Portree
12.30pm - 1.00pm Broadford Hotel, Broadford

Friday 5th February
11.00am - 12.00pm Thorfin House, Dingwall

To allow Constituents to discuss matters they wish to raise (No appointment necessary)

Constituency office:
Dave Thompson MSP, Thorfin House, Bridgend Business Park, Dingwall, IV15 9SL
Tel - 01349 864701
Email dave.thompson.msp@scottish.parliament.uk
www.davethompsonmsp.org
twitter www.twitter.com/@Davytmsp

The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Leader's budget chat on Facebook

ANGUS Campbell, leader of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, will have a live Facebook chat with constituents tomorrow (Friday) regarding the council's budget.

The talk follows a series of public meetings across the constituency to discuss the local authority's finances, with £8.5 million of savings needed in 2016/17. The last meeting was due to be held today (Thursday) in the council chambers in Stornoway.

A total of £6.3 million in savings have already been identified by the council, leaving £2.2 million to be found through service choices.

A number of service choices have been agreed by councillors and will now go to public consultation. These include the arrangements for residential care for children, a reduction in both street lighting and road maintenance budgets, and a review of concessionary fares on inter-island ferry services.

In addition, there is £1.3 million-worth pressure on the council's social care budget, which may be protected by the £250 million put aside for national health and social care partnerships by the Scottish Government.

Discussions between the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) and Holyrood are ongoing.

Councillor Campbell said: 'I hope our communities will take part in this budget consultation and give their views on what their priorities are. Councillors unanimously agreed at a seminar last week to not consider school closures and air services for consultation, and I am disappointed that these areas were put into the public domain before any formal discussion took place and which could have caused confusion amongst our com-

munities. Due to past financial management, we are in a more fortunate position than some other local authorities in setting our budget. However, having to find this level of savings on top of the savings made over the past few years is challenging to say the least.'

Residents have until January 29 to add to the consultation, which can be viewed at: www.cne-siar.gov.uk/fcr/budget-strategy.asp

Suggestions can be submitted to: budgetconsultation@cne-siar.gov.uk
Results will be discussed at February's full council meeting.

Free pre flight business class airport lounge access OR 50% off airport hotels with parking for all new bookings in Jan and Feb

FOR AMAZING ISLAY SELF CATERING HOLIDAYS sleeping 5/6 from £50 per night : www.islayholidays.com and also www.airbnb.co.uk/rooms/348756

CHECK OUT THIS AMAZING SELF CATERING APARTMENT IN CALABRIA, ITALY: www.airbnb.co.uk/rooms/367886

Eric Smith World Travel
Tel: 01631 566818 or 566819 10 Argyll Square, Oban PA34 4AZ

Find us on Facebook : ERIC Smith World Travel
Join our Facebook group: Eric Smith World Travellers
Follow us on Twitter : @eswt Web: www.worldchoicetravel.co.uk

NOW COVERING LOCHABER AREA
worldchoice

HEBRIDES HAULAGE LTD

Depots in Glasgow, Stornoway and Lochalsh
0141 954 6566

Regular services from Glasgow to Argyll, Highlands and Islands

PARCELS PALLETS GENERAL HAULAGE

Email: quotes@hebrideshaulage.co.uk

Feasibility cash in place for memorial toilets

PLANS to build new toilets next to a major Spean Bridge tourist attraction could start soon after funding for a feasibility study was approved by two organisations, writes Steven Rae.

Thousands of visitors come to see the bronze statue and garden of remembrance at the Commando Memorial, which lies about one mile outside of the village, each year.

Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council applied for the feasibility study back in December and announced at its meeting on January 5 that funding had been approved. Highland Council will pay 50 per cent of the costs, with Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) matching the funding. Due to legal reasons, the Community SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation) has now taken over the project from the community council.

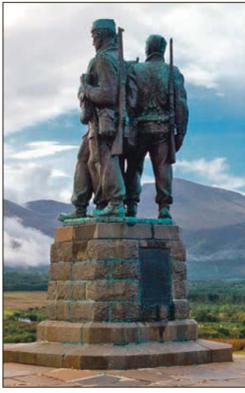
The monument is dedicated to the men of the original British Commando Forces, who fought in the Second World War, and was unveiled by the Queen Mother in 1952.

Chairman of Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council John Fotheringham said there had been a number of complaints over the past three years about people having nowhere to go to the toilet.

Mr Fotheringham said: 'We have had a lot of complaints over the past three years about people getting caught short at the memorial, so we felt we had to do something about it.'

'The study we are looking at is for toilets of a compostable nature and would be fairly low maintenance.'

'The SCIO has made the application as a community council can't own property, so the SCIO



The memorial is a popular visitor attraction.

would take on ownership.' Mr Fotheringham said the cost of putting in standard toilets would be in the region of £500,000, however the cheaper option, which the community council was looking into, would be between £60,000 to £100,000.

The community council has looked at similar facilities, including the RSPB site at Moidart Gardens, to estimate the costs.

Mr Fotheringham added that the community council was in discussions with 'a number of bodies' about funding the project, adding: 'It's a very popular destination and we don't want to stop people going.'

'Hopefully they will be camouflaged from the monument and memorial garden. We will be looking at all possibilities. The council has been very supportive.'

'It's an iconic monument of considerable importance to serving and retired service personnel, and we don't want anything to detract from visitors' experience.'

Housing charity offers support to private landlords

A NEW service aimed at helping private landlords in Lochaber to provide better support to their tenants is being launched at the end of the month.



The Private Landlord Support Project is being piloted by Shelter Scotland in partnership with Lochaber Housing Association.

The service offers tailored information and practical assistance by working together with private landlords in Lochaber to help them meet their own aspirations and ensure they provide excellent quality, private-rented accommodation.

Bryan Powell, private landlord support officer, with Shelter Scotland said: 'With a shared passion for safe, secure and affordable homes for the community, our new service is designed to provide information and practical assistance tailored to a landlord's individual aspirations.'

'The free service brings the substantial expertise and knowledge of Shelter Scotland with it to help private landlords be as

professional as possible. We'll advise on getting registered, understanding and meeting legal requirements, improving property and energy efficiency and applying for grants and financial assistance.'

'There are many benefits to landlords spending time, money and energy on improvement. Not only does it help maintain or increase their property's value, it also means the property is easier to let and tenants are happier and more likely to stay longer.'

'Providing a long-term home looks after the bricks and mortar investment and ensures a capital and social return in the future.'

Private landlords interested in the project should contact Bryan on 07493047942 or email: Bryan.Powell@shelter.org.uk or

MSP steps in over Uig ferry row

HIGHLANDS and Islands MSP Rhoda Grant has stepped into the row over the Uig triangle ferry to demand that MV Hebrides returns to the route rather than covering other routes while those ferries are in dry dock.

The Hebrides, which normally covers the Uig/Lochmaddy/Tarbert run is in dry dock and is planned to be deployed as a cover vessel for other ferries while they undergo maintenance over the winter.

Mrs Grant has been told by constituents that the replacement ferries are not fit for purpose on the triangle route as they are smaller, so despite supposedly more sailings there is less space.

The sailings on the smaller ferries are also much more likely to be disrupted because of inclement weather.

Mrs Grant has been told that since the new timetable came into force on January 3 sailings have only gone to plan on two days and even these were running late.

She said: 'On Sunday, constituents were given an hour's notice of an extra sailing that day as it was viewed unlikely that the Monday morning boat would sail.'

'It did eventually sail at 5pm, but an hour's notice of an alternative is insufficient time for anyone to prepare and then get to the ferry.'

'This is not only totally unacceptable for individuals but businesses cannot be expected to work on this basis.'

'The communities in Harris, North Uist and Uig want to have their boat back when it comes out of dry dock and, given that the MV Hebrides is normally the most reliable service to both Harris and North Uist, it creates chaos for everyone when it is disrupted.'

'I am writing to the SNP's Transport Minister, and to CalMac, asking for the MV Hebrides to be reinstated on the Uig triangle as soon as it is out of dry dock.'

FWCC resigns but vows to fight council inertia

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

A MASS resignation from Fort William Community Council (FWCC) on Tuesday night saw every member step down saying they were 'tired of being ignored' by Highland Council.

However, immediately following the move, a new group Fort William First was formed from the same members, who say they will not bow down to the local authority.

The newly formed group Fort William First is promising to fight against 'the inertia of Highland Council'.

Leading the attack was Drew Purdon, the acting chairman of FWCC who along with the seven other members of the statutory group said 'enough is enough', claiming Highland Council didn't listen to 'anything we have to say'.

The resignations saw the loss of more than 100 years of collective service to community councils, and veterans such as Patricia Jordan, Alex Farquhar, Neil Clark, Sheila MacLennan and Ian Kennedy stood down with immediate effect.

Even new members such as Duncan Brown said he was



The community council resigned en masse on Tuesday night.

shocked at the 'lack of support for anything in Lochaber from Highland Council'.

In a final act, prior to the resignations, members voted to give £4,622 to the Town Team for the west-end project for a roundabout. One member suggested the money should fund a statue 'putting two fingers up to Inverness'. All eight members said the community council system was only a 'tick box exercise for Highland Council'.

Acting chairman, Mr Purdon said: 'Someone is paid to sit in an office and send out letters - and that is what is understood by Highland Council as consultation. They take no account whatsoever of anything that we have to say. As time has gone on that has only gotten worse.'

One by one community

councillors made resignation speeches, sharing disappointment in the lack of engagement with Highland Council and its officials. Even Police Scotland were named for not coming along to the group. It was also claimed that officials are running the local authority and not the elected members.

Mr Purdon said: 'It is a historic day and a sad day that it has come to this. We have got too much to give to this town to stop sticking up for it. We will write to Alec Neil MSP, minister for communities, to find out what he has to say about the way in which we have been treated.'

'Lochaber is the land that Highland Council forgot. We are no longer prepared to kowtow to officials who work out of a Stalinist organisation.'

Barra is the place to be to pass your driving test

LEARNER drivers on Barra are twice as likely to pass their test than those in part of the mainland, according to new statistics.

Barra had a 100 per cent pass rate in 2014/15, the highest in the whole of Scotland.

The data, released by the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) highlights the gap in pass rates between rural and urban areas.

Barra, part of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, has no traffic lights, roundabouts or pedestrian crossings, earning the island a reputation as being one of the

easiest places in Britain to sit a driving test.

In Scotland as a whole, the driving test centres have an average pass rate of 77 per cent and a first-time pass rate slightly above the UK average, at 54 per cent, with some areas well below the average.

The test centres which rank highest are overwhelmingly remote and rural, with Mallaig, Benbecula, Arran and Orkney among the top 10.

However, driving in rural areas remains hazardous, with accidents on country roads accounting for more than half

of all fatal road crashes in Scotland in 2014.

A spokesman for the breakdown cover and insurance broker the Automobile Association (AA) said the discrepancy was not necessarily unfair, as candidates were trained for the driving conditions where they live.

Lesley Young, chief driving examiner for the DVSA, said: 'The driver testing and training regime tests candidates' ability to drive safely and responsibly, as well as making sure they know the theory behind safe driving.'

Dangerous driving

POLICE in Fort William are appealing for witnesses following reports of a Silver Vauxhall car being driven in a dangerous manner by overtaking vehicles in the face of oncoming traffic on Achintore Road around 4.35pm on Friday January 15.

Anyone driving in the area at the time who has information should call Fort William Police Station on 101 quoting reference number NP634/16.

New minister

A NEW Minister for Duncansburgh MacIntosh and Kilmonivaig Presbyterian churches has been appointed after a three year wait.

The parish has been without a minister since the retirement

Tendering under way for retail park

TENDERS are expected to be completed by the end of the month for the construction of a retail park at North Road, Fort William, which will support around 180 construction jobs.

Developer, Morbaine, has announced that the deal to bring a M&S Food store has been finalised, adding to previous agreements with Aldi and Home Bargains. It expects to fill the remaining unit before the centre opens.

However Morbaine said there will be a short delay to the start of the construction after the discovery of a BT chamber containing fibre optic cables underneath a proposed roundabout to access the park.

The chamber was only discovered during detailed enquiries with Transport Scotland, but BT says it will need ongoing access to upgrade and maintain its network.

Because of this, the roundabout must be moved 10 metres, altering the boundary and requiring a full new application to The Highland Council.

Morbaine intends to submit this as soon as possible to minimise delays.

Reverend Donald MacQuarrie in January 2012.

Reverend Richard Barker was the sole nominee. He preached to the congregations on Sunday (January 17) and the vote went in his favour, with 145 votes for and three against. He will take up his role in the spring.



Rev Richard Barker will take up his post at Duncansburgh MacIntosh and Kilmonivaig churches in the spring.

Vaccinations for young people

YOUNG people in the Western Isles are being invited to participate in the national vaccination programme for protection against meningitis and septicaemia.

Appointments will be sent to all people aged 14 to 18 years between January and March. The programme in the Western Isles is based in GP practices rather than in schools, unlike the rest of Scotland.

If you have a child aged 14 to 18 years, or you are in the age group and wish to be vaccinated, look out for your letter or contact your GP practice directly.

CalMac check-in row resolved

FERRY passengers in Stornoway will have less time to wait before boarding after Western Isles MP Angus MacNeil had a decision made by CalMac overturned.

Mr MacNeil had accused CalMac of making 'outrageous demands on the travelling public' when it increased check-in times to a minimum of one hour on-sailing between Stornoway, on Lewis, and Ullapool on the mainland. This was due to traffic congestion in Ullapool.

But after the MP stepped in, CalMac has reverted to the 45 minute check-in, but only on services leaving Stornoway.

SCHOOL ENROLMENT

Will your child be five years of age before 28 February 2017? Yes? Then it's time to enrol them for school.

The next school session starts on 16 August 2016. Children who will be five or older before 28 February 2017 are eligible to be enrolled for Primary 1. Enrolment will take place week commencing 25 January 2016.

All enrolment information can be found online at www.highland.gov.uk/schoolenrolment

When to enrol your child?	Where	What to bring
3.00pm 25 January - 29 January 2016	Local Primary School	Child's birth certificate Proof of Address

Although you may wish that your child attends a school other than your local primary school, you must, in the first instance, enrol your child at the local primary school and then make a placing request to the Area Care and Learning Office.

Placing requests are not required for Gaelic Medium education or for those eligible to attend a denominational school.

Am bi ur pàiste còig bliadhna a dh'aois ro 28 Gearran 2017? Bidh? Ma-thà, tha an t-àm ann an clàrachadh airson na sgoile.

Bidh an ath sheisean sgoile a' tòiseachadh air 16 Lùnastal 2016. Faodaidh clann a bhios còig air no ro an 28 Gearran 2017a bhith air an clàrachadh airson P1. Bidh an t-seachdain chlàrachaidh a' tòiseachadh air 25 Faoilleach 2016.

Gheibhear fiosrachadh clàrachaidh air-loidhne aig www.highland.gov.uk/schoolenrolment

Cuìn a chlàras sibh ur pàiste?	Càite	Dè bheir sibh leibh?
3.00f 25 Faoilleach - 29 Faoilleach 2016	A' Bhun-sgoil Ionadail	TTeisteanas breith ur pàiste Dearbhadh air seòladh.

Ma tha sibh airson 's gun tèid ur pàiste gu sgoil eile seach a' bhun-sgoil ionadail, feumaidh sibh an clàrachadh aig a' bhun-sgoil ionadail an toiseach, agus iarrtas a chur a-steach às dèidh sin gu Oifis Cùraim agus Ionnsachaidh na Sgìre.

Chan eil feum air iarrtas airson àite-sgoile airson Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig no dhalibhsan a tha airidh air roghainn airson sgoil sheòrsaichte.

energy saving trust

thinking about wood fuelled heating for your home?

Scotland has an abundance of wood. However, is a wood fuelled heating system the right option for you and your home? We can give you free, impartial and in-depth advice on the best renewables options. We can also provide information on financial support available.

HOMEENERGYSCOTLAND.ORG
0808 808 2282
FUNDED BY THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

natural scotland
SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

LOOK!
your customers do

this advert could be seen by over 35,000 people every week*

call our sales team today
01631 568000

The Oban Times
A WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

*source: JORFEG data 01/04/2014

Oban bids farewell to Sea Kings – thank you, you served us well



Three Sea King helicopters completed their last flypast over Oban Bay on Thursday, where members of the public joined Oban Mountain Rescue Team, as well as members of the police, ambulance and coastguard, gathered on the North Pier as the choppers flew overhead and then turned south over Ben Cruachan. Turn to page 5 for more. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn

MSP Russell backs family's call for FAI into fisherman's death

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

THE FAMILY of a fisherman missing for almost three years want the 'peace' of knowing what happened to him, and are backing calls by Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell for an urgent inquiry into his death.

But before a Fatal Accident Inquiry (FAI) can be held, the family say the fibreglass vessel from which Scott MacAlister made his final mayday call needs to be lifted from the seabed, where it lies near to Insh Island.

Father of three, Scott MacAlister, 40, who lived on the Isle of Luing, was prawn fishing on his own aboard the FV Speedwell on April 25, 2013 when he disappeared, presumed drowned, after reporting to the coastguard that his boat was taking on water.

Mr MacAlister's brother Andrew was also fishing in the area. He was the first boat

on the scene after hearing the mayday call.

He arrived approximately 20 minutes after his brother's call – but there was no sign of him or his boat even though Mr MacAlister had told the coastguard he was putting on a lifejacket.

Taking into account the flot-sam that was around the area of the mayday call, Andrew said that almost immediately he and his skipper marked a map with the place they believed the boat had gone down.

Some weeks later, in almost the same location, a friend dived 40 fathoms and found the boat.

But his seven-minute look at the boat was unable to shed any light on the whereabouts of Mr MacAlister.

Andrew, along with his father Peter, mother Lala and Scott's partner Tori MacNab, believe there are still many questions – a full two years after a Marine Investigation Branch (MAIB) accident report was published. Findings within that report



Scott MacAlister was fishing alone when the boat sank.

pointed to concerns at the state of the vessel, but no one has been charged with any criminal offence.

Mr MacAlister's partner and family claim a number of issues with the boat, which were raised with the owner, were never resolved.

The report agrees with the family that weather conditions experienced on the day of the

accident were not severe and that Mr MacAlister was adequately trained.

The report does point out that like many other fishermen, when Mr MacAlister called the coastguard he was not wearing a lifejacket – but had agreed to put one on.

Wearing a properly maintained lifejacket would have allowed Mr MacAlister to float in the mildly cold waters for up to 90 minutes, the report states.

Mr MacAlister's father says he would back calls for the boat to be lifted from the seabed to find out the facts behind his son's disappearance.

Peter MacAlister said: 'His death has been brushed under the carpet by everyone and we need some answers.'

'A fatal accident inquiry for the dustbin lorry deaths in Glasgow took place within a few months and yet nearly three years later we are still waiting.'

Lala MacAlister still cannot take in the news of her son's death. She said: 'I still think of

him as missing.

'I know it is not going to happen, but that doesn't stop me believing that he might walk in the door.'

'In my head I know he is not coming home – to find out what happened would give us all some closure.'

'We need to know so we can begin to find some peace. It feels like no one is listening to us at all.'

Ms MacNab, who is mother to Mr MacAlister's youngest son Finlay, who is now three, said: 'I still feel numb. We all think about Scott 24 hours a day.'

Ms MacNab and Mrs MacAlister believe Mr MacAlister's body is trapped on the boat.

The family feel that lifting the boat and gathering all the evidence for a FAI would allow the authorities to put in place life-saving measures so that Mr MacAlister's death can save other people.

Mr Russell has promised to raise the matter again with the Lord Advocate.

He said: 'I raised this matter some time ago and I am, to say the least, disappointed for the family that we are still waiting.'

'I will certainly raise the matter with the Lord Advocate again.'

'There is a central unanswered question over Mr MacAlister's death. I am supportive of a fatal accident inquiry.'

'I am happy to speak with the family at any time and I will be in touch with them when the Lord Advocate has replied to my letter.'

A spokesman for the Crown Office said: 'The investigation into the incident, led by our health and safety division, is on-going and no decision has yet been made regarding a fatal accident inquiry.'

'Raising a boat is a matter for the Marine Accidents Investigation Branch, or the owner of the vessel.'

'The Crown would be happy to meet with the family of Mr MacAlister to answer any questions they may have.'

£8,000 of damage after man trashed mum's home

A MAN who drunkenly trashed his mother's home is disputing the amount it will cost to repair.

When 22-year-old Neil MacGregor's mother arrived at her home in Benderloch he told her: 'I smashed your ****ing windows.'

Oban Sheriff Court heard on Monday that he left a trail of destruction in the West Highland Housing Association-owned property, including smashed double-glazed windows, damaged window frames, tables and lamps, plus a dent in the living room wall; hall lighting damaged, a toilet disconnected from the floor, a towel rail pulled off the wall and the bathroom door broken; a bedroom door, window, radiator and wall damaged, worktops and tiles broken in the kitchen, along with cupboards and sockets.

Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC was told the repair bill would be £8,000.

Procurator Fiscal Eoin McGinty said that when questioned by police, MacGregor said: 'I pretty much smashed my mum's house. I just flaked out. Apologies to my mum.'

His defence agent Laura McManus said that MacGregor no longer lived at home, and relations with his mother were 'some what strained'.

'I'm not surprised,' said Sheriff Anderson. She deferred sentence until February 15 for a criminal justice social work report and told MacGregor, who now lives at Room 11 Shore Street Flats, Oban: 'I am looking at a custodial option here.'

Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

WIN

A ONE NIGHT DB&B STAY FOR TWO PEOPLE AT EAST HAUGH HOUSE HOTEL



Built as part of the Atholl Estate, East Haugh House was converted into a four star country house hotel in 1989 by the McGown family. The beautiful turreted 17th century stone house boasts 12 bedrooms, including three four-posters. One of Perthshire's hidden gems, the hotel's 'Two Sisters' restaurant is recommended in the Michelin Guide 2015. Award-winning Chef Patron, Neil McGown, leads a talented kitchen team who have a real passion for producing delicious dishes.

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question: **How many four-poster rooms are there at East Haugh House?**

Terms and conditions: Based on two people sharing a cosy double or twin room, Sun - Thurs, with £25pp dinner allowance. Subject to availability. Valid until 31 March 2016.

East Haugh House Competition

Answer.....
Name.....
Address.....
Postcode.....
Telephone.....
Email.....

To enter, send your answer, name, address, telephone number and email address to Competitions, Wyvex Media, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh, EH5 2DL. Closing date is January 31, 2016. Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Wyvex Media, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Promoter reserves the right to request post publicity. Indicate if you do not wish to receive further information from promoter. Usual Wyvex Media rules apply. This competition is open to readers of other Wyvex Media publications.

Joe Smith Obituary

Climber, Kinlochleven

Died Glencoe Saturday January 16.

I met Joe, best pronounced in a strong Lancashire accent, when he first came to Fort William on a Mountain Leader training course. He was looking at making the move, and going for a 'career in outdoors' and we got on well as the only two climbers on the course.

One week later, and a few pitches of climbing squeezed in on the evenings, I was waving bye to Joe, not really expecting to see him, or the map I'd lent him with a good ridge he could do on the way home, again.

But, for anyone that knew Joe, they'd know that this was pretty unfair an expectation.

No sooner than a week had passed, when Joe called out of the blue – just for a chat. I didn't really know what to do. Blokes just don't phone each other for a chat these days, do they?

Long story short, after a few weekend climbing raids, Joe went for it and made the move. In my granted, limited, years of climbing, I've not met anyone in the sport that has been so keen, and grabbed the bull by the horns quite so forcefully as Joe. This may be due to Joe's background working with cattle, mind, but he brought north with him an awful lot of psyche.

That's probably why two years ago I spent my 24th birthday

trudging up a seldom-climbed hill on the Ardnamurchan peninsula, struggling to keep up with Joe who had smelled ice – needless to say there wasn't any, but he just had to check. And again the next day for good measure, and again the day after that when we got the climbers' gondola aiming to have a go at Morwind – no ice there either.

That year, Joe's climbing came on massively as he found numerous partners and got out climbing every day he could, in between the odd jobs he was getting as a newly qualified Mountain Leader and working on the Jacobite steam train.

His climbing ability quickly surpassed mine, and he furiously ticked off climbs all over Scotland, making pretty much everything look horribly easy, usually with toes sticking out the end of his climbing shoes.

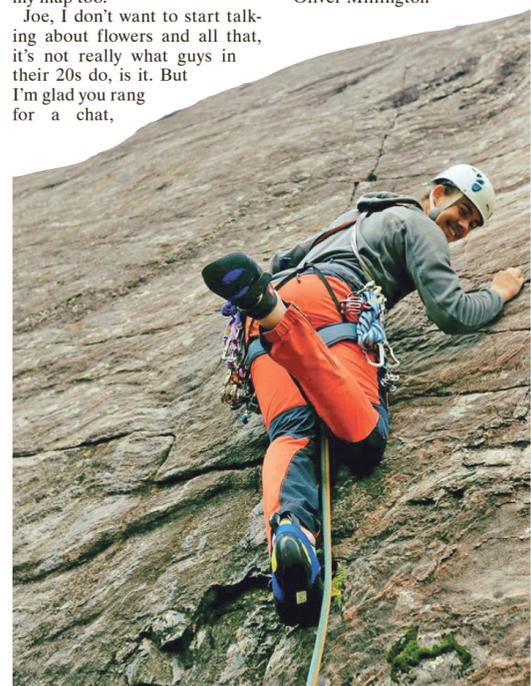
Recently, myself and Naomi have been looking at taking part in the Patagonian Expedition race, and we worked out that Joe was to be the fourth member of our team. Now, when pitched with that sort of idea, most people want to know something about what they're signing up for, the enormity of the challenge, the hours of training required, but not Joe. Joe wanted to know whether

we could move it forward a year and whether I'd pay for his flight. Cheeky git, he's still got my map too.

Joe, I don't want to start talking about flowers and all that, it's not really what guys in their 20s do, is it. But I'm glad you rang for a chat,

and I'm gutted you aren't going to be around for the opening. I'll miss you mate.

Oliver Millington



Subscribe to our digital e-edition



Now also available on iPad, iPhone and Android devices.



Visit obantimes.co.uk/digital

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

pocketmags.com Discover Read Enjoy

Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

Fit the best
Everest

TRIPLE GLAZING AVAILABLE ON SOME WINDOWS AND DOORS

Also available Garage Doors, Patio and BI fold doors, Porches, Flat Roofs, Gutters, Fascias, Soffits, Bargeboards, Driveways

ASK ABOUT SPECIAL DEALS

Do you want a new conservatory roof?

Contact Consultant Peter Ramsay
Tel 07816 934364

What price love? The Home Office can tell you

Young wife at risk of deportation after Government tightens financial rules

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

THE lives of two newly weds were brought crashing down around them on Friday after they learned one of them is going to be deported in a fortnight if they cannot prove how much they earn.

Young couple Ross and Alice Addison, who have made their home in Oban, discovered on January 15 that Alice is at risk of deportation due to tightened financial rules that govern whether foreign nationals can remain in the country.

Time-served joiner Mr Addison, 24, from Oban, met Alice, the love of his life, in Australia when he was travelling and, following a gap year, he brought her to the town to live.

Mrs Addison, 29, is a Hong Kong British national who spent three years in Bristol studying for a degree in politics.

The couple married in November and they have a 14-month-old son, Arran.

In the past few weeks, as Mrs Addison's visitor visa came up for renewal, the couple decided to make a formal application for residency with a marriage visa. Something that Mr Addison says 'has cost us our life savings'.

The couple were then given a short time by the Home Office to answer probing questions into their relationship and the income from Mr Addison's joinery and construction business.

Mr Addison employs three people in his business and his overall income, with the necessary deductions, comes slightly short of the amount required by the Home Office for his wife to remain in the country.

Receiving support from his accountant at Wylie and Bisset in Oban, Mr Addison hopes that he can argue that his income is enough to support his wife

and family. Something he has already been doing for the last two years.

The couple say they will both move out of the country if Mrs Addison is deported.

Mr Addison continued: 'We want to live in the UK, have a small business and raise our family together.'

'I hope the Home Office will see sense and allow this to happen. Otherwise the repercussions could be wide reaching.'

Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara has been helping the couple, and representations have already been made to the Home Office in this case.



Ross and Alice Addison with their son Arran. Mrs Addison is facing deportation by the end of the month.

Fire crews called out to fire in Oban block of flats

A SMALL fire in the close of a block of flats in Oban last Saturday was extinguished by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

Two appliances from Oban Fire Station responded to a 999 call at 7.50pm after receiving a report of smoke in the hallway of a building on Ulva Road.

Crews reached the scene in under five minutes.

Firefighters in breathing apparatus quickly found the source of the smoke and put out a small fire.

A woman and child were treated by an ambulance crew at the scene and taken to Lorn



and Islands Hospital in the town for further check-ups.

A spokesman for Scottish Fire and Rescue Service said that items blocking people's exit route and smoke from a fire in a close can leave residents trapped in their homes with no way to escape.

The message is to keep closes clear, as even the smallest bag of rubbish catching alight can fill a stairwell with smoke and large objects can get in the way of people trying to escape.

Free home fire safety visits are available from SFRS by calling the freephone number 0800 073 1999, by texting 'FIRE' to 80800.

Shinty photographer banned for dangerous driving after cup final

A 46-YEAR-old man lost his driving licence for a year after appearing before Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

Paul Paterson, of 2 Manor Way, Tighnabruach, denied driving in a dangerous, aggressive and intimidating manner on the A85 between Cruachan Power Station and Loch Awe village on August 22 last year, the day of the shinty Macaulay Cup Final.

Paterson had been photographing the event and was driving home.

Paterson pleaded not guilty to speeding up when being overtaken, leaving insufficient space for the overtaking car to return to the correct side of the road and then driving excessively close to the vehicle, repeatedly sounding his car horn, flashing the headlights and attempting to overtake

when inappropriate or unsafe.

The driver of the other car and his girlfriend were so concerned for their safety that she called the police. The driver claimed Paterson had used his mobile phone while driving to take a picture of their car. Their ordeal only stopped when they turned off the A85 onto the road to Inveraray and Paterson overtook them and sped off.

But David Watt, Paterson's defence agent challenged this version, telling the witness: 'Your complaint is a scheme to put the blame on Mr Paterson when actually the blame is on you for driving dangerously.'

Paterson said the driver overtook him on double white lines and sounding his horn and flashing lights were to warn the other driver only.

The driver's girlfriend said in her evidence that the overtaking happened on double white lines but had been safe, adding: 'It was the first time I have ever phoned the police. He was tailgating us.'

Paterson, a disabled driver who suffers from osteoarthritis along with other health issues, told Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC that there was an aid attached to the steering wheel of his car which could have been mistaken for a camera. He denied all offences.

But Sheriff Anderson said: 'I am satisfied your driving did fall below the standard expected.'

Finding him guilty, she fined Paterson £250 and with six penalty points already on his driving licence he was disqualified from driving for year and ordered to re-sit the extended test at the end of his ban.

LORN lines

Taynuilt ceilidh is a real winter warmer

THE FIRST Cruachan Branch An Comunn ceilidh of 2016 was held in Taynuilt village hall on Saturday evening.

It may have been rather cold and snowy outside but the audience was treated to an evening of fun and great entertainment. Mòd winners Oban Gaelic Choir, with conductor Sileas Sinclair, were in fine voice, reprising their successful Lovat and Tulliebardine songs and so much more.

Solos were given by choir members Riona McCormick, Victoria MacLean, Graeme Campbell, Kirsty Duncan, Duncan MacDonald, Margaret Powell-Joss, John Joe MacNeil, Sileas Sinclair, Donald MacLean and Mary Catherine MacNeil.

Top-class music was provided by Michael and Joanie Garvin, with Sileas Sinclair on keyboard and it was good to see couples up on the dancefloor. Making his Taynuilt debut on pipes was Calum, another member of the talented Garvin family, who gave a strong performance.

The Laura Munro Highland dancers Eilidh Lawson and Lucy Black, on their first visit to a Taynuilt ceilidh, performed before the very appreciative audience and the evening was smoothly run by the witty John Joe MacNeil, who had the dubious 'help and encouragement' of his fellow choir members.

Young musicians dazzle at Netherlorn gathering



An evening in the company of musicians young and old was held in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban, during the winter festival. The local organisation, The Netherlorn Piping Society, prides itself on the opportunities it is able to provide in the town for both listeners and participants.

Television winner

ARGYLL Community Housing Association (ACHA) carried out a tenant satisfaction survey last October, with 450 tenants taking part.

All participants were entered into a prize draw to win a 40in TV. Pictured is Duncan McCallum of Kerrera Terrace, Oban, receiving his prize from ACHA's chairman, Jim Milne.



POLICE FILES with Sgt Alan Moore

Drink driver caught outside Oban police station

A DRIVER suspected of drink driving down Albany Street in Oban was stopped by police officers right outside the police station door.

The 22-year-old man was suspected of driving at 3.20am last Friday while under the influence of alcohol. A roadside breath test confirmed officers' suspicions. After searching the man, police found a substance alleged to be herbal cannabis.

A report has been sent to the Procurator Fiscal's office.

Soroba vandalism

VANDALS who broke a window and threw eggs at a private residence are being sought by police.

The incident in Colonsay Terrace, Oban, took place between 12.15pm and 3.30pm on January 4.

Anyone with information should contact Constable Andy Hogg at Oban Police Station or call 101.

Cocaine allegation

A REPORT has been made to the procurator fiscal in regard to a 22-year-old man who was found with what was suspected as a Class A drug in his possession. The Oban man was stopped shortly before 4am on Saturday and searched by officers. The drug was suspected to be cocaine.

A85 accident

A 74-YEAR-old man has been reported to the procurator fiscal after allegedly causing an accident on the road between Dunbeg and Connel on the A85.

Shortly after 3.55pm on Tuesday January 12 the driver was alleged to have crashed his vehicle into another.

Damaged car

POLICE are looking for a driver who damaged a car but did not report it or leave their details.

Between 10.30am and 6.30pm on Friday January 15 in the car park near Atlantis Leisure Centre, a car was substantially damaged to its offside bodywork.

Anyone with information about the incident should contact Constable Scott MacPhee at Oban Police Station or call 101.

Graffiti on Mull

POLICE are appealing for witnesses to a graffiti artist who is tagging themselves in Tobermory on Mull.

Anyone with information should contact officers in Tobermory on 101, or speak to a community officer on the island.

Mary's Meals founder in line for award

THE founder of Scottish charity Mary's Meals, Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, has been short-listed for a humanitarian award.

Mr MacFarlane-Barrow founded the charity in 2002 to give children in desperately poor areas of the world a hot meal during the school day. This encouraged them to go to school and ensured they had at least one decent meal a day.

Mr MacFarlane-Barrow is in the running for the 2016 Robert Burns Humanitarian Award together with Nigerian lawyer Zanna Bukar Mustapha and surgeon David Knott.

The winner will be announced at a concert at the Brig O'Doon Hotel, Alloway tonight (January 21).

Election candidates throw hat in ring

CANDIDATES for the Oban North and Lorn by-election have been named.

Four people have thrown their hat into the ring to represent the area on Argyll and Bute Council.

The four are: Kieron Green, Independent, from Oban; Julie McKenzie, SNP, who currently works as a press officer for Argyll and Bute SNP; Pat Tyrrell, Scottish Green Party, and solicitor Andrew Vennard will fight for the seat on behalf of the Conservatives.

The by-election was called after the retirement, due to ill health, of councillor Duncan MacIntyre.

Just under 8,000 people will be entitled to vote next month. The polls will be open from 7am until 10pm on February 18.

Subscribe

Subscribe to the Oban Times and receive

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

12 weeks
FREE

Save £13

+

2 FREE Candles

Worth £20

Courtesy of The McKelvie Candle Company

+

a 2016 Calendar

Worth £7.95

www.obantimes.co.uk/subscribe
or call: 01371 851868
QUOTE OTNS1115

/hydroPD
 @hydroPD

After a storm,
my Daddy makes
sure everyone's
electricity is on

We're ready for winter. Are you?

Keep your
phone charged

Get our free
Power Track App

Save our number
0800 300 999

Get ready at
ssep.d.co.uk

Scottish and Southern
Energy
Power Distribution

Fun and games at Nevis Range



The Peden family, left-right, dad Scott; Eliza, 2; Erica, 9; and Austin, 7, with Mum CJ and nine-month-old Elodie, who all played their part in building a snow sculpture of the Loch Ness Monster which was their entry in the Nevis Range, Snowfest competition. Photo: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image

Alleycats are 10 points clear

Ten pin bowling

AFTER week 11 of the Lochaber Building Supplies ten pin bowling leagues at the Nevis Centre in Fort William, Alleycats stay at the top of the scratch division with 53 points followed by The Creeps with 43 points. Ardtoe & Co are in third place on 36 points.

The handicap division is much closer where British Legion Fort William still lead with 39 points followed by The Creeps on 38 points and Ardtoe & Co next on 36 points.

Individually this week the best game was rolled by Tim Attack (Ardtoe & Co) with the season high of 213. Tim swept the board this week with the individual honours with the best handicap game of 257 (also the season's high), the top two-game scratch series of 354 and the top two-game handicap series of 442.

Team wise Ardtoe & Co swept the board with the best scratch game of 628, the best handicap game of 859 (the season's high), the top two-game scratch series of 1,186 and the top two-game handicap series of 1,648.

The top scratch average is held by Pam Weller (Alleycats) on 155 followed by Tony Whitelocke (Alleycats) on 151 and Ben Weller (The Creeps) on 149.

like us on
facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

Phoenix boxers in strict training

THE AMATEUR boxing season is about to enter its busiest period of the year and Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club is set to go in all guns blazing with its boxers in extremely heavy training ready for the start of the championship period of the season.

Thirteen-year-old Cameron Whyte continues his international career with the news that he will represent Scotland in a match against England in Newcastle on January 30. This is a chance for revenge for Cameron as he faces the boxer who defeated him in the final of the Monkston Cup in Dublin.

Having been Scottish champion for the last three years, Cameron continues to strive to improve and works tirelessly in the gym.

Club coach Charlie Anderson said: 'Cameron's competitive desire seems to be growing ever stronger. He's always at training, never missing a session and the results of this are shown in his performances in the ring. When he began boxing he wanted to win a bout. When he achieved that he wanted to be Scottish Novice champion; when he achieved that he wanted to be Scottish Inter-

mediate champion and when he achieved that he wanted to be Scottish Open champion. When he achieved that he wanted to win a bout boxing for Scotland and when he did that he wanted to compete in international competitions.

'Now he has been a finalist in these and reached the last eight of the European Championships, he wants to win golds at these too. I wouldn't bet against it.'

Revelation

Also on January 30 this year's Intermediate championships begin and three of the club's boxers are competing.

Fourteen-year-old Ewan Eason has been a revelation since beginning his boxing career, sweeping aside everyone in his wake to claim the Scottish Novice title. He is the most inexperienced boxer in this competition but the club coaches believe he has the ability to not just gain experience at the Intermediates but to actually go all the way and win the whole thing.

Sixteen-year-old Kevin Aitchison has been at the club intermittently for a few years, winning some bouts and losing

Boxing

others. Growing older, however, has matured Kevin and this season he has approached the sport in a more dedicated manner.

He is now fitter than he has ever been and if he can replicate his gym form in the ring then the title will be coming home to Fort William.

Senior Adam Watson has won Scottish Novice and Intermediate titles in the middleweight division and while he has always trained hard he has stepped things up to a new level, being more careful with his diet, and will now compete at welterweight in his last competition before trying his hand at open class boxing.

Having always possessed dynamite in both hands, he has been working on technique tirelessly in the gym and his coaches believe this change - in dynamic - is going to take Adam to a whole new level.

Fitting in nicely with the boxers' preparations, Garnock Valley boxing club's coach Joe Affleck drove three of his boxers to Fort William last weekend for a training camp where both clubs' boxers took part in three training sessions over a 24-hour period.

The sessions involved a mixture of technical work and hard sparring and both groups benefited greatly from the experience.

Charlie Anderson explained: 'Part of the attraction of boxing is that, unlike other sports, boxing people are open in helping each other at all times.'

'Joe travelled to Fort William having never spoken to any of our coaches in person but in a short space of time the boxers and the coaches have bonded so much we can't wait for their next visit.'



Cameron Whyte. Photo: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image

The Broch to visit Claggan - hopefully!

LAST Saturday's Highland League match between Brora Rangers and Fort William, scheduled for Dudgeon Park, had to be called off due to a frozen pitch.

Only one game survived the atrocious weather last weekend with Fraserburgh and Formartine drawing 1-1. The Bellslea Park side are due to play Fort William this weekend and the Lochaber side will be hoping the weather relents to allow the game against Fraserburgh to take place at Claggan Park, kick-off 3pm.

Fraserburgh are lying in seventh place in the league and will prove tough opposition but the Fort are confident of getting something from this fixture.

Fort William recently appointed Kevin Munro as assistant to manager Ally Ewen, stepping up from his role as first team coach.

The club have also added three new players to the squad - Scottie Davidson, Connor MacPhee and Adam Porritt.



Scottie Davidson



Connor MacPhee



Adam Porritt

THE INTERSPORT SPORTS SHOP

4 MacGregor Court, Oban PA34 4DJ Tel: 01631 562050 thesportsshop-oban@btinternet.com

GET FITTER! GET INTO SPORT!

SPEND OVER £30 AND GET 15% DISCOUNT

(EXCLUDES SALE ITEMS) OFFER ENDS SATURDAY 6th FEBRUARY

SPONSORS OF THE OBAN TIMES WEATHER AND TIDES

NORTH WEST MARINE
DIVING & MARINE SPECIALISTS

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, buoys all available to purchase in Oban

WEATHER

Thursday Light Cloudy with light rain
Winds moderate south easterly
Temperatures 5°C to 6°C.

Friday Heavy rain
Winds strong southerly
Temperatures 7°C to 9°C.

Weekend Outlook Light rain on Saturday
Light rain on Sunday
Winds strong south south Westerly
Temperatures 6°C to 9°C.



Stop Press: New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday January 21, 2016** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST

Date	am			pm		
Thur	03.36	3.4	10.01	1.3	16.19	3.6
Fri	04.22	3.6	10.56	1.1	17.00	3.7
Sat	05.03	3.8	11.41	1.0	17.37	3.8
Sun	05.41	4.0	12.23	1.0	18.11	3.9
Mon	06.20	0.8	06.17	4.1	13.02	1.0
Tues	06.59	0.8	06.53	4.1	13.39	1.1
Wed	01.36	0.8	07.27	4.0	14.14	1.2

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

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

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate